HARMONISATION OF MEPS AND ENERGY LABELLING IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN – OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

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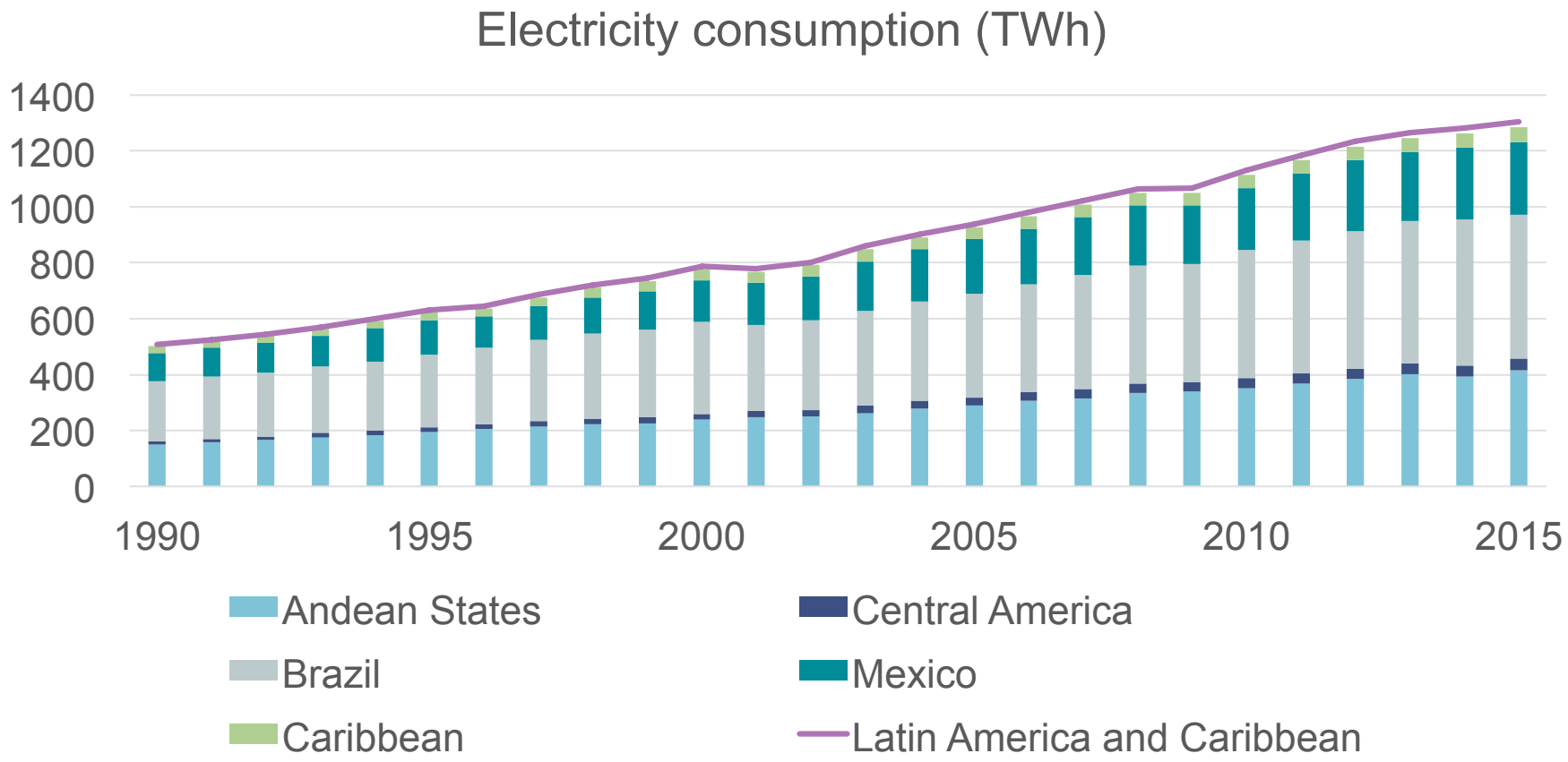
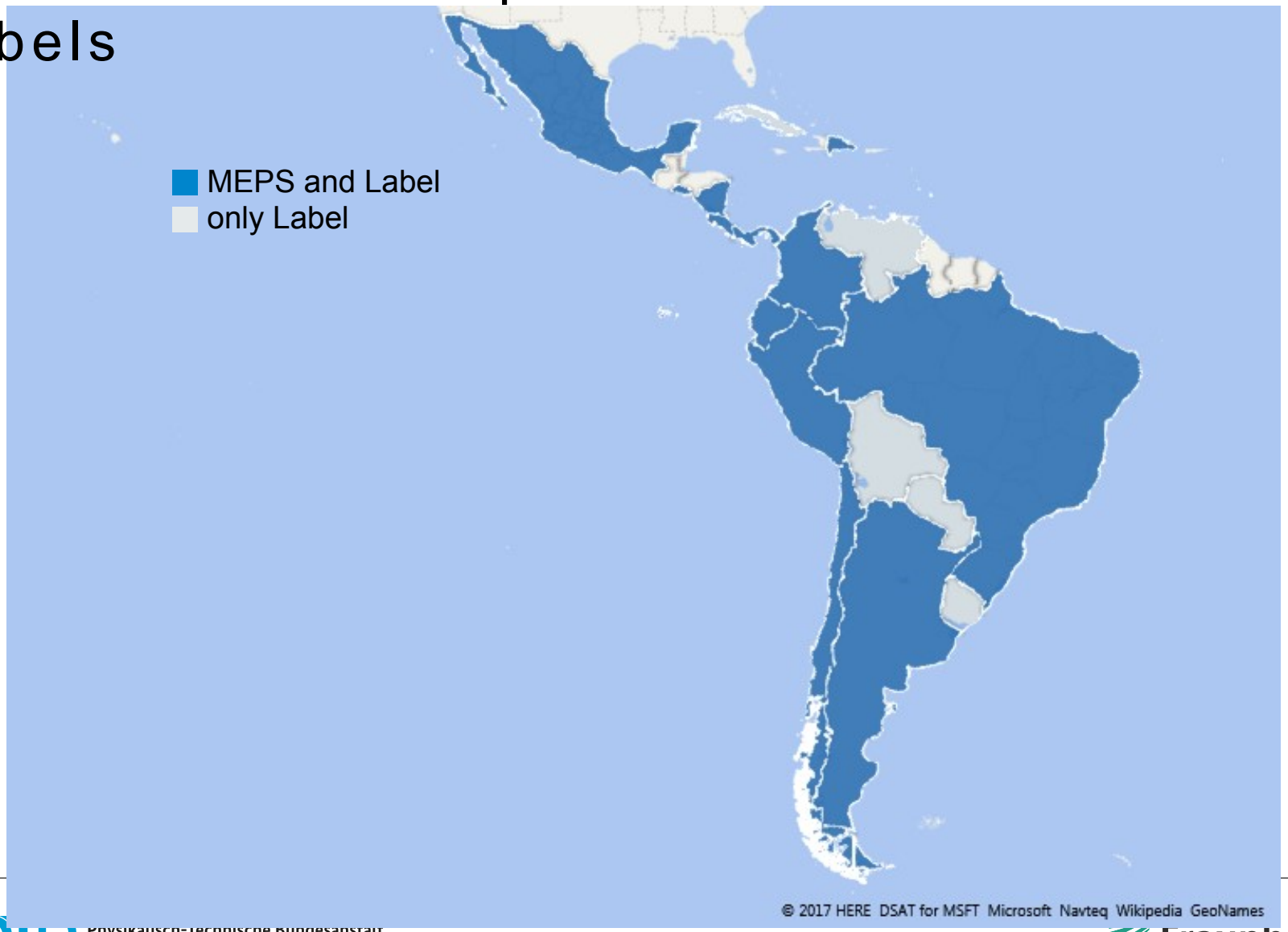
PTB Project: Quality Infrastructure for Renewable Energy Sources and Energy Efficiency in Latin America and the Caribbean

- Funded by the German International Cooporation
- Jointly implemented by the National Metrology Institute of Germany (PTB) and the regional quality infrastructure organizations of the LAC region:
    - Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC)
    - Inter-American Metrology System (SIM)
    - Pan American Standards Commission (COPANT)
- Organization of American States (OAS) acts as the political partner and IRENA and OLADE provide support
- First project 2011-2015
- Second project 2016-2019
- External evaluation by Fraunhofer ISI in 2015/2016

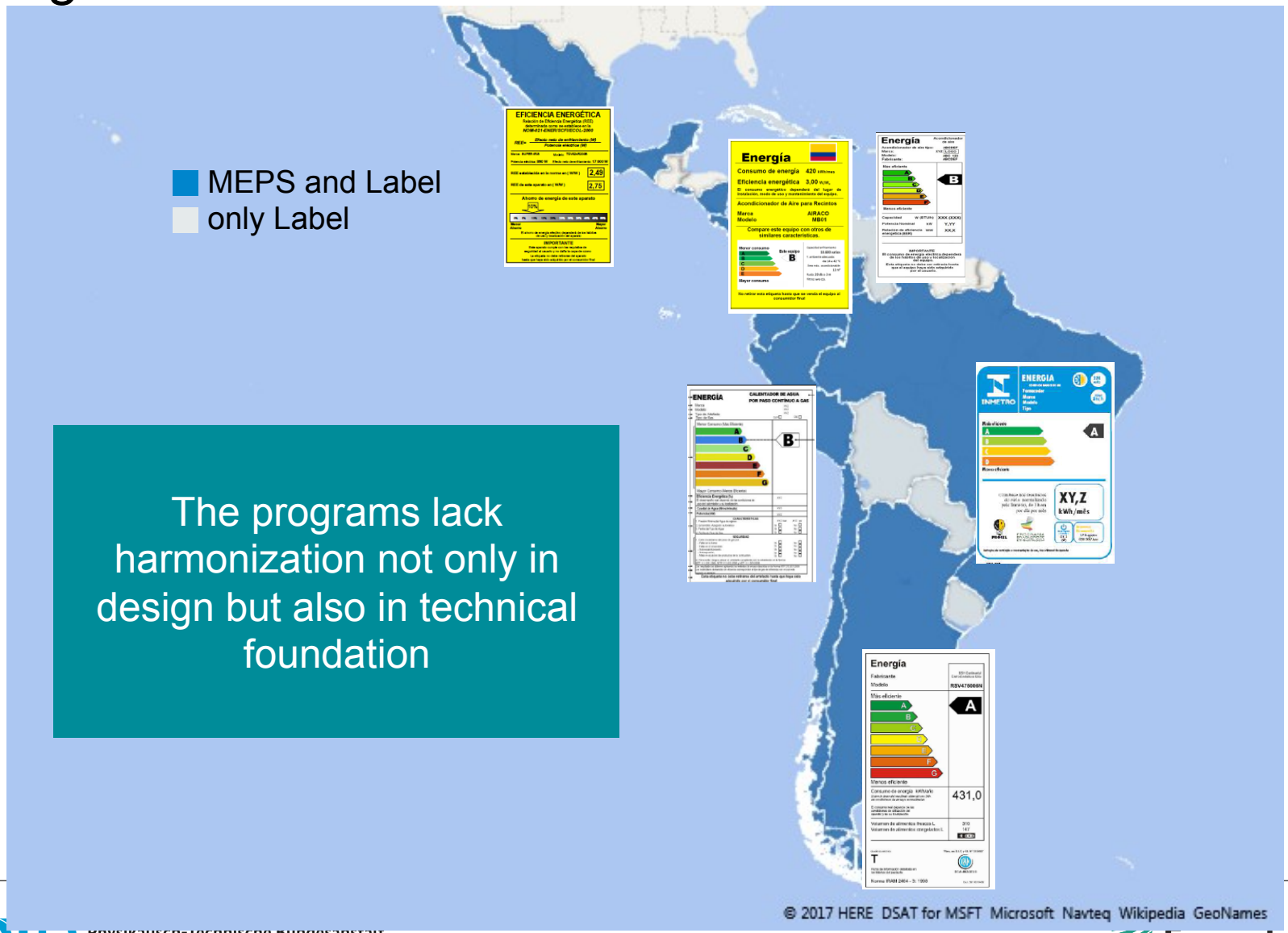
Electricity consumption is increasing rapidly in Latin America and the Caribbean



Many countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have implemented MEPS and Labels



The programs lack harmonization not only in design but also in technical foundation



Advantages of harmonized MEPS and Labels

- Comparability
- Lower costs for testing
- Lower costs for developing policies
- Lower costs for manufacturers
- Simplified customs procedures
- Reduction of trade barriers

This presentation: Opportunities and Challenges for the harmonization of MEPS and Labelling in Latin America and the Caribbean

Outline

Technical basis of MEPS and Labelling

Harmonization (and lack thereof) in LAC

Opportunities and challenges

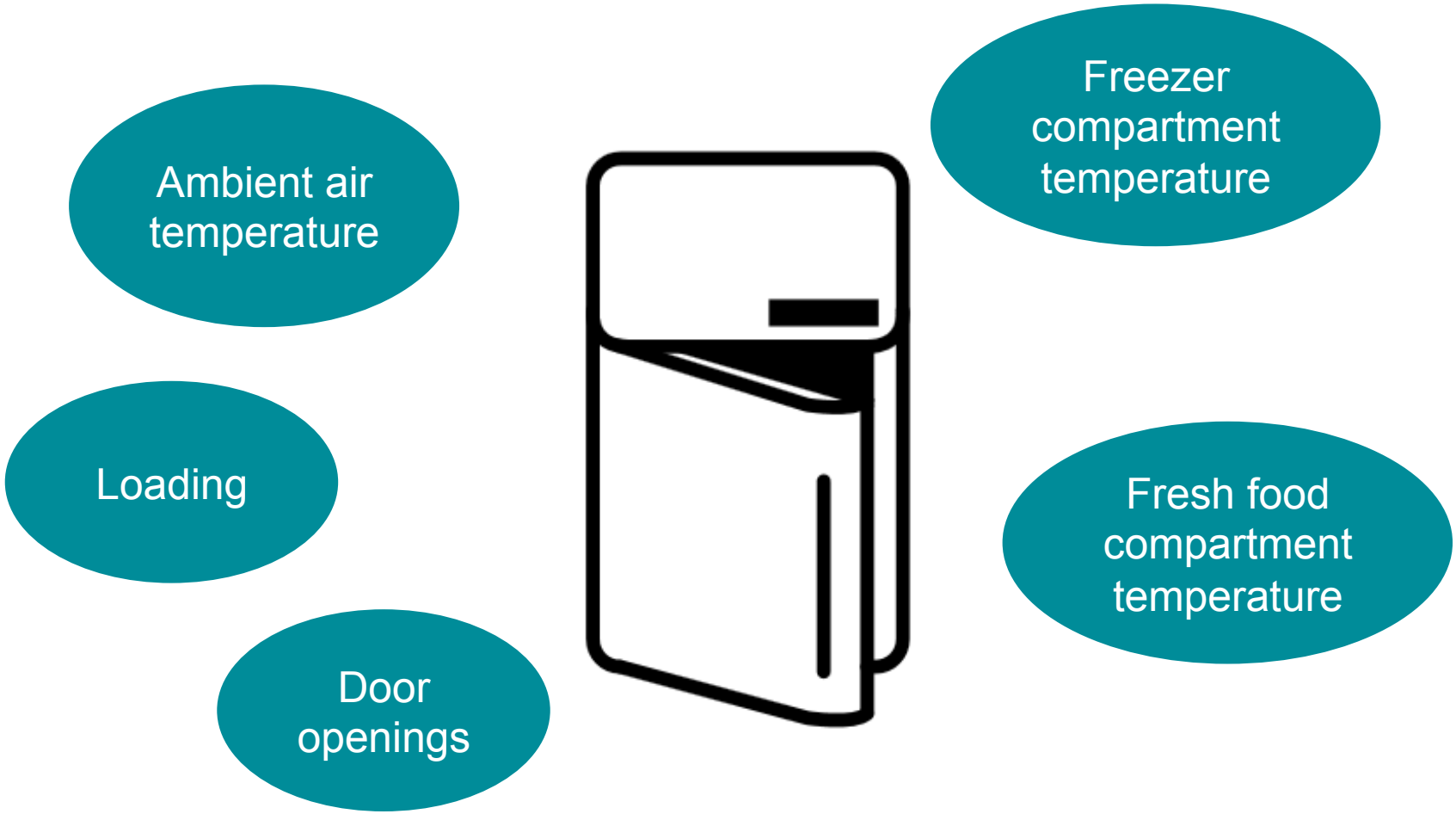
Technical basis of MEPS and Labelling

Source: CLASP

Description of performance levels that need to be met, legal framework
Threashold that a product must meet
Translation of consumption measurement into performance indicator
Procedure to measure the energy consumption of the product
Sizes and capacities included, grouping of sub-types, etc

Elements of quality infrastructure

Example: Factors influencing the measured energy consumption of a refrigerator



Test protocol ideally should...

... accurately reflect the difference in performance between different appliances

... yield repeatable and accurate results

... reflect actual usage conditions

... cover a wide range of models

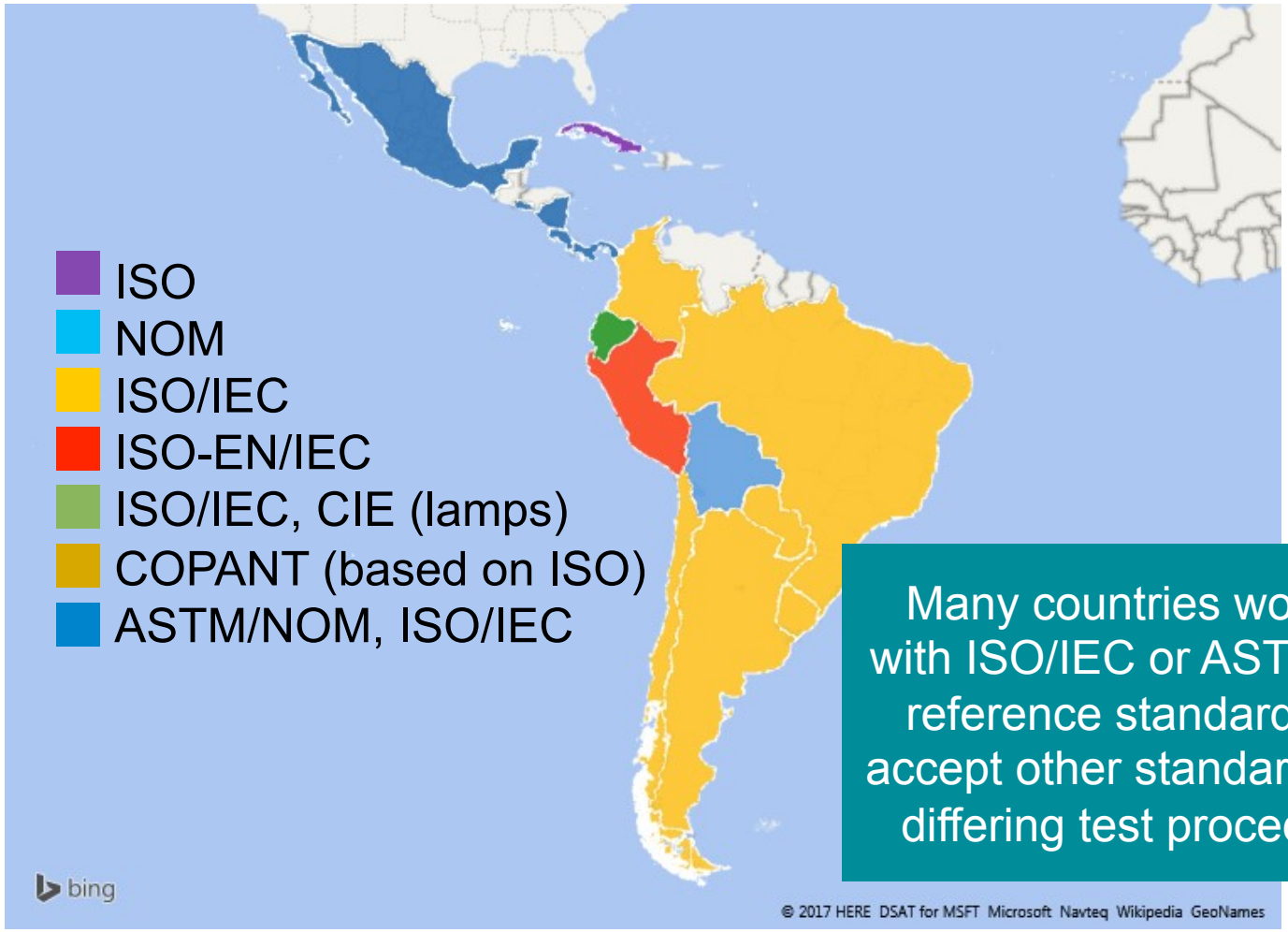
... be inexpensive to perform

Some of these requirements contradict each other, e.g. reflecting usage conditions vs comparibility, accuracy vs. cost etc.

... be easy to modify to accomodate new technologies or features

... produce results that can be easily compared with results from other test procedures

Standards used in LAC countries



Many countries working with ISO/IEC or ASTM as a reference standard also accept other standards with differing test procedures

Barriers for MEPS and Labelling in Latin America and the Caribbean

Political, structural and institutional barriers	Technical barriers	Barriers in the implementation process
Low priority for energy efficiency and subsidized electricity prices	Accuracy and comparability of the measurements and tests	Lack of market surveillance (with few exceptions)
Lack of institutional integration and continuity	Lack of qualified conformity assessment bodies	Lack of consistent approaches for monitoring and evaluation missing and impact studies
Lack of awareness of the importance of QI for MEPS and Labelling among policymakers and businessmen and insufficient interaction between regulators and quality infrastucture institutions	Lack of accreditation schemes, qualified auditors and especially technical experts in the national accreditation bodies .	Lack of interaction between regulatory and supervisory agencies, testing labs and certification bodies, customs, importers, and retailers
Lack of active participation of Latin American standardization bodies in the international standardization work		Lack of awareness among consumers

Barriers for harmonization of MEPS and Labels in Latin America and the Caribbean

- Large differences in size and economic development
- Only a few countries have a significant national production of the products covered in the regulations, most countries are importers
- As the USA is an important trade partner and investor, ASTM and ISO/IEC standards are applied equally (or in parallel) especially in Mexico, Central America and the Andean States.
- Lack of awareness and differing national interests

Opportunities for MEPS and Labelling in the LAC region

The LAC region benefits from participation in activities focused on **enhancing institutional and technical capacity** for developing MEPS and Labelling programs, ensuring compliance, and evaluating the impact of such programs. It is essential that the various programs and initiatives **coordinate their activities** in order to exploit synergies and avoid overlaps.

Increase interaction between the stakeholders involved in the process, in particular regulators, manufacturers, retailers, customs and QI institutions

Smaller countries and countries with a lower level of economic development: Programs and their technical foundations have to be adapted to the financial, technical and personnel resources of the countries. National QI not feasible nor necessary but qualified staff essential (experience with international standards and certificates)

Summary

The harmonization of MEPS and Labels provides advantages for regulators, manufacturers and consumers	The diversity in size, economic development and trade relations has to be taken into account
Quality infrastructure is a precondition for MEPS and Labels and for market surveillance	Smaller and less developed countries require simplified solutions
Strengthening the capacities of QI institutions helps the proliferation of MEPS and Labelling	The technical barriers have to be considered in the context of institutional factors and barriers in the implementation

Thank you!

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