



**Forum: Metrology – Trade Facilitator
Request for support**



BOLIVIA

Core Problem:

Weak conformity assessment structure in the custody transfer chain for natural gas

In our sub region, technical norms harmonized for meters of natural gas don't exist, for example, for their model approval and operation tolerances of the dispensers.

The work pressure of the dispensers of natural gas is not common among all the countries of the sub region.

Weak infrastructure in the sub region, for the traceability of standards of measurement used in the verification of the dispensers of natural gas.

Testing laboratories having technical accreditation for the characterization of natural gas don't exist In Bolivia.

Customs don't facilitate the circulation of samples of gas to be employed in intercomparisons.

Significance of the problem:

The absence of conformity assessment in the natural gas field causes for example:

- The final consumer doesn't have complete confidence in the volumes acquired;
- Weak metrology in this field doesn't offer for example, trust and transparency in the measurement, which causes problems with transaction costs and unfair competition in commercialization;
- The absence of harmonized standards for all elements concerned in natural gas transactions could cause an involuntary increase in technical obstacles, since technical regulations are based on incompatible technical standards;
- Safety problems can also emerge. For example, for vehicles converted to natural gas on the basis of local criteria that don't correspond to international criteria;
- Bolivia has large certified reservations of natural gas and therefore a constant increase in motors fuelled by natural gas is foreseen. This is not a local problem; neighbouring countries such as Argentina, Brazil and Peru have more vehicles converted to natural gas every year.

What is needed:

In Bolivia we require technical assessment to design and execute a program to establish conformity assessment in the field of natural gas, including among the priorities the following fields:

- Technical requirements for the conversion of the natural gas vehicles;
- Technical requirements for type approval of natural gas dispensers;
- Metrological requirements for the initial, periodic and exceptional verification of dispensers;
- Donation of reference materials to be used in the characterization of natural gas;
- Temporary loan of measurement standards for the verification of dispensers;
- Training of technicians in the verification of natural gas dispensers.

Contributions:

Bolivia has a technical quality infrastructure, consisting of the Bolivian System of Normalization, Metrology, Accreditation and Certification (SNMAC) which comprises essentially the Bolivian Organisation of Accreditation (OBA), the Bolivian Institute of Standardization and Quality (IBNORCA) and the Bolivian Institute of Metrology (IBMETRO). Since 1998, the SNMAC has received technical cooperation from the PTB, which set up the basic Bolivian metrological infrastructure.

To implement natural gas verifications, IBMETRO can provide traceability for instruments and measuring systems used in the fields of temperature, length, pressure, volume and mass. In few months, liquid flow will also be possible.

The IBMETRO can offer logistical support in the form of transport inside the country for verifications in-situ, as well as all necessary infrastructure to be able to receive technical support.

Whom to address:

During the Forum:

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After the Forum:

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