



Mutual Recognition Agreements

Department of Trade and Industry
& tScheme workshop
12th December 2002

What is it?

- It is NOT cross certification
- Mutual recognition between two or more approval schemes, i.e. that they operate in accordance with a common set of values



What are the objectives?

- harmonisation of common standards
- approved TSPs are accepted in a wider domain/ reduces cost of assessments
- promotes competition
- promotes end user confidence



Recognition of what?

- private sector VAS
- government VAS
- supervisory scheme/ VAS
- non-EU/ EEA scheme – government
- non- EU/ EEA scheme – private sector

VAS =voluntary approval scheme



Defining the relationship?

- informal recognition; or
- affiliation; or
- an “endorsement” of another approval scheme?



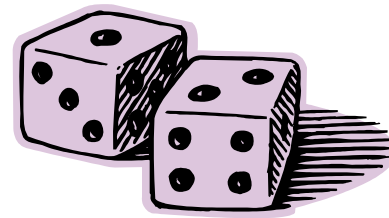
Methodology

- agreeing first principles
- establishing equivalence:
substantially similar v. compatible
- identifying / resolving points of difference
and potential problem areas
- assessing potential liability
- negotiating terms
- Is there trust?



Risk/ liability management

- identifying areas of risk
- analysing/measuring risk
- mitigating risk
- off-setting risk



Allocating responsibility

- to those who are best able to manage the risk
 - minimises and spreads risk



Warranties / indemnities ...



Good start!

CAUTION: - backed by what ??



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Liability planning

- define and allocate responsibilities
- enforcement mechanisms
- sharing essential information
- taking remedial action
- financial sustainability
- excluding and limiting liability
- dispute resolution

