COMPILATION of CCGs in WH CHAPTER 5 - Standards

As of - AUGUST 2006

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Country Commercial Guide for U.S. Companies
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Standards

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Overview

A 1994 decree created the legal framework (Decree 1474/94) for standards-related activities in Argentina.

As a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), Argentina signed the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), affirming its obligations relative to technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures. IRAM has signed the WTO TBT Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards. Responsibilities under the TBT agreement include the establishment of a national inquiry point to serve as a central location for information on standards-related issues, including proposed mandatory regulations. The Argentine inquiry point is in the Secretariat of Industry, Commerce and SMEs (see Information Sources below). The U.S. inquiry point is the National Center for Standards and Certification Information (NCSCI), located at National Institute of Standards and Technology (see Information Sources below).

Standards and Regulations in MERCOSUR

Argentina, as an active MERCOSUR member, participates in the development of MERCOSUR standards and regulations. The MERCOSUR Standards Association, AMN (previously known as *the Comite MERCOSUR de Normalizacion*) --composed of the standards institutes of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay-- develops and harmonizes standards. The Executive Secretariat of the AMN is located in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Voluntary standards are developed in 16 technical committees and deal mostly with steel products, cement and concrete, and electrical safety. Several hundred standards are at different stages of preparation or in the work plan.

Regional technical regulations are developed and/or harmonized by the MERCOSUR governments in Sub Working Group 3 in the following fields: automotive, foods, metrology, safety issues for electrical products, toys, and pre-measured products. Separate working groups, such as those on telecommunications and health issues, also focus on mandatory technical requirements for their particular sectors. Approved MERCOSUR regulations are not automatically adopted in each country. To be applicable, harmonized MERCOSUR regulations must be adopted by each country. The four countries generally adopt all MERCOSUR regulations though at different speeds.

Agricultural and Health-related Products
Please note that agricultural and health-related products are subject to specific and different voluntary standards and mandatory technical regulations. Medical devices, pharmaceuticals, and foods are the purview of the National Administration of Drugs, Food and Medical Technology *(Administracion Nacional de Medicamentos, Alimentos y Tecnologia Medica* - ANMAT).

Information Resources
For information on Argentine and MERCOSUR standards, contact:

IRAM, *Instituto Argentino de Normalizacion*
Peru 552/556
C1068AAB Buenos Aires, Argentina
Phone: (54-11) 43 46 06 00
Fax: (54-11) 43 46 06 01
E-mail: iram@iram.org.ar
URL: www.iram.org.ar
Contact: Ing. Jose Francisco Lopez, Director General
Comments: Argentine Standardization Institute

AMN, *Asociacion MERCOSUR de Normalizacion*
Av. Auro Soares de Moura Andrade 664
01156-001 Sao Paulo - SP (Brazil)
Phone: (55-11) 3823-4603
Fax: (55-11) 3826-3724
E-mail: secretaria@amn.org.br
URL: www.amn.org.br
Comments: MERCOSUR Standards Association

For information on the WTO-TBT inquiry point, contact:

Direccion Nacional de Comercio Interior
Secretaria de Industria, Comercio, y de la Pequeña y Mediana Empresa
Ministerio de Economía y Produccion
Av. Julio A. Roca 651, Piso 4, Sector 22
C1067ABB Buenos Aires, Argentina
Phone: (54-11) 4349-4051/4052
Fax: (54-11) 4349-4038
Email: megime@mprod.gov.ar, siperr@mprod.gov.ar
Contact: Dr. Carlos Plana, Director
E-mail: cplana@miproduccion.gov.ar
Comments: National Domestic Commerce Bureau, Ministry of Economy

For medical products, contact:
ANMAT, *Administracion Nacional de Medicamentos, Alimentos y Tecnologia Medica*
Av. de Mayo 869, Piso 3
C1084AAD Buenos Aires, Argentina
Phone/Fax: (54-11) 4340-0899; 4340-0800
Fax: (54-11) 4342-4578
E-mail: postmaster@anmat.gov.ar
URL: www.anmat.gov.ar
Contact: Manuel Limeres, Director a.i.
Comments: National Administration of Pharmaceuticals, Foods and Medical Technology

For information in the U.S., contact:

National Center for Standards and Certification Information (NCSCI)
National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)
Gaithersburg, MD 20899
Phone: (301) 975-4038
Fax: (301) 926-1559
E-mail: ncsci@nist.gov
URL: www.ts.nist.gov/ncsci

American National Standards Institute (ANSI)
11 West 42nd Street
New York, NY 10036
Phone: (212) 642-4900
Fax: (212) 398-0023
URL: www.ansi.org

Standards Organizations
There are two private sector organizations that work under the National System for Standards, Quality and Certification. The Argentine Standardization Institute (*Instituto Argentino de Normalizacion* - IRAM) is the official national standards body for the Republic of Argentina. The Argentine Accreditation Organization (*Organismo Argentino de Acreditacion* - OAA) is the accreditation body. These are the only organizations that carry out standardization and accreditation in Argentina.

Conformity Assessment
IRAM, created in 1935, is the only developer of national voluntary standards in Argentina. Reliance on international standards as a basis for developing national standards continues to be a strong trend in Argentina. While many IRAM standards are compatible with U.S. standards, many others are patterned after requirements of various European countries and may place U.S. products at a significant disadvantage.
IRAM is also a certification organization, both for products and systems. Its product

certification mark, the "*Sello IRAM*" is widely recognized in the country as indicating conformity to an IRAM voluntary standard. See below for the mandatory safety mark. In Argentina, most standards are voluntary. The buyer and seller share responsibility in determining what product standard is applicable. Products conforming to U.S. standards may or may not be acceptable. Reflecting long-standing tradition and practice, products that meet European requirements are often preferred. This preference may be expressed in procurement specifications, in customary design and construction practices, or as market issues.

Given the growing importance of standards and conformity assessment in expanding U.S. exports, a standards expert is assigned to work in the U.S. Commercial Service office at the U.S. Embassy in Brasilia, with regional responsibilities for South American countries, including Argentina.

Product Certification
Mandatory Testing and Mandatory Product Certification
Regulated products must display an official safety "S" mark to show they conform to the regulations. However, as described above and due to implementation issues, it is difficult to state with certainty at this time the products that must be tested, certified, and marked as required by the resolutions.

Non-Mandatory Testing and Product Certification
There is no legal mandate to retest non-regulated products that have been approved in their country of origin. For non-regulated products, some U.S. trademarks and product certifications are well known and accepted in Argentina. As with standards, any certification that may be required for non-regulated sectors is a contractual matter to be decided between the buyer and the seller. However, it is important to be aware that market conditions and preferences may impose the use of particular standards, certification, or trademarks.

Traditionally, product certification in Argentina has been mostly voluntary with few active organizations including IRAM. However, this has changed due to the partial implementation of regulations that mandate product certification. A number of U.S. certification bodies are now active in Argentina, along with several multinationals and new local entities.

INTI, the National Institute of Industrial Technology (*Instituto Nacional de Tecnologia Industrial*) is a government agency that participates in standards development and performs product testing and certification. Due to the continuing shortage of independent laboratories in Argentina, INTI is viewed as a prime testing and calibration laboratory for the country.

INTI's position attracts interest and substantial technical support and cooperation from

foreign countries, most notably Germany, Japan, and the U.K. These, and other countries such as France, regularly offer scholarships for long and medium-term training courses abroad. Other Argentine private and public organizations also benefit from third country largesse.

To facilitate the acceptance of U.S. products in the Argentine market, agreements between U.S. and local certifiers and testing houses are encouraged. This could provide recognition of existing certifications. Also, there is no impediment for U.S. certification organizations to be established and accredited in Argentina.

Accreditation
Entities that engage in certification for regulated products must be accredited by the Argentine Accreditation Organization (*Organismo Argentino de Acreditacion, OAA*) and recognized by the Government. Testing laboratories must similarly be accredited and recognized.

Organismo Argentino de Acreditación
Av Julio A. Roca 651
Piso 5 – Sectores 8 y 9 (1067)
Buenos Aires
Tel./Fax: 4349-3962/63/64
URL: www.oaa.org.ar

Publication of Technical Regulations
In 1998, the Argentine government embarked on a new path of issuing regulations mandating that certain products meet safety requirements. The trend has slowed down considerably and, generally, implementation schedules have been postponed.
Low voltage electrical equipment was the first product category subjected to safety regulations and mandatory certification (Resolution 92/98). Regulations have also been issued for toys, shoes, gas appliances and products, construction steel, elevators, energy consumption and noise labeling of appliances, closures for dangerous products, and personal protective equipment. Since the end of 1999, efforts have been concentrated in implementation rather than in adding new categories of product to safety regulations. Full-phased implementation of most regulations is not following original schedules.

Resolution 92/98 originally covered all low voltage electrical equipment, but subsequent modifications have excluded various categories of products. However, the vast majority of electrical and electronic products in the consumer marketplace are still subject to this regulation. Evidence of compliance with the regulation is mandatory through product certification. Resolution 92/98 provided for a phased three-stage implementation, with different dates depending on the product. Phase 1 calls for a sworn declaration of

conformity, phase 2 provides for a type-certification, and phase 3 requires full third-party certification with mark of conformity.

Safety regulations for other products are at different stages of implementation.

Labeling and Marking
Resolution 197/2004, published in the Boletin Oficial on January 7th, 2005 establishes the requirements for certification by mark (ISO 4), type (ISO 5), or batch (lot-ISO 7)). Type and lot requirements will apply after June 28th, 2005, while mark stamps will be required starting January 7th, 2005. Manufacturers and importers of the products affected by these requirements (electric apparatus over 50 volts, toys, personal protection equipment, elevators, steel, lighters, and bicycles) can choose among the three-certification criteria (steel products can only be certified by mark or batch). Products certified by type or lot must bear a seal that includes the certification number. The latter must also consign batch number information.

Labeling requirements include safety information, voltage, fire safety, and child safety information. Canned and bottled food labeling requirements include ingredients, identification of manufacturer/importer, and manufacturing/expiration dates. Pharmaceuticals must indicate the name of the responsible technical director of the pharmaceutical laboratory, as well as the ingredients by weight/volume.
On July 6, 2005 the Government revised Resolution 197 and passed a new Resolution (109) that incorporated all of the changes the industry requested. An unofficial translation is below:

Quote: Secretariat of Technical Coordination/Ministry of Economy and Production of the Argentine Republic
Commercial Loyalty
Consumers Defense
Resolution 109/2005
Resolution No. 197/2004, which refers to the mandatory Certification Regime in force in compliance with safety requirements, is hereby amended.
Buenos Aires, July 5, 2005
Whereas:
Record No. S01:0116093/2005 of the Registry of the Ministry of Economy and Production
The Secretariat of Technical Coordination of the Ministry of Economy and Production, being the Authority that enforces the mandatory Certification Regime can assess the technical and legal requirements of such regime.

Resolution 197 dated December 29, 2004 passed by the Secretariat of Technical Coordination of the Ministry of Economy and Production established the requirements in force for certification by type (ISO 4) or batch (lot-ISO 7) for specific products in compliance with security requirements, as established in Resolution No. 799 dated

October 29, 1999 passed by former Secretariat of Industry, Trade and Mining of former Ministry of Economy, Public Works and Services, that establishes the requirements for certification by mark (ISO 5).

The above mentioned resolution established the requirements for certification i.e. all affected products must have a symbol (mentioned above) on their packaging which shows compliance with the safety requirements of the certification regime
Taking into consideration the practical aspects of this process, it would be advisable to adjust the requirements for identification by means of a symbol based on the physical characteristics of the affected products, and to limit the amount of mandatory information needed to identify the bodies of certification for the respective products.
The Legal Affairs Office of the Ministry of Economy and Production has intervened in the aspects incumbent on it and proceeds to act, according to Articles 11 and 12, Section b) of Bill No. 22.802; Article 43, Section a) of Bill No. 24.240 and Decrees No. 1283 dated May 24, 2003, Decree No. 25, dated May 27, 2003 and Decree No. 1359 dated October 5, 2004.

Therefore the Secretary of Technical Coordination resolves:
Article 1: Article 6 of Resolution No. 197 dated December 29, 2004, of the Secretariat of Technical Coordination of the Ministry of Economy and Production should be replaced by the following text:

Article 6: the symbols required for identification, mentioned in Articles 4 and 5 of this Resolution and described in Resolution 799 dated October 29, 1999 of former Secretariat of Industry, Trade and Mining, of former Ministry of Economy and Public Works shall be exhibited on all affected products.
Such symbol on all affected products will be visible and inerasable when such products are sold commercially. If the product is too small and the symbol is illegible it will have to be exhibited on the packaging or rating label.
All symbols exhibited, as mentioned in abovementioned articles must be accompanied by the corresponding certificate listing the type of product.
Article 2: Any infringement of this Resolution will be subject to sanctions pursuant to Bills No. 22.802 and 24.240, as it applies.
Article 3: This Resolution shall be in force after its publication in the Official Bulletin.
Article 4: Be it published, filed and passed on to the Official Registry Office.

Trade Agreements
Membership in Free Trade Arrangements
ALADI
Argentina is a founding member of the Association for Latin American Integration (ALADI-*Asociación Latinoamericana de Integración*), which was created with the longterm goal of establishing a Latin American Common Market. Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela are also founding

members; Cuba attained full membership in 1999. Under the ALADI, member countries sign regional and bilateral agreements that allow partial trade liberalization that can then be extended to other members. In the 25 years since its creation, Argentina has signed several regional, multilateral and bilateral arrangements. The Internet address for ALADI is: www.aladi.org

MERCOSUR
Argentina is a member of the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR-*Mercado Común del Sur*), which entered into force in January 1991. MERCOSUR member countries include Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay. Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela joined the pact as associate members. By 1995, about 75 percent of tariff categories were included in the Common External Tariff (CET) and the remaining categories will be phased-in by 2009. MERCOSUR represents 70 percent of the South American territory and 64 percent of its population. Currently, Venezuela is in the process of becoming a full member. The Internet address is as follows: www.MERCOSUR.org.uy

Integration Alternatives
The Argentine official agency Center of International Economy released a report in 2002 titled "Alternatives of Integration for Argentina: An analysis of General Balance", where it analyzes five possible integration scenarios and their potential for Argentina:

1. FTAA
2. MERCOSUR + E.U. (Free Trade Agreement)
3. A combination of the first two
4. MERCOSUR + U.S. (Free Trade Agreement)
5. World Free Trade

Using the model from the Global Trade Analysis Project (GTAP), the study concluded that:

- All agreements would be beneficial for Argentina on an aggregate level.
- The agreements are expected to have the following impact on Argentina's GDP:
  FTAA + MERCOSUR-E.U. +7.2%
  World Free Trade +5.6%
  MERCOSUR-E.U. +4.3%
  FTAA +3.5%
  MERCOSUR-U.S.A. +2.6%
- The importance of the Brazilian market for Argentina is especially reflected in the less beneficial effects that the FTAA and MERCOSUR-U.S. agreements would have for Argentina as compared to the other alternatives. None of the agreements represents significant changes in the trade balance for Argentina, although they are expected to increase the volume of trade as follows:
  World Free Trade +28.5%

FTAA + MERCOSUR-E.U. +27%
MERCOSUR-E.U +16%
FTAA +14%
MERCOSUR-U.S.A. +9%

During 2004, MERCOSUR has taken a more active role in negotiating trade agreements with other economic blocs and countries:

MERCOSUR-European Union
The two blocs had made the commitment of reaching an agreement in the process of integration by October 2004, but several differences between the blocs impeded final negotiations. Talks will restart towards the end of 2005. These are broad and include goods, services, investments, government procurement, and intellectual property rights, among other issues.

MERCOSUR-Andean Community of Nations (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela)
The agreement took place in October 2004 and contemplates the liberalization of 80 percent of trade between the blocs within the next ten years, beginning in 2005.

MERCOSUR-Venezuela
In July 2004, MERCOSUR members finally accepted Venezuela's request to become a MERCOSUR associate member, which had been submitted in 2001.

MERCOSUR-Mexico
In July 2004, Mexico was accepted by MERCOSUR as an "observer country" within the bloc, toward its inclusion as associate member.
For additional information on trade regulations, customs and standards, visit the U.S. Commercial Service in Buenos Aires (CSBA) web site at http://www.buyusa.gov/argentina/en or contact CSBA at Buenos.Aires.Office.Box@mail.doc.gov

Web Resources
Ministry of Economy (http://www.mecon.gov.ar/default_english.htm).

Ministry of Foreign Relations, International Trade and Cult (http://www.mrecic.gov.ar/)

Central Bank (http://www.bcra.gov.ar/hm000000_i.asp): National self-governed institution, whose primary and fundamental mission is to preserve the value of the Argentine currency. It formulates and implements the monetary and financial policy and is not subject to the orders, guidelines or instructions of the National Executive branch of government.

National Comission of Foreign Trade (http://www.mecon.gov.ar/cnce/): (Comision Nacional de Comercio Exterior): National Bureau under the Secretary of Industry, Commerce and Small and Medium Enterprises (http://www.sepyme.gov.ar/). Applies legislation international trade-related and as a research and information center for international trade y trade policy.

National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (http://www.indec.gov.ar/indec/ingles.asp) (INDEC): Technical government agency responsible for the coordination and supervision of all public statistical activities taking place in the Argentine territory.

Administracion Nacional de Medicamentos, Alimentos y Tecnologia Medica (ANMAT)*:* (http://www.anmat.gov.ar) Equivalent of the USFDA, the regulatory body of the Ministry of Health. It provides additional information to the general rules for a specific product.

Federal Public Revenue Administration (http://www.afip.gov.ar/) (AFIP): National tax collection agency that executes the tax and customs policies set by the National Executive Branch.

Association for Latin American Integration (http://www.aladi.org/) (ALADI).

Common Market of the South, (www.mercour.org.uy) (MERCOSUR).

U.S. exporters seeking general export information/assistance or country-specific commercial information should consult with their nearest **Export Assistance Center** or the **U.S. Department of Commerce's Trade Information Center** at **(800) USA-TRADE**, or go to the following website: http://www.export.gov.

To the best of our knowledge, the information contained in this report is accurate as of the date published. However, **The Department of Commerce** does not take responsibility for actions readers may take based on the information contained herein. Readers should always conduct their own due diligence before entering into business ventures or other commercial arrangements. **The Department of Commerce** can assist companies in these endeavors.

-BARBADOS-

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Overview

The Barbados National Standards Institution (BNSI) oversees product standards, labeling, and certification in Barbados. A nongovernmental organization, it was established in 1973 under the Companies Act as a joint venture between the Government of Barbados and the private sector. The actions of the Barbados National Standards Institution were given legal weight by the following acts:

- The Control of Standards Act, Cap 326A
- The Weights and Measures Act, Cap 331
- The BNSI Certification Marks Act, Cap 325A.

Since its inception, the Barbados National Standards Institution has been open to recommendations from the general public and independent groups such as the Barbados Manufacturers Association. It has also been amendable to the incorporation of regional standards, especially in light of the recent push by CARICOM members to harmonize regional standards as an important step towards the implementation of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy. The CARICOM Regional Organization of Standards and Quality (CROSQ) is the body charged with setting regional standards. BSNI also works with the Pan-American Standards Commission (COPANT) to address standards issues as they relate to the Free Trade Area of the Americas.
On August 6, 1997, BNSI accepted the WTO TBT Agreement's Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards.

Standards Organizations

The responsibilities of BNSI include preparing and implementing national standards; adopting and implementing relevant regional and international standards; revising and amending standards; assisting in the establishment of new industries; maintaining testing, investigative and research laboratories; providing calibrating facilities; certifying products, commodities and processes which meet national standards; and promoting quality assurance.

There are approximately 151 BNSI Specifications and 21 BNSI Codes of Practice, approximately 44 of which are mandatory. The mandatory standards relate to health, public safety, food and environmental protection. A list of mandatory standards can be found in the BNSI Standards Catalogue.

BNSI maintains an annual standards development agenda, which it submits to the WTO. Examples of BNSI's future endeavors are the development of standards for organic foods, standards for genetically modified foods, and standards for improving medical laboratories. The harmonization of regional standards is also a near term goal as an important step towards the implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy.

There are two other organizations in Barbados charged by law to look at standards for specific fields. TVET (Technical, Vocational, and Educational Training) looks at skills that are necessary for various professions and prepares guidelines for training institutions. FTC (Fair Trade Commission) looks at standards for public utilities.

Conformity Assessment
The testing laboratories, which certify that products meet standards, fall under the BNSI structure.

Product Certification
The BNSI Certification Marks Act, Cap 325A bestows the Barbados National Standards Institution with the authority to certify products and processes and to issue certification marks for which a Barbados National Standard exists. BNSI practices a third party certification system and also accepts third party marks of conformity from other reputable and well-known agencies. Other marks are accepted on a case-by-case basis. A firm interested in having a mark accepted must submit the mark and relevant details to BNSI for assessment.

The procedures for product certification are as follows. The interested party must submit an application and a non-refundable application fee of BDS $50.00 (USD $25.00) to BNSI. BNSI will then conduct a preliminary inspection of the manufacturing facility to assess the testing facilities and the quality assurance procedures for the manufacturing process. In addition, testing samples are taken to ascertain conformity to a standard's specifications. Testing costs are borne by the applicant. After a report of the preliminary inspection is completed, a scheme of testing and inspection is prepared for the organization. This scheme includes information such as the points of production from where samples would be drawn for testing and/or inspection, the frequency, size and manner of drawing the samples, the tests to be performed, the types of records to be maintained, corrective actions to be taken if necessary, and the method of applying the mark. A marking fee, paid by the applicant, is negotiated which covers the costs of the

scheme of inspection.

At this point, a license to use the BNSI mark can be issued. The license is good for one year and must be renewed annually; there is a BDS $100.00 (USD $50.00) annual license fee. An application along with a BDS $20.00 (USD $10.00) application fee must be submitted in order to renew the mark.
BNSI does not have Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRA's) with U.S. organizations.

Accreditation
There are currently no laboratory accrediting organizations in the Caribbean. Trinidad & Tobago as well as Jamaica are looking to form accreditation bodies that can serve the whole Caribbean. Laboratories in Barbados looking for accreditation will be able to use these institutions.

Publication of Technical Regulations
The BNSI publishes national standards on labeling, building, food, chemicals, textiles, solar energy, liquefied petroleum gas, furniture, and consumer products. The complete list of Barbadian Standards is published in the Standards Catalogue.
U.S. entities are free to contact BNSI during the standards development process if they have any comments.

Labeling and Marking
Labeling requirements for different classes of goods are covered by the following standards:

Mandatory Standards:

- Barbados National Standard Specification for Labeling of Commodities [General] (BNS 5:Part 1:1974);
- Barbados National Standard Specification for Labeling of Prepackaged Food (BNS 5:Part 2:1994);
- Barbados National Standard Specification for Labeling of All Products Manufactured from Textiles (BNS 5:Part 3:1974);
- Barbados National Standard Specification for Labeling of Prepackaged Goods (BNS 5: Part 6:1979);
- Barbados National Standard Specification for Labeling of Prepackaged Meat and Poultry Parts/Cuts and Fish and Fishery Products (BNS 5:Part 7:2002);
- Barbados National Standard Specification for Labeling of Toys and Playthings (BNS 23:1976);
- Barbados National Standard Code of Practice for Care Labeling of Textiles (BNS CP 3:1980)

Voluntary Standards:

- Barbados National Standard Specification for Labeling Brewery Products (BNS 186:2000 – ICS 67.160.10);
- Barbados National Standard Specification for Labeling of Footwear (BNS 5:Part 4: 1980).

To inquire about labeling requirements for a specific class of goods, contact the Barbados National Standards Institution at Tel: (246) 426-3870.

For more information, please see the standards contact information below.

The following are excerpts from two of the standards describing general labeling requirements.

A. Barbados National Standard Specification for Labeling of Commodities (General)
BNS 5: Part 1 : 1974 (Reprinted 1996)
(The following is a direct quote from the Standard for Labeling of Commodities.)
Labeling Requirements
1. A label affixed to, or marked on, or accompanying a commodity or its packing shall conform to the following requirements;
    1.1 It shall give a description of the commodity and shall provide adequate factual information to the potential purchaser.
        1.1.1 This shall include either the weight or volume or measurement or size as applicable.
2. It shall, if necessary, provide a purchaser with appropriate safety instructions.
3. It shall, if necessary, provide a purchaser with operating instructions and information on care and maintenance.
4. It shall provide adequate information to enable both manufacturer and supplier to be easily traced.
5. It shall provide adequate information relating to the country of manufacture.
6. It shall be legible and durable up to the point of sale, and, where appropriate, during the normal working life and use of the commodity.
7. It shall not contain information that is false, misleading or deceptive, or is likely to create an erroneous impression regarding its character in any respect.
8. It shall not contain information by words, pictorial or other devices which refer to or are suggestive, either directly or indirectly, of another commodity with which such a commodity might be confused, or in such a manner as to lead the purchaser or consumer to suppose that the commodity is connected with such other product.
9. The information specified in 2 and 8 above, shall be in the national language of the country where the commodity will be marketed. In the event of any apparent conflict between this specification and a supplementary specification, the latter shall prevail.[1]

B. Barbados National Standard Specification for Labeling of Prepackaged Goods
BNS5 : Part 6: 1979 (Reprinted 1999)

BNSI, Barbados National Standard Specification for Labeling of Commodities (General), BNS 5: Part 1 : 1974 (Reprinted 1996), pp.4-5

(The sections in the following excerpt from the Standard for Labeling of Prepackaged Goods are summarized where indicated.)

General Requirements (Summary)
Each package shall be labeled with the following information:
1. the common name of the good, the manufacturer's address, and the country of origin;
2. a correct statement of the net contents of the package;
3. an accurate description of the major ingredients or components of the goods;
4. an expiry date or date mark indicating the age of the goods.

Prevention of Deception (Summary)
A label on a package of prepackaged goods may contain other information, designs, symbols or pictorial matter, provided that no words, pictures, or other markings of the label are used to give an erroneous impression of the net contents of the package; the ingredients or components of the goods; the nature, origin, quality, performance, function, and method of manufacture of the goods; country of origin; the price or unit price of the goods; and the ease of maintenance or repair of the goods.

Position of Information on Package or on the Goods (Summary)
The information required by the General Requirements shall be place on the principal display panel of the package.

Exemptions for Certain Retail Sales
Goods which are repackaged by the retailer need not be labeled with the information required by the General Requirements so long as they are sold or displayed or exposed for sale in close proximity to a notice, card, or statement in clearly discernible lettering containing the information required by the General Requirements.

Language to be Used on Labels of Prepackage Goods (Summary)
All statements shall be in the English language except where the common name, manufacturer's name, or address is in another language. All numbers shall be in Hindu/Arabic numerals or words.

Information as to Retail Price or Unit Price (Summary)
A label may include the price of the goods in the package. If the price is not on the label or package, the price shall be clearly displayed in proximity to the

goods. If packages containing the same goods are not uniform in net contents, the packager or retailer shall mark each package so that each label includes the unit price of the goods as well as the net content and price of each package. In the event of a price decrease or sale/discount, the old and new prices shall be stated in equal size and style.

Information as to Retail Price or Unit Price (Summary)
A label may include the price of the goods in the package. If the price is not on the label or package, the price shall be clearly displayed in proximity to the goods. If packages containing the same goods are not uniform in net contents, the packager or retailer shall mark each package so that each label includes the unit price of the goods as well as the net content and price of each package. In the event of a price decrease or sale/discount, the old and new prices shall be stated in equal size and style.

Warranties or Guarantees
No reference shall be made on a label or on a package to any warranty or guarantee for any goods unless a copy of the warranty or guarantee is given to the purchaser or consumer at the time he take possession of the goods.

Presentation of Information (Summary)
All information required by this standard shall be readily discernible under normal conditions of sale. Where the common name of the good or manufacturer's name, address or country of origin consists of more than one word, the letters shall be of identical size and style.

Date Marking and Expiry Dates (Summary)
Where goods are liable to deteriorate within a period of six months after the date of manufacture or packaging so that the quality, safety or other desirable characteristic is not likely to be maintained, a date mark shall be placed on the goods, label or package.

Instructions for Use and Information on Source for Spare Parts (Summary)
Where any risk to the consumer or user or where significant deterioration of the goods may result if the goods are not properly handled, stored, transported, used, installed, cared for, maintained or repaired, appropriate hazard symbols and instructions for use in English shall be provided on the label or package or accompanying the goods.

Use of Standard Mark (Summary)
1. The use of a Standard Mark issued by the Barbados National Standards Institution shall be governed by the laws of Barbados.
2. The use of a Standard Mark issued by a Standards Organization outside of Barbados shall be

in
accordance with the rules or laws governing that Standard Mark applied by the Standards Organization.
3. No manufacturer or packager shall use a standard mark on a label, on a package, or on goods
without written authorization in accordance with the laws or rules referred to in 1 and 2.

Note: the following bodies in the Caribbean Community issue standard Marks:
(a) Barbados - BNSI
(b) Jamaica - JBS
(c) Trinidad & Tobago - TTBS
In the event of conflict between the provisions of this standard or any Barbadian Standard for labeling of classes of goods, which are sold prepackaged, the latter shall prevail.[2]

Standards Contact Information
Barbados National Standards Institution
Dudley Rhynd, Director
Flodden
Culloden Road
St. Michael
Barbados
Phone: 246-426-3870
Fax: 246-436-1495
Email: bnsi@caribsurf.com
Website: http://www.commerce.gov.bb/Agency/BNSI/default.asp

BNSI, Barbados National Standard Specification for Labeling of Prepackaged Goods
BNS5 : Part 6: 1979 (Reprinted 1999), pp. 7-12

The Pan American Standards Commission or La Comisión
Panamericana de Normas Técnicas (COPANT)
Dudley Rhynd, Vice President
Manuel Díaz Portocarrero, Executive Secretary
Email:copant@cantv.net
Website: http://www.copant.org

Ministry of Commerce, Consumer Affairs and Business Development
Reef Road
Bridgetown
St. Michael
Barbados

Phone: 246-427-5270 Fax: 246-431-0056

CARICOM Regional Organization for Standards and Quality (CROSQ)
Dr. Omer Thomas, Chairman
(Exec. Dir. of the Bureau of Standards Jamaica)
6 Winchester Road
Kingston 10
Jamaica
Phone: 876-926-3140-5
Fax: 876-929-4736
Embassy's Point of Contact on Standards - Commercial Specialist Doreen Weekes, email: doreen.weekes@mail.doc.gov

Trade Agreements
As a signatory of the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement, Barbados follows the Agreement's Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards. BNSI serves as the WTO Inquiry Point and notifies the WTO of its development agenda.

For the most part there have not been significant technical trade barriers due to compliance problems. In order to facilitate international trade, Barbados tries to remain close to international standards. Some of the BNSI mandatory standards are based on CODEX standards. The only issue that has come up concerns the difference in dating systems in the U.S. and Barbados. Barbados uses the International Dating System, but American companies do not, so the importation of certain products, such as canned foods, has encountered problems in the past.

Web Resources
The Pan American Standards Commission or La Comisión Panamericana de Normas Técnicas (COPANT) Website: http://www.copant.org
Directorate of Defense Trade Controls Website: http://www.pmdtc.org
Bureau of Industry and Security Website: http://www.bis.doc.gov/
Barbados Customs & Excise Department Website:
http://www.barbados.gov.bb/customs/frameset.htm
Barbados National Standards Institute Website:
http://www.commerce.gov.bb/Agency/BNSI/default.asp

-BRAZIL-

Country Commercial Guide for U.S. Companies
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. Conformity Assessment
. Product Certification
. Accreditation
. Publication of Technical Regulations
. Labeling and Marking
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Overview

The Barbados National Standards Institution (BNSI) oversees product standards, labeling, and certification in Barbados. A nongovernmental organization, it was established in 1973 under the Companies Act as a joint venture between the Government of Barbados and the private sector. The actions of the Barbados National Standards Institution were given legal weight by the following acts:

- The Control of Standards Act, Cap 326A;
- The Weights and Measures Act, Cap 331;
- The BNSI Certification Marks Act, Cap 325A.

Since its inception, the Barbados National Standards Institution has been open to recommendations from the general public and independent groups such as the Barbados Manufacturers Association. It has also been amendable to the incorporation of regional standards, especially in light of the recent push by CARICOM members to

harmonize regional standards as an important step towards the implementation of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy. The CARICOM Regional Organization of Standards and Quality (CROSQ) is the body charged with setting regional standards. BSNI also works with the Pan-American Standards Commission (COPANT) to address standards issues as they relate to the Free Trade Area of the Americas.

On August 6, 1997, BNSI accepted the WTO TBT Agreement's Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards.

Standards Organizations
The responsibilities of BNSI include preparing and implementing national standards; adopting and implementing relevant regional and international standards; revising and amending standards; assisting in the establishment of new industries; maintaining testing, investigative and research laboratories; providing calibrating facilities; certifying products, commodities and processes which meet national standards; and promoting quality assurance.
There are approximately 151 BNSI Specifications and 21 BNSI Codes of Practice, approximately 44 of which are mandatory. The mandatory standards relate to health, public safety, food and environmental protection. A list of mandatory standards can be found in the BNSI Standards Catalogue.
BNSI maintains an annual standards development agenda, which it submits to the WTO. Examples of BNSI's future endeavors are the development of standards for organic foods, standards for genetically modified foods, and standards for improving medical laboratories. The harmonization of regional standards is also a near term goal as an important step towards the implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy.

There are two other organizations in Barbados charged by law to look at standards for specific fields. TVET (Technical, Vocational, and Educational Training) looks at skills that are necessary for various professions and prepares guidelines for training institutions. FTC (Fair Trade Commission) looks at standards for public utilities.

Conformity Assessment
The testing laboratories, which certify that products meet standards, fall under the BNSI structure.

Product Certification
The BNSI Certification Marks Act, Cap 325A bestows the Barbados National Standards Institution with the authority to certify products and processes and to issue certification marks for which a Barbados National Standard exists. BNSI practices a third party certification system and also accepts third party marks of conformity from other reputable and well-known agencies. Other marks are accepted on a case-by-case basis. A firm interested in having a mark accepted must submit the mark and relevant

details to BNSI for assessment.

The procedures for product certification are as follows. The interested party must submit an application and a non-refundable application fee of BDS $50.00 (USD $25.00) to BNSI. BNSI will then conduct a preliminary inspection of the manufacturing facility to assess the testing facilities and the quality assurance procedures for the manufacturing process. In addition, testing samples are taken to ascertain conformity to a standard's specifications. Testing costs are borne by the applicant. After a report of the preliminary inspection is completed, a scheme of testing and inspection is prepared for the organization. This scheme includes information such as the points of production from where samples would be drawn for testing and/or inspection, the frequency, size and manner of drawing the samples, the tests to be performed, the types of records to be maintained, corrective actions to be taken if necessary, and the method of applying the mark. A marking fee, paid by the applicant, is negotiated which covers the costs of the scheme of inspection.

At this point, a license to use the BNSI mark can be issued. The license is good for one year and must be renewed annually; there is a BDS $100.00 (USD $50.00) annual license fee. An application along with a BDS $20.00 (USD $10.00) application fee must be submitted in order to renew the mark.

BNSI does not have Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRA's) with U.S. organizations.

Accreditation
There are currently no laboratory accrediting organizations in the Caribbean. Trinidad & Tobago as well as Jamaica are looking to form accreditation bodies that can serve the whole Caribbean. Laboratories in Barbados looking for accreditation will be able to use these institutions.

Publication of Technical Regulations
The BNSI publishes national standards on labeling, building, food, chemicals, textiles, solar energy, liquefied petroleum gas, furniture, and consumer products. The complete list of Barbadian Standards is published in the Standards Catalogue.
U.S. entities are free to contact BNSI during the standards development process if they have any comments.

Labeling and Marking
Labeling requirements for different classes of goods are covered by the following standards:

Mandatory Standards:

- Barbados National Standard Specification for Labeling of Commodities [General] (BNS

5:Part 1:1974);
- Barbados National Standard Specification for Labeling of Prepackaged Food (BNS 5:Part 2:1994);
- Barbados National Standard Specification for Labeling of All Products Manufactured from Textiles (BNS 5:Part 3:1974);
- Barbados National Standard Specification for Labeling of Prepackaged Goods (BNS 5: Part 6:1979);
- Barbados National Standard Specification for Labeling of Prepackaged Meat and Poultry Parts/Cuts and Fish and Fishery Products (BNS 5:Part 7:2002);
- Barbados National Standard Specification for Labeling of Toys and Playthings (BNS 23:1976);
- Barbados National Standard Code of Practice for Care Labeling of Textiles (BNS CP 3:1980); and the

Voluntary Standards:
- Barbados National Standard Specification for Labeling Brewery Products (BNS 186:2000 – ICS 67.160.10);
- Barbados National Standard Specification for Labeling of Footwear (BNS 5:Part 4: 1980).

To inquire about labeling requirements for a specific class of goods, contact the Barbados National Standards Institution at Tel: (246) 426-3870. For more information, please see the standards contact information below.

The following are excerpts from two of the standards describing general labeling requirements.

A. Barbados National Standard Specification for Labeling of Commodities (General)
BNS 5: Part 1 : 1974 (Reprinted 1996)

(The following is a direct quote from the Standard for Labeling of Commodities.)
Labeling Requirements

1. A label affixed to, or marked on, or accompanying a commodity or its packing shall conform to the following requirements;
    1.1 It shall give a description of the commodity and shall provide adequate factual information to the potential purchaser.
        1.1.1 This shall include either the weight or volume or measurement or size as applicable.
2. It shall, if necessary, provide a purchaser with appropriate safety instructions.
3. It shall, if necessary, provide a purchaser with operating instructions and information on care and maintenance.

4. It shall provide adequate information to enable both manufacturer and supplier to be easily traced.
5. It shall provide adequate information relating to the country of manufacture.
6. It shall be legible and durable up to the point of sale, and, where appropriate, during the normal working life and use of the commodity.
7. It shall not contain information that is false, misleading or deceptive, or is likely to create an erroneous impression regarding its character in any respect.
8. It shall not contain information by words, pictorial or other devices which refer to or are suggestive, either directly or indirectly, of another commodity with which such a commodity might be confused, or in such a manner as to lead the purchaser or consumer to suppose that the commodity is connected with such other product.
9. The information specified in 2 and 8 above, shall be in the national language of the country where the commodity will be marketed. In the event of any apparent conflict between this specification and a supplementary specification, the latter shall prevail.

B. Barbados National Standard Specification for Labeling of Prepackaged Goods
BNS5 : Part 6: 1979 (Reprinted 1999)

BNSI, Barbados National Standard Specification for Labeling of Commodities (General), BNS 5: Part 1 : 1974 (Reprinted 1996), pp.4-5

(The sections in the following excerpt from the Standard for Labeling of Prepackaged Goods are summarized where indicated.)

General Requirements (Summary)

Each package shall be labeled with the following information:
1. the common name of the good, the manufacturer's address, and the country of origin;
2. a correct statement of the net contents of the package;
3. an accurate description of the major ingredients or components of the goods;
4. an expiry date or date mark indicating the age of the goods.

Prevention of Deception (Summary)
A label on a package of prepackaged goods may contain other information, designs, symbols or pictorial matter, provided that no words, pictures, or other markings of the label are used to give an erroneous impression of the net contents of the package; the ingredients or components of the goods; the nature, origin, quality, performance, function, and method of manufacture of the goods; country of origin; the price or unit price of the goods; and the ease of maintenance or repair of the goods.
Position of Information on Package or on the Goods (Summary)
The information required by the General Requirements shall be place on the

principal display panel of the package.

Exemptions for Certain Retail Sales
Goods which are repackaged by the retailer need not be labeled with the information required by the General Requirements so long as they are sold or displayed or exposed for sale in close proximity to a notice, card, or statement in clearly discernible lettering containing the information required by the General Requirements.

Language to be Used on Labels of Prepackage Goods (Summary)
All statements shall be in the English language except where the common name, manufacturer's name, or address is in another language. All numbers shall be in Hindu/Arabic numerals or words.

Information as to Retail Price or Unit Price (Summary)
A label may include the price of the goods in the package. If the price is not on the label or package, the price shall be clearly displayed in proximity to the goods. If packages containing the same goods are not uniform in net contents, the packager or retailer shall mark each package so that each label includes the unit price of the goods as well as the net content and price of each package. In the event of a price decrease or sale/discount, the old and new prices shall be stated in equal size and style.

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Warranties or Guarantees
No reference shall be made on a label or on a package to any warranty or guarantee for any goods unless a copy of the warranty or guarantee is given to the purchaser or consumer at the time he take possession of the goods.

Presentation of Information (Summary)
All information required by this standard shall be readily discernible under normal conditions of sale. Where the common name of the good or manufacturer's name, address or country of origin consists of more than one word, the letters shall be of identical size and style.

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Dudley Rhynd, Vice President
Manuel Díaz Portocarrero, Executive Secretary
Email:copant@cantv.net
Website: http://www.copant.org

Ministry of Commerce, Consumer Affairs and Business Development
Reef Road
Bridgetown
St. Michael
Barbados
Phone: 246-427-5270 Fax: 246-431-0056

CARICOM Regional Organization for Standards and Quality (CROSQ)
Dr. Omer Thomas, Chairman
(Exec. Dir. of the Bureau of Standards Jamaica)
6 Winchester Road
Kingston 10
Jamaica
Phone: 876-926-3140-5
Fax: 876-929-4736

Embassy's Point of Contact on Standards - Commercial Specialist Doreen Weekes,
email: doreen.weekes@mail.doc.gov

Trade Agreements
As a signatory of the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement, Barbados follows the Agreement's Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards. BNSI serves as the WTO Inquiry Point and notifies the WTO of its development agenda.

For the most part there have not been significant technical trade barriers due to compliance problems. In order to facilitate international trade, Barbados tries to remain close to international standards. Some of the BNSI mandatory standards are based on CODEX standards. The only issue that has come up concerns the difference in dating systems in the U.S. and Barbados. Barbados uses the International Dating System, but American companies do not, so the importation of certain products, such as canned foods, has encountered problems in the past.

Web Resources
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Directorate of Defense Trade Controls Website: http://www.pmdtc.org
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Barbados Customs & Excise Department Website:
http://www.barbados.gov.bb/customs/frameset.htm
Barbados National Standards Institute Website:
http://www.commerce.gov.bb/Agency/BNSI/default.asp

-CANADA-

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Standards

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- Conformity Assessment
- Product Certification
- Accreditation
- Publication of Technical Regulations
- Labeling and Marking

Overview
This report gives a detailed overview of the Canadian standards development and product testing and certification systems. Products shipped to Canada must conform to the relevant Canadian standard. In most instances, Canadian and U.S. standards are very similar, and products designed to conform to U.S. standards will meet Canadian standards with little or no modification. In some product areas, such as air conditioning and refrigeration, U.S and Canadian standards have been harmonized into a single North American standard. Similarities between U.S. and Canadian standards, however, do not relieve the U.S. exporter of the obligation to meet the Canadian standard.
In delineating the precise technical specifications required to ensure safety, both countries often use slightly different standards. This is an area in which standards officials and standards development organizations will find fruitful to explore. The Canadian view on "the tyranny of small differences" is discussed below in the context of the recently released External Advisory Committee Report on Smart Regulation.
Principles of standards regulation in Canada should be examined in light of the basic rules of the basic rules of the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade and of the North American Free Trade Agreement signed by the United States, Canada and Mexico: standards must not create unnecessary barriers to trade. To reduce such barriers, the NAFTA applies basic principles to bilateral trade:
Testing facilities and certification bodies are treated in a nondiscriminatory manner.
Federal standards-related measures will be harmonized to the greatest extent possible.
Greater openness will be provided in the regulatory process.

This report is drawn in large part on information on the Canadian standards-related websites cited below, in particular, the Canadian government's overview of the Canadian standards system: http://www.innovationstrategy.gc.ca/gol/innovation/site.nsf/en/in04929.html.

(b) National Standards System
Canada's National Standards System (NSS) is the system for developing, promoting and implementing standards in Canada. The NSS includes more than 400 organizations accredited by the Standards Council of Canada. These organizations are involved in several activities: standards development, product testing and quality ("conformity assessment"), product or service certification, and environmental management and production systems registration. More than 15,000 Canadian members contribute to committees that develop national or international standards.

The NSS does not include all standards in Canada. Nor is the system static: organizations can and do join and leave the system. Many standards used in Canada that are not National Standards may have been developed by Canadian standards development organizations (SDOs) and not put forward as a National Standard of Canada, often because of the cost of translating the standard into both official languages (English and French). In other cases, international, regional or foreign SDOs, such as the ISO, may have developed the standards. In addition, organizations not accredited by

the SCC develop some standards. Important non-NSS standards include the Building Code, developed by the National Research Council.

Standards Organizations
Standards Council of Canada
A federal Crown corporation, the Standards Council of Canada (SCC), coordinates standardization activities in Canada, including the designation of National Standards of Canada. Located in Ottawa, the Standards Council has a 15-member governing Council and a staff of approximately 80. The organization reports to Parliament through the Minister of Industry and oversees Canada's National Standards System. The SCC is comprised of representatives from the federal and provincial governments as well as from a wide range of public and private interests. It prescribes policies and procedures for developing National Standards of Canada, coordinates Canada's participation in the international standards system, and accredits more than 400 organizations involved in standards development, product or service certification, testing and management systems registration activities in Canada. The SCC is independent of government, although it remains partially financed by public funds. SCC members are appointed by the Governor in Council of the SCC, and include a wide range of interests so that no one party dominates policy directions.

The SCC does not develop standards itself, nor does it conduct conformity assessment. Rather, under its mandate to coordinate and oversee the efforts of the National Standards System, the SCC accredits testing and certification organizations to conduct conformity assessment and reviews the standards submitted by standards development organizations for approval as National Standards of Canada. This designation indicates that a standard is the official Canadian standard on a particular subject. It also shows that the development process met certain specified criteria. National Standards of Canada may be developed in Canada or adopted, with or without changes, from international standards.

On the global stage, the SCC serves as the National Enquiry Point for information from around the world concerning upcoming regulatory and standardization changes impacting trade. This service is a requirement of Canada's membership in both the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Internationally, the Standards Council manages Canada's participation in the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), and in regional standards organizations. It also encourages the adoption and application of international standards in Canada.
The Standards Council has accredited more than 400 organizations. Some of these develop standards; others are conformity assessment bodies that determine the compliance of products or services to a standard's requirements. The list of accredited organizations includes:

- standards development organizations;
- certification organizations;
- testing and calibration laboratories;
- environmental management systems (EMS) registration organizations that perform registrations to the ISO 14000 series standards; and
- auditor certifiers and trainers that provide QMS and EMS auditors with their training and credentials.

There are four accredited standards development organizations (SDOs) in Canada: the Canadian Standards Association (CSA), Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada (ULC), the Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB), and the Bureau de normalisation du Québec (BNQ). Each of these organizations develops standards through committees representing various interests. SDOs may submit standards to the SCC to be recognized as National Standards of Canada. They can also develop standards-related documents such as codes and guidelines (non-mandatory guidance and information documents). The CSA and ULC are private, not-for-profit organizations. They are market-driven to the extent that their activities are governed by the willingness of affected parties to pay for and participate in standardization activities. Although funded primarily through the sale of conformity assessment services, their standards development activities are not restricted to the areas in which they have conformity assessment programs. For example, only about one-third of CSA's 1,800 standards have related conformity assessment service offerings.

The BNQ and CGSB, by contrast, are both public sector organizations that run on cost recovery.

As with the CSA and ULC, they offer standards development services in addition to conformity assessment services. Like the private sector organizations, they do not restrict their standards development activities to cases for which they have or could have conformity assessment programs. However, unlike their private sector counterparts, their standards development activities are not subsidized by the sales of conformity assessment services; rather, they seek funding for each standards development project from stakeholders and interested parties.

Although the SCC provides secretariat services to all of the Canadian Advisory Committees (CACs/CSCs) that support Canadian representatives on ISO and IEC technical committees, in some cases, individual SDOs provide funding for and service the CACs/CSCs. Under the auspices of the SCC, Canadian SDOs also provide the secretariat and funding for some ISO and IEC committees.

None of the four organizations have unified annual plans on their websites of standards that they plan to develop. However, their websites all explain their standards development processes and all have newsletters available by e-mail subscription and/or

other information sources to assist companies in keeping current with new developments. Companies should become familiar with the development process, especially the proposal stage. Most important, interested companies should become familiar with the members of the specific committee of experts responsible for the relevant product or industry sector, which will enable them to learn at the earliest time of new standards development plans.

Standards organizations in the United States and Canada continue to work cooperatively in the development of joint standards and have made progress in several areas. For example, the Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Institute and the CSA have harmonized performance standards into a single North American standard for air conditioners and heat pumps, packaged water chillers, and water-source heat pumps. UL and CSA have established common electrical safety standards for air conditioners, heat pumps, and refrigerant motor-compressors.

Canadian standards are distributed by the four accredited standards development organizations (CSA, CGSB, ULC and BNQ). The Standards Council of Canada's search page contains a database of standards available for purchase. In addition, the SCC offers a number of specialized information standards services:

Information Services
SCC employs a team of bilingual information professionals who can provide free information on standardization.

Research Services
SCC has a bilingual custom research service, which provides personalized information on a growing range of standards, legislation, and certification issues in many world markets.

On-Site Technical Library
Canada's most comprehensive standards collection can be accessed by the public.
The following is an overview of the four Canadian standards development organizations:

The Canadian Standards Association (CSA)
Founded in 1919, the Canadian Standards Association is Canada's largest and oldest SDO and offers standards development, testing, certification and management systems registration services in a wide range of areas. A private, not-for-profit organization, it has published more than 2,000 consensus standards and guidelines in 40 technology areas. CSA has 1,300 standards committees. CSA develops standards in the following areas:

- business/management systems
- communications/information
- construction

- electrical and electronics
- environment
- gas equipment
- health care
- materials technology
- transportation/distribution

Draft standards, draft amendments, and endorsements are available for public review and comment before the committee approves them. The comment period is normally 60 days from the date posted. Comments should be returned as quickly as possible, so that CSA can pass them on to the appropriate committee for review. A list of drafts available for public review is available on the CSA website: https://review.csa.ca/opr/.
The standards development process under which CSA and other SDOs operate is well developed and formally documented and controlled. As stated on the CSA website, this process includes seven distinct stages:

Preliminary Stage: On receipt of a request for the development of a standard, an evaluation is conducted and the project is submitted for authorization.
Proposal Stage: Public notice of intent to proceed is published and a Technical Committee is formed - or the project is assigned to an existing Technical Committee.
Preparatory Stage: A working draft is prepared and a project schedule is established.
Committee Stage: The Technical Committee or Technical Subcommittee - facilitated by CSA staff - develops the draft through an iterative process that typically involves a number of committee meetings.
Enquiry Stage: The draft is offered to the public for review and comment, the Technical Committee reaches consensus, CSA staff conduct a quality review and a pre-approval edit is completed.
Approval Stage: The Technical Committee approves the technical content by letter ballot or recorded vote. A second level review verifies that standards development procedures were followed.
Publication Stage: CSA staff conducts a final edit to verify conformity with the applicable editorial and procedural requirements and then publishes and disseminates the standard.
Maintenance Stage: The standard is maintained with the objective of keeping it up to date and technically valid. This may include the publication of amendments, the interpretation of a standard or clause, and the systematic (five-year) review of all standards.

CSA standards are available for purchase in the online store on the CSA website.

Endorsed standards are non-Canadian standards that have been reviewed by the appropriate Technical Committee and approved for use in Canada without modification.

Endorsed standards are not sold by CSA. For more information, call the CSA Information Centre at (416) 747-4058. A downloadable list of endorsed standards can

be found at: http://www.csa.ca/standards/default.asp?load=endorsed&language=english.

Underwriters Laboratories of Canada (UL)
Established in 1920 as a not-for-profit organization, Underwriters Laboratories of Canada offers a range of services, including standards development, certification, testing and management systems registration in a wide range of areas. The Standards Council of Canada, under the National Standards System, accredits it. The ULC has published more than 240 standards and other recognized documents, many of which are referenced in codes and government regulations. The ULC's standards development process is explained on the ULC website.

The Canadian General Standards Board
Established in 1934 by the federal government, the Canadian General Standards Board offers a range of standardization services on a cost-recovery basis to both the public and private sectors. These services include standards development, certification and qualification listing, and management systems registration in a broad range of subject areas. Part of the federal department of Public Works and Government Services Canada, the CGSB focuses on providing services in support of government mandates and their related programs.

As a participant in the National Standards System of Canada, the CGSB offers a wide range of standards development services, including development of International (ISO) Standards, National Standards of Canada (NSC), CGSB standards, specifications, and Government of Canada (GC) forms. CGSB maintains approximately 1,600 standards. Standards and specifications are developed by committees of volunteers, experts in their fields working according to the CGSB process. These standards cover a wide range of products and services, including:

- building and construction
- business (office) equipment and supplies
- communications and information technology
- environmental technology
- fuel and energy products
- health care technology
- lifestyles and environment
- procurement
- public safety
- textiles and clothing
- transportation and distribution

The standards development process of the CGSB is explained on the CGSB website.

Bureau de normalisation du Québec

The Quebec government established the Bureau de normalisation du Québec (BNQ) in 1961, initially to serve the procurement needs of the provincial government. The BNQ offers a range of standardization services, including standards development, certification, management systems registration and laboratory accreditation. As with the other SDOs, the BNQ is reaching beyond its traditional market to offer its services in English in other regions of Canada and in the United States. Since 1990, the BNQ has been part of the Centre de recherche industrielle du Québec. BNQ is a member organization of the National Standards System of Canada and operates in the fields of:

- standards development;
- product, process, service and person certification; and
- system registration of quality and environmental management systems

The standards development process of the BNQ is stated on the **BNQ website**.

The Future of Standards Development in Canada

In a report issued in September 2004, the Canadian federal government's External Advisory Committee on Smart Regulation made a number of recommendations concerning international cooperation in standards development. These included the following comments and recommendations:

- The Canadian federal government should include international regulatory cooperation as a distinct part of Canadian foreign policy.
- North America should be the primary and immediate focus of the federal government's international regulatory cooperation efforts. The federal government should work to:
    - achieve compatible standards and regulation in areas that would enhance the efficiency of the Canadian economy and provide high levels of protection for human health and the environment;
    - eliminate small regulatory differences and reduce regulatory impediments to an integrated North American market;
    - move toward single review and approval of products and services for all jurisdictions in North America; and
    - put in place integrated regulatory processes to support key integrated North American industries (e.g. energy, agriculture, food) and provide more effective responses to threats to human and animal health and the environment.
- When developing new regulatory frameworks, the federal government should review and adopt international approaches wherever possible.
- The federal government should limit the number of specific Canadian regulatory requirements. Specific Canadian regulatory requirements may be appropriate when:
    - there is no commonly agreed upon international or North American standard;
    - important national priorities, unique Canadian circumstances or Constitutional values require different approaches; or

  - the government does not have sufficient confidence that the regulatory processes, practices, results and/or decisions of a trading partner will meet Canadian policy objectives.
- Where specific Canadian regulatory requirements are adopted, the federal government should reduce or minimize the cumulative impact of regulatory differences on trade and investment by:
  - assessing alternative instruments for meeting policy objectives (e.g. voluntary measures, information strategies);
  - promoting the use of performance-based approaches where possible; and
  - establishing the appropriate accountability structures to review requirements regularly to ensure that policy objectives are being met and eliminate those regulations that are no longer necessary.
- Specific Canadian requirements should be limited to where:
  - there is no commonly agreed upon international or North American standard;
  - there are important national priorities;
- unique Canadian circumstances or Constitutional values require a different approach;
- or the government has not yet developed sufficient confidence in the regulatory processes, practices results and/or decisions of a key trading partner to meet Canadian policy objectives.

If the Canadian government accepts these recommendations, it would make it easier for U.S. exporters to comply with Canadian standards.

Conformity Assessment
Product testing, known as *conformity assessment,* is usually carried out by a testing and certification organization or laboratory that has been accredited to conduct that test and certify that product's conformity with the applicable standard. Regulated products must be tested and certified; there is no legal requirement to test non-regulated products. Certification bodies (CBs) attest, by authorizing the display of their certification mark, that products or services conform to a standard. They regularly inspect and audit processes and products. There are **11 CBs in Canada and 16 U.S.-based organizations** that have been SCC accredited. These organizations have registered trademarks or logos giving a visible indication that products or services comply with a standard.

- The Standards Council accredits six types of conformity assessment organizations:
- testing and calibration laboratories
- management systems registration bodies
- personnel certification bodies
- product certification bodies
- inspection bodies

- auditor course providers

The most important conformity assessment organizations are discussed in the next section of this report.

Product Certification
U.S. manufacturers and exporters should determine what standards are applicable to their products. If certification is required, it generally must be obtained before the goods are imported into Canada. The process can be time-consuming and, therefore, certification should be one of the first steps taken to establish an export market in Canada.

For U.S. exporters unsure of Canadian certification requirements, the first step is to contact the SCC directly in order to determine: (1) what testing is required, and (2) what organizations are accredited to conduct that testing and certification. For many products, U.S. exporters will learn that a U.S. laboratory has been accredited (see next section below) and the manufacturer need only submit the product to one lab instead of spending the time and money to have the product tested by both a U.S. and a Canadian lab.

CSA International, the conformity assessment and product certification organization in the CSA Group, and the other four standards development organizations, ULC, CGSB and BNQ, are also engaged in conformity assessment and product certification.

CSA International handles the following product certification areas:

- appliances
- chemicals
- energy efficiency
- fuel burning equipment
- gas accessories & components
- gas appliances & equipment
- hazardous locations
- heating & air conditioning
- home entertainment
- industrial controls & switchgear
- information technology (IT)
- lighting products
- mobile homes - recreational vehicles / occupational health & safety
- medical - laboratory equipment
- photometrics
- plumbing products
- process control & power supplies

- telecommunication - sensing and signaling equipment
- water quality
- wire and cable
- wiring devices

Underwriters Laboratories in the United States (UL) and CSA have a memorandum to accept each other's test results. However, each issues its own certification marks.
In addition to regular product certification, CSA International provides for special inspection to meet the needs of manufacturers or importers that sell limited quantities of products in the following three categories:
Special Inspection For Electrical Health Care Products
Special Inspection For Other Electrical Products
Special Inspection For Gas Products

Further information on special inspection is available at: http://www.csainternational.org/service_options/field_evaluation/special_inspections_for_canada/.

ULC tests in the following areas:

- chemicals and chemical products
- constructions
- elastomers & protective and other coatings
- electrical and electronic products
- environmental testing and occupational health and safety
- machinery
- marketplace products - consumer and business
- nondestructive examination
- non-metallic minerals and products
- textiles and fibrous materials
- wood products

CGSB certification and qualification program lists cover the following products and services:

- carpets and underlay
- construction materials
- medical products
- office furniture
- packaging
- paints and coatings
- protective clothing
- security personnel
- testing services (laboratory acceptance program)
- toner cartridges

BNQ verifies the conformity of products, processes, services and persons and develops

- certification programs in the following fields:
- recreational and tourist services
- agriculture, fertilizers and farm organization and management
- health technology and hospital equipment
- health and safety environment and protection
- piping and accessories
- road and special vehicles
- textile products
- civil and road engineering
- food technology
- chemical engineering
- metallurgy, iron and steel products
- domestic and commercial equipment and wood technology
- construction materials and building installations
- trades as cooks, pastry cooks, chefs and pastry chefs

In addition, under an agreement reached with the SCC, the BNQ has the authority to assess the laboratories in Québec that wish to be accredited in the framework of the Testing Laboratory Assessment Program — Canada (PALCAN).

BNQ can also grant food safety certification according to the HACCP principles (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points) under an agreement with MAPAQ.

Accreditation

The relevant Canadian authority must accredit testing and certification organizations that conduct conformity assessment, which in most cases is the SCC. The Standards Council of Canada (SCC) offers accreditation to over 500 mostly Canadian laboratories that conduct scientific testing in a variety of subjects and program specialty areas through the Program for the Accreditation of Laboratories/Canada, better known by its bilingual acronym PALCAN.

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) provides that testing facilities, inspection agencies, and certification bodies of the United States, Canada and Mexico may be accredited in another NAFTA country without obligation to establish facilities in the other country. NAFTA thus allows U.S. exporters to get "one-stop shopping" product approval for both the United States and Canada by submitting their product to only one organization in order to get product certification for both countries. This eliminates the time and expense of obtaining separate certifications for each market. Numerous U.S. testing and certification organizations have received accreditation from the SCC. A complete list of these organizations is available on the website of the Standards Council

of Canada: http://www.scc.ca/en/programs/product_cert/index.shtml.

Provincial regulations, however, do not fall under the NAFTA accreditation framework. U.S. companies faced with difficulties in obtaining provincial approvals should consult with the U.S. Commercial Service to determine nature of the problem. In the opinion of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, the most contentious regulatory issue for business is overlapping federal and provincial/territorial regulations and separate regulatory regimes among the provinces and territories which discourage companies from expanding into new provincial/territorial jurisdictions due to the added costs of regulatory compliance.

Publication of Technical Regulations
The national gazette of Canada is the Canada Gazette. The online version is located at http://canadagazette.gc.ca.
Members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) included the United States and Canada are required under the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement) World Trade Organization Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (http://www.wto.org/english/docs_e/legal_e/17-tbt.pdf) to report proposed technical regulations that may affect trade to the WTO Secretariat, who in turn distributes them to all WTO Members.

The U.S. National Center for Standards and Certification (NCSCI) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) offers a free web-based Export Alert! Service that provides U.S. industry with the opportunity to review and comment on proposed foreign technical regulations that can affect their businesses. By registering for the Export Alert! service, U.S. companies receive, via e-mail, notifications of drafts or changes to foreign regulations for a specific industry sector and/or country. Notifications of the proposed foreign regulation contain a description of the regulation, the country issuing the regulation, and a final date for comments. Copies of the full text are available upon request from NSCSI. Companies can register for Export Alert! by clicking on the "Register for Export Alert!" link on the NSCSI/NIST website: http://ts.nist.gov/ts/htdocs/210/ncsci/export-alert.htm.

The Export Alert service is actually provided to NIST by the SCC, as the registration link is to the SCC website: https://alert.scc.ca/exportalert/us/index.cgi.
This shows the close working relationship between NIST and the SCC, as the SCC is providing alerts of new regulations for both Canada and other markets that U.S. exporters may have an interest in.

Comments regarding proposed regulatory measures should be forwarded to NCSCI at ncsci@nist.gov prior to the comment deadline date indicated on notifications. All requests for extensions of comment dates will be considered and should also be forwarded to NCSCI.

Persons who plan to comment on a foreign regulation should contact NCSCI for guidance. If there is insufficient time to review and comment on the regulation, NCSCI staff will request an extension of the comment period. For more information on NCSCI services for U.S. exporters to Canada, see the NCSCI website: http://ts.nist.gov/ts/htdocs/210/ncsci/tbtmotif.htm.

The U.S. Department of Commerce's Trade Compliance Center (http://www.export.gov/tcc/) serves as a point of contact for U.S. companies to submit information on a foreign trade barrier or unfair trade practice they have encountered that is limiting their ability to export or compete internationally.

Labeling and Marking
Canada requires bilingual labeling (English and French) for most products. The federal Consumer Packaging and Labeling Act requires bilingual designation of the generic name on most prepackaged consumer products. Under this Act, the following information must appear on the package/label of a consumer good sold in Canada: Product Identity Declaration: describes a product's common or generic name, or its function. The declaration must be in both English and French.

Net Quantity Declaration: must be expressed in metric units of volume when the product is a liquid or a gas, or is viscous; or in metric units of weight when the product is solid or by numerical count. Net quantity may also be expressed in other established trade terms.

Dealer's Name and Principal Place of Business: where the prepackaged product was manufactured or produced for resale. In general, a name and address sufficient for postal delivery is acceptable. This information can be in either English or French.
The agency responsible for inspection of imports, the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency, also requires an indication of the country of origin, such as "Made in the USA," on several classes of imported goods. Goods not properly marked cannot be released from Canada Customs until suitably marked.

The Province of Quebec requires that all products sold in that province be labeled in French and that the use of French be given equal prominence with other languages on any packages or containers. The Charter of the French Language requires the use of French on product labeling, warranty certificates, product manuals, instructions for use, public signs and written advertising.

U.S. exporters of textile and apparel should check the website of Industry Canada's Competition Bureau for specific labeling requirements: http://competition.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/incb-bc.nsf/en/cp01117e.html.

Food exporters should check the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's Guide to Food Labeling and Advertising.

Finally, industry is charged with ensuring that any claims about a product being "environmentally-friendly" are accurate and in compliance with relevant legislation. In general, environmental claims that are ambiguous, misleading or irrelevant, or that cannot be substantiated, should not be used. In all cases, environmental claims should indicate whether they are related to the product itself or to the product's packaging materials. The Canadian government has issued a set of guiding principles governing the use of environmental labeling and advertising, which may be obtained by contacting Industry Canada.

Trade Agreements
The US-Canada FTA, implemented in 1989, vastly expanded opportunities for US exporters and investors in Canada. As a result of the FTA and the 1994 NAFTA, trade barriers came down, investment rules were liberalized, and bilateral cooperation on a wide range of issues has been expanded. Like the United States, Canada is a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and was a founding member of its predecessor, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Canada has also been an active member of both the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum and the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) negotiation process.

Canada and Israel implemented a bilateral FTA at the start of 1997 that is similar to the US-Israel FTA, but does not deal with government procurement. Canada and Chile implemented a bilateral FTA in mid-1997. This FTA was explicitly designed to facilitate Chile's eventual accession to NAFTA, and includes parallel agreements on environmental protection and labor standards. It immediately eliminates Chile's 11 percent duty on most industrial and resource-based exports from Canada, and commits the two countries to eliminate the use of trade remedy laws against each other's firms within six years. Canada and Costa Rica signed a bilateral FTA in 2001. Canada is currently negotiating an FTA with four other Central American countries (Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and El Salvador) and is contemplating negotiations with the Caribbean Community ("CARICOM").

Resources
Canada's Competition Bureau
http://competition.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/incb-bc.nsf/en/cp01117e.html.
U.S. Department of Commerce's Trade Compliance Center
http://www.export.gov/tcc/
The national gazette of Canada is the Canada Gazette. The online version is located at http://canadagazette.gc.ca.
Standards Council of Canada:
http://www.scc.ca/en/programs/product_cert/index.shtml.

-CHILE-

Country Commercial Guide for U.S. Companies

Chapter 5: Trade Regulations and Standards

Standards
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Standards

Overview
- Standards Organizations
- Conformity Assessment
- Product Certification
- Accreditation
- Publication of Technical Regulations
- Labeling and Marking

Overview

Chile is both a standards maker and a standards taker. The country has in recent days started a concerted effort to develop technical regulations useful to its growing export industrial base. The overall policy is to use and comply with international standards under the guidelines of the WTO Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade. In the event that the required standard does not exist, then the general policy is to look into norms that are generally accepted by Chile's largest trading partners, including the European Union and the United States.

Chile's INN (Instituto Nacional de Normalización or National Standards Institute) is the institution that oversees, fosters and develops the use of technical regulations in Chile for three areas: Standardization, accreditation and metrology. Certification is done through accredited institutions. These include institutions of private, public, national and international origin. For example, the INN has accredited U.S.-based Underwriters Laboratories (UL) to issue product certification.

Certain standards are set by Chile's central government. Such will be the case for the High Definition TV standard, HDTV, currently under study by the Office of the Undersecretary of Telecommunications.

Chapter seven of the recently-enacted U.S.-Chile FTA addresses technical barriers to trade and calls on the two parties to intensify their joint work in the field of standards, technical regulations, and conformity assessment procedures with a view to facilitating access to each other's markets. In particular, the countries agreed to identify bilateral initiatives that are appropriate for particular issues or sectors. Such initiatives may include cooperation on regulatory issues, such as convergence or equivalence of technical regulations and standards, alignment with international standards, reliance on a supplier's declaration of conformity, and use of accreditation to qualify conformity

assessment bodies, as well as cooperation through mutual recognition. Each party is also required to allow persons of the other party – on terms no less favorable that those accorded to its own persons -- to participate in the development of standards, technical regulations, and conformity assessment procedures.
Chile's INN already interacts with several standards institutions from around the world, including the U.S. Commerce Department's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and ASTM International.

Standards Organizations
In Chile, there are no standards associations like those found in the U.S. The only organization charged with developing standards in Chile is the INN. A loose translation of the INN's name would be National Standardization Institute. Their web site is www.inn.cl. Their long-term plan for the development of standards is closely linked to Chile's chief export sectors. These are copper, salmon, forestry, agro-products and wine. Chile is also keen to develop its biotechnology and information technology sectors. See http://www.inn.cl/pags/normalizacion/index.html for the INN's current standards development plan.

Conformity Assessment
The main national testing organizations are grouped under the following categories. The number in parenthesis indicates the approximate number of institutions actively working in the area in Chile.
a) Quality Management Systems (QMS) (8)
b) Environmental Management Systems (EMS) (2)
c) Product certification (Approx. 40)
d) Testing laboratories (Approx. 200)
e) Calibration laboratories (Approx. 40)
f) System Quality Auditors (80)
g) Inspection organizations (Approx. 55)
A few of the locally accredited organizations are:

Name Address in Chile Telephone
SGS ICS (Chile) /
ISO9000
Ignacio Valdivieso 2409,
San Joaquín, Santiago
(56 2) 555-8478

Underwriters Laboratories UL (U.S.)
Av. Ricardo Lyon, 222 -
Piso 13° - Providencia -
Santiago - Chile
(56 2) 378-0053

ICONTEC (Colombia) /
ISO9000
Av. Apoquindo 4499 Piso
11, Las Condes,
Santiago
(56 2) 228-2400

IRAM (Argentina),
Certificación de Sistemas
/ ISO9000
Av. 11 de Septiembre
1881, Of. 1213, Santiago
(56 2) 233-5409

AENOR (España)
División de Certificación
de Sistemas / ISO9000
Andrés Bello 2711, Of.
2402, Las Condes,
Santiago
(56 2) 231-1859

CESMEC Ltda. (Chile),
División Certificación /
ISO9000
Av. Marathon 2595,
Macul, Santiago
(56 2) 350-2100

DICTUC S.A.,(Chile) Av. Vicuña Mackenna
4860, Santiago
(56 2) 686-4250

Fundación Chile (Chile) Av. Parque Antonio
Rabat Sur 6165,
Vitacura, Santiago
(56 2) 240-0300

Bureau Veritas S.
A.(France)
Av. Isidora Goyenechea
3250, Piso 7, Santiago
(56 2) 335-4100

Product Certification

In most sectors, standards are not mandatory in Chile, but companies can voluntarily

comply with them, especially in industries where such compliance constitutes a kind of "seal of approval." However, certain imported products, such as those related to industrial safety, building and construction materials, and the gas and electricity industries, must comply with the specific requirements of the supervising entity. For example, there are specific regulations pertaining to the seismic resistance of new construction. The INN is also promoting ISO 9000 standards among local manufacturers. The chemical industry is an example of one industry that has incorporated the ISO 9000 standards in its industrial processes.

For agricultural products, the FTA included an agreement on red meat grading standards, which now allows U.S. red meat products to be sold in the Chilean market according to U.S. standards.

Accreditation
A complete list of accredited testing organizations under each category can be found at http://www.inn.cl/pags/acreditacion/index.html under the heading DIRECTORIO DE EMPRESAS.

Publication of Technical Regulations
The name of Chile's national gazette is the *Diario Oficial*. Once regulations are approved by the INN and officially accepted by Chile's central government, they are published in the *Diario Oficial*. Only approved and officially accepted regulations are published. Proposed regulations are not published in the *Diario Oficial*.

Regulations currently under discussion, a schedule of upcoming standards development committee meetings and a forum for public comment are available on the INN web page at (http://www.inn.cl/pags/normalizacion/index.html. Any institution private or public may request the services of the INN for the development of a standard, in accordance with open and transparent procedures. Institutions and company representatives can be active participants or observers in the committee that is created when defining a standard. U.S. company representatives have, in fact, participated in such study discussions. The application request is done via the Internet.

Labeling and Marking
Chile does not have general labeling requirements for imported products except that consumer products must display the country of origin before being sold in Chile. Packaged goods must be marked to show the quality, purity, ingredients or mixtures, and the net weight or measure of the contents. There are also specific requirements for canned food, shoes, foods, electric machinery, liquid and compressed natural gas equipment (LNG and CNG), plastics, wines and alcoholic beverages, textiles and apparel, wheat flour, detergents and insecticides for agricultural use.

Canned or packaged foodstuffs imported into Chile must bear labels in Spanish for all

ingredients, including additives, manufacturing and expiration dates of the products, and the name of the producer or importer. All sizes and weights of the net contents also must be converted to the metric system. Goods not complying with these requirements may be imported but not sold to consumers until conversion is made. Thus, foodstuffs labeled in English have to be re-labeled in Chile before they can be sold. For information on Chile's labeling requirements for food, see the Foreign Agricultural Service's Food and Agricultural Import Regulations at www.usembassy.cl, Food & Agriculture, Food Regulations.

Trade Agreements
Chile has signed free-trade agreements with Canada, Mexico, the European Union, Central America (5), the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), South Korea and the United States. It is in negotiations with China, Japan and India, among others. It also has Complementary Economic Agreements that provide certain sector-specific tariff reductions or eliminations with Bolivia, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela. Chile is an associate member of Mercosur (full members: Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) and remains an active participant in negotiations on the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). This network of FTAs, along with a package of new legislation to implement the agreements, will significantly improve market access for Chilean products and exports. Chile sends roughly 30 percent of its exports to Asia, 25 percent to the European Union, 20 percent to NAFTA countries, and the rest to Latin American and other smaller markets. For more information on Chile's trade agreements, see www.direcon.cl.

Web Resources
U.S. Government: www.export.gov
U.S. Commercial Service Santiago: www.buyusa.gov/chile/en
USDA Foreign Agricultural Service: www.fas.usda.gov
U.S. Embassy Santiago: www.usembassy.cl
U.S. Government information on export controls:
http://www.export.gov/exportcontrols.html
Government of Chile: www.gobiernodechile.cl
Ministry of the Economy: http://www.economia.cl/
Industrial Property Department: www.inn.cl
Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Economic Directorate): www.direcon.cl
Customs Service: www.aduana.cl
Institute of Public Health: www.ispch.cl
Agriculture and Livestock Service: www.sag.cl

Standards Issues:
The Standards Liaison at the U.S. Embassy in Santiago: Marcelo Orellana, Commercial Specialist. Phone: +56-2-330-3455; Fax: +56-2-330-3172: E-Mail: marcelo.orellana@mail.doc.gov; web site: www.buyusa.gov/chile/en.

INN, Head of Standards Division Contact Point is Leonor Ceruti. E-Mail: leonor.ceruti@inn.cl.

The Government of Chile's Contact Point for WTO Technical Barriers to Trade is Ana María Vallina, Jefe, Departamento de Comercio Exterior, Ministerio de Economía. Phone: +56-2-473-3400 and web site www.economia.cl.

U.S. exporters seeking general export information/assistance or country-specific commercial information should consult with their nearest **Export Assistance Center** or the **U.S. Department of Commerce's Trade Information Center** at **(800) USA-TRADE**, or go to the following website: http://www.export.gov.

To the best of our knowledge, the information contained in this report is accurate as of the date published. However, **The Department of Commerce** does not take responsibility for actions readers may take based on the information contained herein. Readers should always conduct their own due diligence before entering into business ventures or other commercial arrangements. **The Department of Commerce** can assist companies in these endeavors.

-COLOMBIA-

Country Commercial Guide for U.S. Companies
Chapter 5: Trade Regulations and Standards

Standards
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Overview
The Colombian standards regime's legal framework is based on Colombia's accession to the World Trade Organization (by Law 170 of 1994), the approval of the Group of Three (G-3) Trade Agreement between Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela (Law 172 of 1994) and the Andean Community Decision 376 of 1995, which created the Andean Standardization, Accreditation, Assays, Certification, Technical Regulations and Metrology System. Other regulations include Decree 2153 of 1992 which modified the structure of the Industry and Commerce Superintendent -- SIC), and Decree 2269 of 1993 which created the National Standardization, Certification and Metrology System (SNNCM), under which the Colombian Technical Standards Institute (ICONTEC), the main standards-development organization, and SIC becomes the national accreditation organization.

Standards Organizations
The Colombian Technical Standards and Certification Institute (ICONTEC), is a private-sector organization created in 1963. Their 1,400 members include government officials, and private firms from different industry sectors. The institute's main focus is to promote the development of technical standards, quality assurance and product certification. They are members of the International Standards Organization (ISO), the International Electro-Technical Commission (IEC).

ICONTEC is founding member of the Pan-American Technical Standards Commission (COPANT) and is also member of the Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC). In 1996, ICONTEC received recognition from the German Association for Accreditation (TGA) to carry out ISO 9000 quality management certification and is also a member of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), and IQNet, an international association of national quality assurance certification entities. The Industry and Commerce Superintendent (SIC) has also accredited ICONTEC as a product certifier, quality assurance and environmental systems certifier. For more information on ICONTEC's activities please consult: www.icontec.org.co

ICONTEC's technical standards development committees cover a wide range of issues and topics on metrology, occupational health, air, soil and water quality, solid waste, bar codes,

conformity assessment, geographic information, environmental assessments, food and vegetable standards, construction products, among others. For a complete standards development committee list, please check: www.icontec.org.co/normalizacion.asp under "Ambitos Comités Técnicos".

NIST Notify U.S. Service
Member countries of the World Trade Organization (WTO) are required under the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement) to report to the WTO all proposed technical regulations that could affect trade with other Member countries. **Notify U.S.** is a free, web-based e-mail subscription service that offers an opportunity to review and comment on proposed foreign technical regulations that can affect your access to international markets. Register online at Internet URL: http://www.nist.gov/notifyus/

Conformity Assessment
The Industry and Commerce Superintendent (SIC) through the Delegated Superintendent for Consumer Protection (SDPC) organizes and coordinates the National Certification System, establishes, coordinates, and supervises national quality assurance programs, metrology-related activities, and accredit and supervise certification entities, testing and calibration laboratories that are incorporated in the National Standardization, Certification and Metrology System. The SDPC is composed of the technical standards, metrology and consumer protection divisions.
Conformity certificates can be obtained from accredited organizations, recognized organizations with which there is a recognition agreement, or by laboratory tests performed by an accredited laboratory.

Product Certification
Manufacturers and importers of products regulated by official mandatory technical standards or technical regulations need to inscribe themselves in SIC's Mandatory Registry prior to the sale of such product. Products can be tested in accredited laboratories to obtain the certificate of conformity and SIC would also accept certificates issued by an accredited certification entity, such as members of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) multilateral agreement. MINCOMEX eliminated the mandatory status of the majority of products previously covered, since most refer to outdated technical standards. SIC is working with other government agencies in the development of technical regulations for products that present threats to health, safety, environment or national security. Development of technical regulations should adhere to internationally accepted practices, and the Colombian Government needs to notify the World Trade Organization, and other relevant organizations, for comments, prior to the new regulation's entry into force. You can find more information about technical regulations under development (awaiting public comment), valid technical regulations, and on Colombian technical standards referenced in technical regulations. You can find them in the following web page: www.mincomercio.gov.co and select "Vice Ministerio de Desarrollo Empresarial – Regulación".

Accreditation

Colombia has six accredited certification entities on quality assurance systems, electrical products, certification for fruits, vegetables, and other food products, occupational health administration system and environmental management systems, Codex Alimentarius, and e-commerce. Also there are four accredited inspection entities for household gas installations, and food products, as well as 64 testing, 40 metrology (calibration) laboratories operating in public and private institutions.
The following is partial listing of specialized accredited entities:

Quality Management Systems (ISO 9000)
Colombian Technical Standards and Certification Institute (ICONTEC) S.G.S. Colombia, S.A.
Corporation Center for Technological Research and Development (CIDET)
International Certification and Training S.A. - IC & T B.V.Q.I. Colombia Ltda. Cotecna Certificadora Services Ltda.

Environmental Management Systems (ISO 14000)
Instituto Colombiano de Normas Técnicas y Certificación - ICONTEC S.G.S. Colombia S.A.
B.V.Q.I. Colombia Ltda.

Occupational Health and Safety Management (OHSAS 18000)
BVQI Colombia Ltda.
Colombian Security Council - Consejo Colombiano de Seguridad Instituto Colombiano de Normas Técnicas y Certificación - ICONTEC

Products
Colombian Technical Standards and Certification Institute (ICONTEC) Corporation Center for Technological Research and Development (CIDET)
Corporación Colombia Internacional S.G.S. Colombia S.A.
BVQI Colombia Ltda.
Cotecna Certificadora Services Ltda.

For a complete listing of product certification entities, inspection entities, metrology and testing laboratories, please access: http://www.sic.gov.co - and check under “Servicios en Línea – Acreditación y Metrología - Entidades Acreditadas”.

Regarding sanitary, medicines, biological products, food, beverage, cosmetics, and medical devices and products related to human health, the National Institute for Food and Medicine Surveillance (INVIMA) is the responsible organization. For more information, please check: www.invima.gov.co

Publication of Technical Regulations
The Ministry of Foreign Trade, Industry and Tourism (Regulations Directorate) is the World Trade Organization’s (WTO) point of contact for Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), draft technical regulations, and upcoming Colombian notifications on TBT and Sanitary and Phyto

Sanitary (SPS) regulations. This group verifies compliance (and coordinates) with the WTO TBT Agreement, the SPS Agreement, and compliance with conformity assessment procedures, among other related matters.

Interested U.S. firms can review different draft technical regulations and can comment on them before the review period expires.
For more information, please check: www.mincomercio.gov.co and look for “Vice Ministerio de Desarrollo Empresarial – Regulación”.

Labeling and Marking
The SIC oversees compliance to labeling and marking requirements of all products (imported or produced locally). These requirements include display the unit of measure (using the international system of measurements - SI). ICONTEC has developed several Colombian technical standards on labeling and marking requirements for different products. In addition, SIC develops metrological controls for measuring instruments to assure its calibration, following recommendations from the International Legal Metrology Organization (OIML). SIC operates a Metrology Laboratory where the national standard for the main physical properties (weight, volume, temperature, etc.) serves as reference to the Colombian industry. SIC has been working closely with the U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in this and other areas of mutual interest.

Contacts
Ministry of Foreign Trade: www.mincomercio.gov.co Industry and Commerce Superintendency (SIC): www.sic.gov.co National Customs and Tax Directorate (DIAN): www.dian.gov.co Corporation Center for Technological Research and Development (CIDET): www.cidet.org.co Colombian Technical Standards and Certification Institute (ICONTEC): www.icontec.org.co National Institute for Food and Medicine Surveillance (INVIMA) – equivalent to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA): www.invima.gov.co Ministry of Social Protection (formerly Ministry of Health): www.minproteccionsocial.gov.co Ministry of Communications: www.mincomunicaciones.gov.co Colombian Agricultural Institute (ICA): www.ica.gov.co Colombia International Corporation: http://www.cci.org.co

Trade Agreements
The Uribe Administration has energetically pursued measures to promote trade. The U.S. and Colombia began negotiations for a free trade agreement (FTA) in May 2004. Government sources announced that only a few issues are still being negotiated. The Andean Trade Preferences and Drug Eradication Act (ATPDEA), announced on August 6, 2002, retroactively renewed and built upon the expired Andean Trade Preferences Act (ATPA) to further open U.S. markets to Colombian products. ATPDEA is expected to expire on December 2006. Duty-free access is based upon meeting a requirement that products be substantially transformed into a product of a beneficiary country, must be imported into the U. S. directly from the beneficiary country, and meet the value-added requirement of 35 percent, up to 15 percent of which may be accounted for by U.S. content in terms of cost or value.

Under the ATPDEA, duty-free entry of approximately 6,500 product categories from Colombia into the U.S. is allowed. Previously excluded products such as tuna fish, textiles and apparel now enjoy duty-free access to the U.S. market upon compliance with certain requirements. Colombia is party of the Group of Three (G-3) along with Mexico and Venezuela (the G-3 Agreement), in effect since January 1995, under which most tariffs are to be eliminated by the year 2007. Colombia also has a partial free trade agreement with Chile. This agreement provided for the gradual elimination of all bilateral tariff and non-tariff barriers. All of Colombia's bilateral and regional trade agreements are based on Latin American Integration Association (ALADI) regulations and procedures. In April 1998, Colombia, along with the other members of the Andean Community, entered into negotiations for a free trade agreement with the countries of MERCOSUR. In August 1999, a trade preference agreement between Brazil and the Andean Community was signed. In June 2000, a similar agreement was signed between the Andean Community and Argentina. There are other ALADI partial agreements with Paraguay, Uruguay and the Central American Common Market (CACM) countries (Costa Rica, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras) as well as with Panama, Cuba and CARICOM. Colombia has signed other bilateral agreements to stimulate trade and ensure most favored nation treatment with Hungary, the Czech Republic, Rumania, Russia, Malaysia, Indonesia, India, China, South Korea, Algeria, Kenya, Egypt, Morocco, Israel, and the Ivory Coast. Colombia has been an active participant in the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) negotiations.

Web Resources
Ministry of Foreign Trade: www.mincomercio.gov.co Industry and Commerce Superintendent (SIC): www.sic.gov.co National Customs and Tax Directorate (DIAN): www.dian.gov.co Corporation Center for Technological Research and Development (CIDET): www.cidet.org.co Colombian Technical Standards and Certification Institute (ICONTEC): www.icontec.org.co National Institute for Food and Medicine Surveillance (INVIMA) – equivalent to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA): www.invima.gov.co Ministry of Social Protection (formerly Ministry of Health): www.minproteccionsocial.gov.co Ministry of Communications: www.mincomunicaciones.gov.co Colombian Agricultural Institute (ICA): www.ica.gov.co Colombia International Corporation: http://www.cci.org.co

U.S. exporters seeking general export information/assistance or country-specific commercial information should consult with their nearest **Export Assistance Center** or the **U.S. Department of Commerce's Trade Information Center** at **(800) USA-TRADE**, or go to the following website: http://www.export.gov.

To the best of our knowledge, the information contained in this report is accurate as of the date published. However, **The Department of Commerce** does not take responsibility for actions readers may take based on the information contained herein. Readers should always conduct their own due diligence before entering into business ventures or other commercial arrangements. **The Department of Commerce** can assist companies in these endeavors.

-COSTA RICA-

Country Commercial Guide for U.S. Companies
Chapter 5: Trade Regulations and Standards

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Overview
Standards (E.G., ISO 9000 Usage) Costa Rican law requires the exclusive use of the metric system but, in practice, accepts U.S. and European commercial and product standards. A system of standards has not been implemented in Costa Rica due to the lack of adequate laboratory equipment and funding. In some cases, U.S. and domestic companies doing business in Costa Rica use the International Standards Organization (ISO) designation in their promotional campaigns. As of January 2005, INTECO, the Costa Rican standards certification organization, reported that 20 companies had been granted with ISO 14001 certification for environmental responsibility and included banana producers, hotel operators in ecologically sensitive areas and other agro businesses. INTECO also reported that 80 companies had been granted with ISO 9000. Certification of ISO standards is voluntary. The Government of Costa Rica does not require that foreign companies be certified with ISO (9000 and 14000) standards in order to export to Costa Rica. Likewise, Costa Rican companies are not required to be certified under ISO standards to sell their products in local and foreign markets. The Costa Rican Ministry of Economy, Industry and Commerce (MEIC) is responsible for the formulation and implementation of the requirements and standards that local and foreign companies must follow in order to sell their products in the local market. However, these regulations are mostly related with labeling and usage instructions.

Standards Organizations
Beside MEIC, there are no organizations in Costa Rican that develop standards. For more information, please contact http://www.meic.go.cr/

Conformity Assessment
The Instituto de Normas Tecnicas (INTECO) is the only entity in Costa Rica that provide standards certification services to local companies: Instituto de Normas Tecnicas de Costa Rica (INTECO) San Pedro, Montes de Oca, Barrio Gonzalez Flores P.O. Box 6189-1000 San Jose, Costa Rica Tel. 506-283-4522 Fax. 506-283-4831 Webpage: www.inteco.or.cr/infogeneral The following are main national testing organizations certified by INTECO: 3/31/2006 57 Laboratorio Químico Lambda S.A. P.O. Box 877-1011 San Jose, Costa Rica Tel. 506-226-4462 Fax.506-226-1168 Webpage: lambda@sol.racsa.co.cr Laboratorio Químico y de Control de Calidad (AQYLASA) P.O. Box 133-2110 Ipis de Guadalupe San Jose, Costa Rica Tel. 506-272-3159 Fax. 506-272-3159 Webpage: info@agylasa.com Laboratorio de Servicios Químicos y Microbiólogos Instituto Tecnológico de Costa Rica P.O. Box 159-7050 Cartago, Costa Rica Tel.

506-591-5149 Fax. 506-591-5147 Laboratorio del Centro de Investigación en Contaminación Ambiental (CICA) Universidad de Costa Rica P.O. Box 2060-San Pedro Montes de Oca San Jose, Costa Rica Tel. 506-207-4479 Fax. 506-253-1363 Webpage: http://www.vinv.ucr.ac.cr/centros/cica.html Laboratorio Centro de Investigación en Tecnología de Alimentos (CITA) Universidad de Costa Rica P.O. Box 2060-San Pedro Montes de Oca San Jose, Costa Rica Tel. 506-207-4212 Fax. 506-253-3762 Webpage: http://www.cita.ucr.ac.cr/

Product Certification
The Costa Rican Ministry of Health is responsible for the registration and authorization of import permits for food products, chemical products, cosmetics, and drugs and other pharmaceutical products imported into Costa Rica. The Costa Rican Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) is responsible for the registration and authorization of import permits for fertilizers and agricultural products imported into the country. Their addresses follow:

Ministerio de Salud de Costa Rica 3/31/2006 58

Depto. de Drogas y Estupefacientes Controles y Registros P.O. Box 10123-1000 San Jose, Costa Rica Tel. 506-223-0333 Fax. 506-222-1420 Webpage: www.netsalud.sa.cr/ms/

Ministerio de Agricultura de Costa Rica Dirección de Sanidad Vegetal P.O. Box 10094-1000 San Jose, Costa Rica Tel. 506-260-6190 Fax. 506-260-8291 Webpage: www.mag.go.cr

Accreditation
The Costa Rican Ministry of Science and Technology (MICIT) is the Government agency that provides accreditation services to standards certifying organizations in Costa Rica. The Ministry may be contacted as follows: Ministerio de Ciencia y Tecnología (MICIT) Ente Costarricense de Acreditación (ECA) P.O. Box 5589-1000 San Jose, Costa Rica Tel. 506-290-1790, ext. 137 and 124 Fax. 506-290-4967 Webpage: www.micit.go.cr Webpage: www.eca.go.cr

Publication of Technical Regulations
Official technical regulations are published in the Government of Costa Rica journal, La Gaceta. Both proposed and final regulations are announced in this publication. U.S. companies interested in commenting on proposed regulations should have a representative in the country that has the ability to keep the U.S. company informed of any new regulations proposed by the Government.

Labeling and Marking
There are no general requirements in Costa Rica for marking the origin of general merchandise. However, Costa Rican food labeling regulations follow the Codex Alimentarius and require that all domestic and imported food products contain labeling in Spanish with the following specifications: product name, list of ingredients in quantitative order, nutritional content, name, and address of importer, expiration or best-used-by 3/31/2006 59
date, and metric weight. Although expiration dates are required to be on all food product labels,

Costa Rican importers have mixed opinions regarding their utility, and the Government of Costa Rica has been inconsistent in enforcing this requirement.

Special labeling requirements apply to pharmaceuticals, fertilizers, pesticides, hormones, veterinary preparations, vaccines, poisonous substances, and mouthwashes.
Sanitary and phytosanitary certificates are required for importing bulk grain and horticultural products. Zoosanitary (USDA/FSIS) certificates are required for importing fresh and frozen meats. Most processed food products (canned, boxed, pre-cooked) do not require phytosanitary or zoosanitary certificates, but exporters should check with their importers, who are ultimately responsible for knowing local regulations.

Trade Agreements
As a member of the Central American Common Market (CACM), Costa Rica agreed in 1995 to reduce its common external tariff to a maximum of 15 percent. Costa Rica completed its tariff reduction with a decree published on January 6, 2000. Costa Rica also has signed Free Trade Agreements with Canada, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, and Chile. A similar trade agreement is being negotiated with Panama.

Costa Rica is a founding member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and has supported the Free Trade of the Americas.

Costa Rica has negotiated and initialed a free trade agreement with the United States, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala as part of the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA). The Dominican Republic was integrated into CAFTA-DR in August 2004. However, while the other CAFTA-DR countries, have officially approved the agreement, Costa Rica's Legislative Assembly, as of January 2006, had only just started to consider it, after President Pacheco sent it to the Assembly in November 2005.

Web Resources
Ministerio de Economía, Industria y Comercio de Costa Rica (MEIC)
Webpage: www.meic.go.cr
Email: Info@meic.go.cr

Ministerio de Comercio Exterior (COMEX)
Webpage: www.comex.go.cr

Instituto de Normas Tecnicas de Costa Rica (INTECO)
3/31/2006 60
Webpage: www.inteco.or.cr/infogeneral
Email: Info@inteco.com

Ministerio de Ciencia y Tecnología (MICIT)
Ente Costarricense de Acreditación (ECA)

Webpage: www.eca.go.cr
Webpage: www.meic.go.cr
Email: Info@meic.go.cr

The Bureau of Industry and Security, U.S
http://www.bxa.doc.gov/

U.S. Commercial Service
Embassy of Unites States
Webpage: www.buyusa.gov/centralamerican/en
Email: commerce@racsa.co.cr

-DOMINICAN REPUBLIC-

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Overview

The Dominican Republic generally accepts U.S. certifications and standards. The Dominican Standardization System follows international guidelines and it is compatible with the purposes of GATT's Code of Standards. The DIGENOR (Dirección General de Normas & Sistemas de Calidad) is the governmental body overseeing the formulation, publication, and implementation of quality norms in the Dominican Republic. The DIGENOR was created on May 20, 1997 in accordance with Law 602. Rather than creating new standards specific to the Dominican Republic, DIGENOR follows international standards.

The Dominican Standardization System (NORDOM or Normas Dominicanas) consists of 619 mandatory and voluntary standards.

Standards Organizations
DIGENOR is the only national institution that compiles and publishes standards in the Dominican Republic. It is the center for information for international standards and serves as:
-The National Inquiry Point under the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade.
-Contact Point for Codex Alimentarius Commission (developer of food standards.)
-Local Agent for the International Organization for Standardization (ISO.)

DIGENOR also has membership in the Pan-American Standards Commission (COPANT) and receives assistance from the National Association of Drinking Water Supplies Agencies (ANDESAPA), and the Wastewater Equipment Manufacturers Association (CAPRA.)

For the inclusion of standards for healthcare products such as cosmetics and pharmaceuticals, DIGENOR has created a joint commission with the Drugs and Pharmacy Department of the Secretariat of Public Health.

Conformity Assessment
Due to a lack of resources at DIGENOR, products are typically tested in private foreign laboratories.

Product Certification
DIGENOR is the institution authorized to provide product certification. The Seal of DIGENOR Compliance (Sello de Calidad DIGENOR) is the certification that DIGENOR provides to manufactured products that meet Dominican standards. Any company interested in obtaining this certification for its product should present documentation indicating that a laboratory accredited by an international institution has tested and approved the product. In the case of pharmaceuticals and cosmetics, the products must also receive a certification of approval (Registro Sanitario) from the Drugs and Pharmacy Department of the Secretariat of Public Health. This is a straightforward process, which requires only the presentation of documents from an accredited international organization such as the Food and Drug Administration. Without this “Registro Sanitario”, pharmaceutical and cosmetic products are not allowed to enter the Dominican Republic.

Accreditation
There are no testing laboratories in the Dominican Republic. Therefore, DIGENOR will accept documents and assessments prepared by international accreditation bodies or testing laboratories.

Publication of Technical Regulations
In the Dominican Republic, the final regulations are published and available to the general public for a small fee. Because the country does not create new standards, but follows international standards, there is no need for public discussion of any technical regulations.

Labeling and Marking
DIGENOR officials have stated that products meeting U.S. standards in labeling and marking should have little difficulty in complying with relevant Dominican regulations. However, DIGENOR is currently revising Dominican Standard (NORDOM 53) and is planning to enforce this norm, which mandate Spanish labeling. These Standards have been in place for years, but they have not been enforced.
There are special rules for unpacked foods as well as pharmaceutical products, related more to registration and prior import license approval rather than marking and labeling requirements.

Trade Agreements
The Dominican Republic is a member of the World Trade Organization. In 1998, the Dominican Republic joined with Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala in establishing a Central American-Dominican Republic Free Trade Area, which entered into force in 2004. The Dominican government signed a similar agreement with CARICOM in 2000.

At the Summit of the Americas in Quebec, Canada, in April 2001, the Dominican Republic joined with other Western Hemisphere governments in committing itself to completing negotiation and implementation of a Free Trade Agreement of the Americas (FTAA), a negotiation still in process.

In August 2004, the United States, the Dominican Republic and five Central American countries signed a Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR). It is expected that the agreement will enter into force in 2006.

Web Resources
Dr. Julio Santana de Leon
Director
Direccion General de Normas y Sistemas de Calidad (DIGENOR)
Secretaria de Estado de Industria y Comercio (Secretary of Industry and Commerce)
Edificio Oficinas Gubernamentales “Juan Pablo Duarte”, 11th floor
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
Phone: (809) 686-2205
Fax: (809) 688-3843
E-mail: digenor@verizon.net.do

Web Page: www.digenor.gov.do

Dr. Diaz Guzman
General Director
Direccion General de Drogas y Farmacias (Drugs and Pharmacy Directorate)
Secretaria de Estado de Salud Publica (Secretary of Public Health)
Av. San Cristobal No. 48, Ensanche La Fe
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
Phone: (809) 732-0744 and 541-3121 ext. 2266
Fax: (809) 566-8737

-ECUADOR-

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Overview

National standards are set by the Ecuadorian Standards Institute (INEN) of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and generally follow international standards. SESA (an agency of the Ministry of Agriculture) is responsible for administering Ecuador's sanitary and phytosanitary controls. According to Ecuadorian importers, bureaucratic procedures required to obtain clearance still appear to discriminate against foreign products. Ecuador must comply with the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures, yet denials of SPS certification often appear to lack a scientific basis and to have been used in a discriminatory fashion to block the import of U.S. products that compete with Ecuadorian production. This occurs most often with poultry, turkey and pork meats, beef, dairy products and fresh fruit. The ability to import some products, such as rice, corn, soybeans, and soybean meal depends entirely on the discretion of the MAG, which will often look to the Consultative Committees for direction. SESA follows the “Andean Sanitary Standards” established under the Andean Community of Nations. Some standards applicable for third countries are different from those applied to CAN members. For example, there can be differences in the requirements for CAN and third countries for the importation of live animals, animal products, and plants and plant by-products. SESA also requires certifications for each product stating that the product complies with risk analysis and that the country of origin or the area of production is free from certain exotic plant or animal diseases.
Sanitary registrations are required for imported as well as domestic processed food, cosmetics, pesticides, pharmaceuticals, and syringes, as well as some other consumer goods. However, in a side agreement to its WTO Accession Agreement, Ecuador committed to accept the U.S. Certificate of Free Sale authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, instead of the Government of Ecuador’s Sanitary Registration. In August 2000, the Government of Ecuador passed a law (Ley de Promocion Social y Participacion Ciudadana, Segunda Parte – also known as Troley II) followed by

application rules issued in June 2001 to reform the issuance of sanitary permits for food products. This is a step towards modernizing the issuance of sanitary registrations with new regulations that allow the acceptance of free sale certificates, require that the government issue sanitary permits within 30 days of the receipt of the request, and reduce the number of documents required to obtain a permit.

However, these regulations are not being applied consistently. U.S. firms report that the Izquieta Perez National Hygiene Institute (INHIP - the agency responsible for registering imported processed food products) office in Guayaquil has refused to accept U.S. Certificates of Free Sale and continues to apply the old regime for sanitary permits. In addition, non-transparent bureaucratic procedures and inefficiency have delayed issuance beyond 30 days and in some cases blocked the entry of some imported products from the United States. For details, contact the Ministry of Public Health and the following:

Instituto Izquieta Perez
E-mail: dirnainh@telconet.net or
lipmt@telconet.net

U.S. companies have expressed concerns regarding regulations issued by Ecuador's Public Health Ministry requiring foreign food manufacturers to disclose confidential information such as formulas of imported food and pharmaceutical products. This requirement appears to go beyond the requirements of the Codex Alimentarius Commission on Internationals Standards and Labeling.

Standards Organizations
INEN, the Ecuadorian Standards Institute, under the Ministry of Foreign Trade, is the official government organization in charge of standards. INEN is a member of ISOInternational Standards Organization, COPANT-Panamerican Technical Standards Commission, SIM-Interamerican Metrology Systems, a member of OIML-Organisation Internationale de Metrologie Legale, and the point contact for Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Conformity Assessment
INEN-the Ecuadorian Standards Institute is also in charge of conformity assessment. Two other organizations support this process: MNAC-the National Quality Council, and OAE-the Ecuadorian Accreditation Organization under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. OAE certifies INEN as the accreditation body to evaluate conformity.
The certificate of conformity must be presented in order to obtain the import permit.

Product Certification
INEN requires the following products to have special certification:
-Vehicles

-Textiles
-Refrigerators
-Stoves
-Tires
-Electric generators

Countries which have an agreement with Ecuador, are not required to obtain this special certificate, i.e. Venezuela, Colombia, Peru, and Chile. The U.S. does not have such an agreement with Ecuador.

Accreditation
OAE-the Ecuadorian Accreditation Organization of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the official accreditation body in Ecuador. Laboratory accreditation is required for the following industries:
-Cosmetics
-White Goods
-Vehicles
-Textiles
-Consumer Goods
-Medicines
-Tires

Publication of Technical Regulations
INEN-the Ecuadorian Standards Institute is in charge of informing the public of new and revised technical regulations. These regulations are published in Ecuador's Official Gazzette.

Labeling and Marking
INEN-the Ecuadorian Standards Institute establishes the requirements for labeling and marking. Labeling must be in Spanish and will include the following information:
-Name of the company
-Address and telephone number
-Tax registration number
-Country of Origin
-Net weight
-Sanitary registration number, if required.

INEN follows the U.S. Food and Drug Administration standards and requirements for labeling and marking.

Trade Agreements
Ecuador is a member of the Andean Community, the ALADI (Latin American Integration Association) and the WTO-World Trade Organization. In addition, Ecuador has

concluded bilateral free trade agreements with Chile, Venezuela and Colombia as well as with Mercosur (Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay). It is also engaged in the Andean Free Trade negotiations with the U.S., along with Colombia and Peru.
For details, visit the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Web Resources
For additional information visit the following websites
Central Bank of Ecuador
http://www.bce.fin.ec
Ministry of Foreign Trade
http://www.micip.gov.ec
Ecuadorian Customs Corporation
http://www.corpae.com/
Foreign Trade Council
http://www.comexi.org
Ecuadorian Standards Institute
http://www.reicyt.org.ec, http://www.inen.gov.ec/
National Drug Council
http://www.consep.gov.ec
Andean Community of Nations
http://www.comunidadandina.org/endex.htm
Exports and Investment Promotion Corporation
http://www.corpei.org
Internal Revenue Service
http://www.sri.gov.ec
Ministry of Agriculture
http://www.mag.gov.ec
Ministry of Health
http://www.msp.gov.ec
Ecuadorian Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
http://www.sesa.mag.gov.ec
Ministry of Environment
http://www.ambiente.gov.ec
Ministry of National Defense
http://www.fuerzasarmadasecuador.org/index2.htm
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
http://www.mmrree.gov.ec
Ecomint
www.ecomint.com.ec
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
www.fda.gov

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-EL SALVADOR-

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Overview
In general standards and labeling do not pose a major hurdle for U.S. exporters to El Salvador. This is because El Salvador is a standards taker and not a standards maker. Many products made in the U.S. already meet El Salvador's standards. The main area of difference is items for human consumption such as pharmaceuticals and food. Here registration and labeling requirements require U.S. exporters to follow strict local guidelines.

El Salvador is open to participation by U.S. in the standards development process. With CAFTA-DR implementation local producers will experience additional changes as El Salvador's products are redesigned and packaged to meet international standards. We expect active participation of the U.S. to assist El Salvador in developing or streamlining standards. The objectives of Chapter 7 (Technical Barriers to Trade) in the CAFTA-DR agreement are to increase and facilitate trade through the improvement to the TBT agreement, the elimination of unnecessary technical barriers to trade and the enhancement of bilateral cooperation. Read more on Technical Barriers to Trade under CAFTA-DR at CAFTA-DR Final Text.

Standards Organizations
El Salvador's key legislation on standardization, metrology, verification and certification is the Law for the National Science and Technology Council, CONACYT http://www.conacyt.gob.sv, (enacted in July 1992, Decree 287) and the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement) and it has adopted the Code of Good Practice annexed to the TBT Agreement. CONACYT is the entity responsible for standards and coordinates the drafting, adoption, and adjustment of standards through technical committees. CONACYT has a Department of Standardization, Metrology, and Quality Certification in charge of: coordinating the development and adoption of national technical standards with other government bodies and with private and scientific institutions; establishing technical committees to study, develop and amend official technical standards, and to coordinate the committees' work; accrediting laboratories and keeping a register of accredited facilities; cooperating and ensuring an ongoing exchange of information with institutions in El Salvador and abroad and other related international bodies. By law CONACYT is also required to work towards the harmonization, coordination, and unification of adopted standards with other Central American countries.

There are two types of standards in Salvadoran legislation: Mandatory Salvadoran Standards (NSO) and Recommended Salvadoran Standards (NSR). NSOs include the

standards regulating the International System of Units; standards relating to materials, procedures, products and services that may affect human life, safety and integrity and the safety and integrity of other live organisms; environmental protection standards; and standards considered by the government to be relevant to the economy or in the public interest. NSRs are concerned with materials, procedures, products and services not covered by an NSO, as of 2002 El Salvador had 900 NSRs. NSR is identical to an international standard, while the NSOs are based on international, regional or foreign standards. As of 2002, El Salvador was applying 104 NSOs, most of them fall in the category of food technology and other two categories such as agriculture and petroleum; few related to environment and health protect, metrology and measurement, mechanical system and components, textile and leather technology, clothing industry and chemical. A certificate of NSO consistency is not required for imports into El Salvador. CONACYT's Board of Directors establishes technical standardization committees responsible for studying and preparing draft NSOs and NSRs. Representatives from the government, professional associations, and the private sector form the board of directors. Government officials and representatives of sectors with an interest in developing a specific standard make up the committees. Once the technical standardization committee has prepared a draft NSO, the draft is published in the country's main newspaper and notified to the WTO Secretariat and the Central American Secretariat for Economic Integration (SIECA). Interested parties are then given a period of 60 days to file comments. At the end of the two-month period, the committee reviews considers comments received on the draft standard and submits it for approval to CONACYT's Board of Directors, which in turn forwards it to the Ministry of the Economy to authorize and issue an executive decision that officially establishes it as a mandatory Salvadoran standard. The NSO is then published in the *Official Journal (Diario Oficial de El Salvador)*. Standards enter into force six months after their publication in the Journal. Once endorsed by CONACYT's Board of Directors, NSRs are likewise submitted to the Ministry of the Economy for executive approval and publication in the *Official Journal*. Standards technical committees are responsible for the drafting of standards, but the general practice is that committees adopt international standards; consequently local standards organizations are more takers not makers. ISO is the first reference used; others such as Pan-American Commission on Technical Standards (COPANT) and CODEX are also consulted. Most recently, Colombian and Mexican standards are being consulted. CONACYT has an agreement with the American Standards Testing and Materials (ASTM). The annual plan of standards developed each year as well as the list of mandatory and voluntary standards and technical committees are transmitted electronically at http://www.infoq.org.sv.

Conformity Assessment

CONACYT engages in the accreditation of official bodies and maintains a list of those bodies (public, private, local or foreign) and applicants at http://www.infoq.org.sv. Policies and criteria for accreditation is described in the “Reglamento de Acreditacion de Laboratorios de Ensayos y Analisis.” Conformity Assessment bodies include

laboratories, inspection bodies and certification bodies. The procedures for conformity assessment adopted by CONACYT are ISO/IEC standards.

Product Certification
The process of product certification requires the integration of a Certification Technical Committee with manufacturer, government, consumers, users and academic representation. CONACYT is developing guides for product certification programs in accordance to international standards ISO certification process.

Accreditation
Accreditation is voluntary unless any government institution requires it through a special law or norm making it necessary to conduct conformity assessment. El Salvador is member of the Inter American Accreditation Cooperation of Accreditation (IAAC) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC). CONACYT has accredited eleven laboratories; a list is transmitted electronically at http://www.infoq.org.sv/laboservi.htm.

Publication of Technical Regulations
Proposed technical regulations are published in the main newspapers, and the WTO and Central American Secretaries for Economic Integration are notified. Final regulations are published in the *Official Journal*. The installation of standards drafting committees is announced in main newspaper for interest parties to participate.

Labeling and Marking
Regional labeling norms are being developed by Central American countries for pharmaceuticals and other products. Detailed labeling requirements for comments are at http://www.infoq.org.sv/u_aduanera.htm. Also, the following requirements are included in the Consumer Protection Law: retailers must have the price of the product either on the packaging or in a visible place; Products that are sold by weight or volume or any other measure must have the weight, volume, or an exact measure of its content on the label; For pharmaceuticals, the list of ingredients, expiration date, dosage, contraindications, risks involved when used, residual toxic effects, etc. as established by the Ministry of Public Health must be printed on the label. Labels on frozen and canned foods must include an expiration date.

Trade Agreements
The United States and four Central American countries (El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua) concluded negotiations on the U.S.-Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) in December 2003, with Costa Rica following in January 2004. The Dominican Republic became a party to the agreement in August 2004. The U.S.-Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), was signed May 28, 2004 and ratified by El Salvador's Congress in December 2004. El Salvador was the first nation in Central America to do so. The U.S. Congress approved it in July 2005 and President

Bush signed it into law August 2005. The agreement shall enter into force on a date to be agreed upon among the parties. See CAFTA-DR Final Text for more information.
El Salvador belongs to the World Trade Organization (WTO). El Salvador is also a signatory of the Central America-Chile free trade agreement (June 2002), Central America-Panama free trade agreement (October 2002), Central America-Dominican Republic free trade agreement (October 2001) and Northern Triangle (El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras)-Mexico free trade agreement (March 2001). More information on trade agreements between El Salvador and other countries:
http://www.minec.gob.sv/policom/default.asp?id=42&mnu=42
The General Treaty for Central American Integration, signed December 13, 1960, created Central American Common Market (CACM). After nearly two decades in abeyance, CACM was revived in the early 1990s. The five countries have agreed on maximum tariffs and harmonized 92 percent of tariff rates, mostly for industrial goods; they hope to establish a complete customs during 2006.

El Salvador participates in the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) negotiating process and is a beneficiary of the tariff preferences of the Caribbean Basin Initiative and the Generalized System of Preferences. The Central American countries are negotiating free trade agreements with Taiwan, Canada and the European Union.

Web Resources
Customs Legislation, Ministry of Treasury:
http://www.mh.gob.sv/mh_2003/legislacion.htm
Regional Customs Integration, Central America Economic Integration System (SIECA):
http://www.sieca.org.gt/SIECA.htm
National Science and Technology Council (CONACYT): http://www.conacyt.gob.sv
Standards Inquiry Point: http://www.infoq.org.sv.
Trade Agreements, Ministry of Economy:
http://www.minec.gob.sv/policom/default.asp?id=42&mnu=42
CAFTA, Ministry of Economy: http://www.minec.gob.sv/default.asp?id=70&mnu=70
Trade Agreements, Organization of American States:
http://www.sice.oas.org/trades.asp#MCCA
http://www.sice.oas.org/ctyindex/ESVpg.asp#AT
CAFTA-DR: http://www.export.gov/fta/complete/CAFTA/index.asp?dName=CAFTA
CUSTOMS: http://www.aduana.gob.sv/

U.S. exporters seeking general export information/assistance or country-specific commercial information should consult with their nearest **U.S. Export Assistance Center** or the **U.S. Department of Commerce's Trade Information Center** at **(800) USA-TRADE**, or go to the following website: http://www.export.gov.

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their own due diligence before entering into business ventures or other commercial arrangements. **The Department of Commerce** can assist companies in these endeavors

-GUATEMALA-

Country Commercial Guide for U.S. Companies
Chapter 5: Trade Regulations and Standards

Standards
Trade Agreements
Web Resources

Standards

- Overview
- Standards Organizations
- Conformity Assessment
- Product Certification
- Accreditation
- Publication of Technical Regulations
- Labeling and Marking
- Contacts

Overview

The National Standards Commission (COGUANOR) was created in Guatemala in 1962 under the direction of the Ministry of Economy. The National Standards Commission is responsible for developing standards to encourage the development of agricultural, commercial and industrial activities, as well as to create a favorable environment for fair

competition and equitable relations between producers and consumers.
Companies or individuals interested in establishing or revising a particular standard may submit a request to COGUANOR. Specifically, it is COGUANOR's Technical Working Committee (CCT), interdisciplinary groups made up of representatives from organized public, private, academic-scientific, and consumer sectors, which are in charge of drafting and revising national standards.

National standards drawn up by COGUANOR come into effect once they are approved by the government's executive branch and are published in the *Diario de Centro America,* the national gazette.

Standards Organizations
COGUANOR is empowered to direct and coordinate national policy regarding the setting of standards. Through the Ministry of Economy, it proposes the modification of current standards and adoption of new standards to the government's executive branch, oversees the application of adopted standards and its technical committees are responsible for reviewing standards when necessary. COGUANOR also maintains communication with regional and international standards organizations.
COGUANOR is governed by an executive advisory committee, which is made up of representatives from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Labor, Bar of Engineers, and the Chambers of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce.

Upon the creation of COGUANOR, under Decree # 1523, the Commission describes two forms of national standards: a) NGR – Recommended Guatemalan Standards; and b) NGO – Required Guatemalan Standards. NGR standards refer to quality standards relating to the production and sale of goods; these, however, are obligatory for government entities.

According to Government Decrees 182-2000, 145-2002, and 57-2003, COGUANOR, the National Center of Metrology and the Guatemalan Accreditation Office (OGA) together form the National Quality Systems Directorate.
NIST Notify U.S. Service

Member countries of the World Trade Organization (WTO) are required under the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement) to report to the WTO all proposed technical regulations that could affect trade with other Member countries.

"Notify U.S." is a free, web-based e-mail subscription service that offers an opportunity to review and comment on proposed foreign technical regulations that can affect your access to international markets. Register online at Internet URL:
http://www.nist.gov/notifyus/

Conformity Assessment

The Guatemalan Consumer Service and Support Board (DIACO) was created in 1995. In December 2003, Government Decree 777-2003 added a Testing and Inspection Department to DIACO. This department is responsible for investigating compliance with the legal requirements of COGUANOR and international treaties ratified by Guatemala.

Product Certification
Any commercially-sold food products imported into Guatemala must present a phytosanitary and/or zoo-sanitary certificate, certificate of origin, commercial invoice, free sale certificate and bill of lading to receive an import license. These documents must be legalized at the Guatemalan Embassy or one of its Consulates in the United States. All documents must be translated into Spanish. In addition, all packaged food products require product registration from the Division of Registration and Control of Medicines and Foods and must obtain a sanitary import certificate from the Ministry of Health. Guatemalan norms regarding food additives are based on the Codex Alimentarium food additives list. Any additives added to this list must be approved by COGUANOR's executive advisory committee. The approval process can take six months or perhaps longer.

Pesticides are regulated by the Technical Directorate of Vegetable Health of the Ministry of Agriculture. They maintain a list of prohibited pesticides.
Guatemala has been a correspondent member of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) since 1997, meaning that they do not actively participate in the development of policies and standards, but are kept fully informed of such developments.

Accreditation
The Guatemalan Accreditation Body (OGA) was established in May 2002 by Government Decree 145-2002, a technical unit of the Quality Systems Directorate within the Ministry of Economy. OGA oversees accreditation throughout the nation and grants formal approval to Guatemala's various other conformity assessment bodies, including:

- Testing and Calibration Laboratories (ISO/IEC 17025 Standard)
- Quality Management Systems (ISO/IEC Guide 61)
- Environmental Management Systems (ISO/IEC Guide 66)
- Products (ISO/IEC Guide 65)
- Inspection Bodies (ISO/IEC 17020 Standard)

OGA is a full member of the Interamerican Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC), created in 1996, consisting of various accreditation agencies from 20 countries of the Americas. OGA is also a member of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), an associate member of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), a correspondent member of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Publication of Technical Regulations
Guatemala's national gazette is Diario de Centro America, available online (see under Contacts). New national standards that have been approved by the government's executive branch become effective on the date that they are published in Diario de Centro America.

Labeling and Marking
Guatemala has labeling standards for food products, pharmaceuticals, pesticides, footwear and distilled alcoholic beverages.
While Guatemala's labeling standards for domestic food products are very strict, COGUANOR allows importers to use a stick-on label, with the following information written in Spanish:

- Product definition/description
- Name of the product (the official name as noted on the U.S. Certificate of Free Sale)
- Physical characteristics, including ingredients (must be qualitative composition, translated literally from English)
- Net weight/volume
- List of ingredients and additives and the percentage total for each
- Name, address and telephone number of Guatemalan distributor
- Food Control registration number (D.G.S.S.-D.R.C.A. _____ --Sanitary License; obtained from Center of Sanitation)
- Expiration date
- If applicable: "Keep Frozen"
- If applicable: "Form of Preparation"

Imported sample-size products must comply with labeling laws. Bulk-packed food products do not require labeling, unless they will be sold at the retail level as an individual unit. Nutritional labeling is not required. The declared net content must be expressed in SI (System International) units; additional net content declaration in other units is optional. Small variations in net content are permitted, but must not be excessive. Guatemala does not require a specific container size for any products. Pharmaceutical products need only list active ingredients and must include a sell-by date. Cigarettes and alcoholic beverages must contain a warning label that complies with the Ministry of Public Health's Health Code. Pharmaceutical products, pesticides and footwear must be labeled in Spanish; if there are multiple languages on the label, Spanish must come first. The lettering of both languages may be the same size.
The principal authority that enforces product labeling requirements for food and pharmaceutical products is the Ministry of Public Health, while the Ministry of Agriculture enforces labeling requirements for pesticides.
Personal Hygiene, Homecare and Cosmetic Products
The requirements for the products mentioned above do not involve a legal registration process as with pharmaceutical products, but an inscription process requested by the

National Laboratory of the Ministry of Health, as follows:

a) Sanitary Inscription Requirements:
Inscription of (Renewal) Form F-MC-g-012 has to be filled-out in original and duplicate, in the following order and detail:
- Product formula and composition (mention both common and scientific names (use form F-JE-d-007)
- Sanitary license; valid or prior license
- Free Sale Certificate from the country of origin
- Product description and specifications
- Method of analysis used (when applicable)
- Packaging materials used (a sample), interior and exterior
- Instructions on label in Spanish
- Copy of contract (in case of manufacture under drawback or maquila law)
- Samples
- Inscriptions (done by the distributor's chemical pharmacist)
- Inscription/registrations have to be done at the:

Direccion General de Servicios de Salud
Ministry of Public Health
Control de Medicamentos – Seccion de Registros
Address: 11 Ave. "A" 11-57, Zona 7, Verbena
01007 Guatemala
Contact: Judith de Castro, Director General
Tel.: [502] 2475-5400, 2440-8956, 2440-7796

b) Labeling Requirements:
- Name of product (brand and generic name)
- Generic name is to appear below the trademark
- Indications of use
- Quantity of contents
- Lot number
- Expiration date
- Sanitary inscription number
- Warnings
- Manufacturer's name and State or address

c) Property Rights:
It is recommended that trademarks be registered by the U.S. firm at the Oficina de Marcas y Patentes of the Ministry of Economy. A Guatemalan lawyer should be contracted by the U.S. firm.

d) Distributor:
The foreign firm has to have a distributor or agent before inscription takes place.

Medical Device Regulations and Requirements
Some medical devices require an inscription (registration) at a registration office of the Ministry of Health. These inscriptions need to be renewed every five years.
Devices that require a sanitary inscription process are those that cut the skin or a membrane or touch blood, such as syringes or devices that use a finger prick.
Some devices, such as anesthetics and asthmatic inhalers, high-pressure measuring apparatus, laser-guided apparatus and others do not require an inscription. These would be considered under medical equipment and supplies and undergo normal customs entrance procedures only.

Inscription and Registration Requirements:
For the Inscription and Registration requirements of pharmaceuticals, medical devices, cosmetics, etcetera, please see the section in this chapter entitled "Import Requirements and Documentation."
Oficina Guatemalteca de Acreditacion (OGA)
Address: 8ª. Avenida 10-43, Zona 1
01001Guatemala
Ph.: [502] 2476-1781
Contact: Juan Alberto Hernandez
E-mail: info-oga@mail.mineco.gob.gt
Web page: www.mineco.gob.gt/portal.php

For a list of Guatemalan standards, see:
www.mineco.gob.gt/mineco/coguanor/2003/normas.html

Contacts
COGUANOR – Standards Commission www.mineco.gob.gt/coguanor
DIACO – Consumer Assistance Center www.diaco.gob.gt
OGA - Accreditation Office www.mineco.gob.gt/portal.php
Diario de Centro America, National Gazette www.diariodecentroamerica.gob.gt
PROAM - Healthcare Services www.mypass.gob.gt

Trade Agreements
The United States and five Central American countries (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua), along with the Dominican Republic signed the U.S.-Central American Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR) in August 2004. The Agreement has been ratified by six member-states, including Guatemala (all except Costa Rica, to date). Entry into force has been scheduled for February 1, 2006, for those countries that have completed all the commitments necessary for implementation.

CAFTA will not only liberalize bilateral trade between the United States and the region but will also further integration among the countries of Central America, removing

barriers to trade and investment in the region. CAFTA will require countries to undertake needed reforms to alleviate systemic problems in such areas as customs administration, protection of intellectual property rights, services, investment, financial services, market access and government procurement, as well as sanitary and phytosanitary and other non-tariff barriers.

Central America established a common external tariff schedule in 1998. Six Central American countries signed a revised Protocol for economic integration and macroeconomic coordination in October 1993. The integration protocol allows Central American countries to advance at varying rates toward more open trade. The "Northern Triangle" countries (Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras) have moved the most rapidly to eliminate trade barriers among themselves and are in the process of eliminating customs inspections at their borders, relying instead on electronic documentation filed in advance.

Guatemala has signed, bilaterally or in conjunction with other Central American countries, free trade agreements with Chile, Mexico, the Dominican Republic and Taiwan, and is currently negotiating Free Trade Agreements with Canada and Panama. For more information on how U.S companies can take advantage of those agreements, please consult the following links:

Guatemalan Ministry of Economy: http://www.mineco.gob.gt
Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration: http://www.sieca.org.gt
Guatemalan Investment Office: http://www.investinguatemala.org
Guatemalan e-procurement system: http://www.guatecompras.gt/info/internetGratis.aspx
Guatemalan Non-Traditional Products Exporters' Association: http://www.export.com.gt
Guatemalan Chamber of Commerce: http://www.negociosenguatemala.com
Guatemalan Chamber of Industry: http://www.industriaguate.com

Web Resources

Guatemalan Superintendent of Tax Administration: http://www.sat.gob.gt
Guatemalan Ministry of Economy: http://www.mineco.gob.gt
Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration: http://www.sieca.org.gt
Office of the United States Trade Representative: http://www.ustr.gov

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-HONDURAS-

Country Commercial Guide for U.S. Companies
Chapter 5: Trade Regulations and Standards

Standards
• Overview
• Standards Organizations
• Conformity Assessment
• Product Certification
• Accreditation
• Publication of Technical Regulations

Overview
Standardization efforts began in 1998, upon establishment of the National Standardization Commission of the Ministry of Industry and Trade (SIC). The Commission includes

representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources & the Environment, Health, and Finance, as well as several other key organizations from the private sector. As of July 2005 (through executive decree 130-2005), standards-related duties and activities are a responsibility of the National Science and Technology Council (COHCIT), the technical secretariat of the National Quality Council (CNCA). The CNCA is under the umbrella of the National Competitiveness Commission of the executive branch. The main objectives of the standards governmental body are to:

a) Formulate and coordinate the execution of normalization and quality control programs adequate to country needs.
b) Elaborate and supervise technical laws
c) Coordinate technical and scientific resources within the country to effectively control the quality of products commercialized within Honduras.
d) Integrate technical committees for individual normalization projects.
e) Formulate new laws considered necessary to improve quality of goods and services offered in the country.

In general, standards issues and related technical obstacles do not pose a major hurdle for U.S. exporters. At present, work is being done in connection to defining the limits of the procedures described on Executive Decree 130-2005, particularly on voluntary and mandatory compliance terms, in order to allow a practical development of the national standardization program. Honduras currently has only nine (9) national standards. With CAFTA implementation, signatories are expected to intensify their joint work in the field of standards, technical regulations, and conformity assessment procedures with a view to facilitating trade between each other.

Standards Organizations
COHCIT has identified the following four main productive areas for the potential development of standards in Honduras:
- Agricultural production
- Tourism
- Forestry and Wood Production
- Industrial Production

Honduras is also a correspondent member of the International Standards Organization (ISO) since January 2000. With CAFTA implementation and other trade agreements, Honduran manufacturers are increasingly seeking certification on international standards. ISO certification for local companies is currently conducted through COHCIT, as well as through legally credited international institutions. A total of 29 local companies are currently certified under ISO 9001 and ISO 14001, and approximately 30 are in the process of obtaining certification.

Conformity Assessment
Among the most relevant national testing and conformity assessment bodies are:

- Ministry of Industry and Trade
National Plant and National Health Service (SENASA)
http://wwwsenasa-sag.gob.hn
- National Laboratory of Residues;
- Quality Control Lab for Veterinary Products;
http://www.sag.gob.hn
- Ministry of Health
General Directorate of Sanitary and Environmental Regulation
Food Control Lab
http://www.secsalud.hn
- Ministry of Industry and Trade
Consumer Protection and Metrology Division
http://www.sic.gob.hn
- Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment
CESCO (Pollution Control Research Center)
DECA (Environmental Control and Evaluation Directorate)
Mining Executive Directorate (DEFOMIN Laboratory)
http://www.serna.gob.hn
- Ministry of Finance
Customs and Tax Division
National Customs Laboratory
http://www.dei.gob.hn
- Official Laboratory of Honduran Chemical and Pharmaceutical Industry Association
- Other private laboratories such as Jordanlab, MQ, and the Honduran Foundation for Agricultural Research (FHIA).

Product Certification
At present, there are no MRAs (mutual recognition agreements) between Honduran and U.S. organizations. With CAFTA implementation and other trade agreements, Honduran manufacturers are increasingly seeking certification on international standards.
Product certification requirements apply to the importation of certain products. In the case of food items, for example, certificates of free sale and of origin are required. Importers must provide certifications proving the products will not cause damage to humans, animals or the environment. Specific certifications are also required according to the type of product to be imported. Imports of animal and plant origin, for example, require a phyto-sanitary permit. In the case of medical and pharmaceutical products which are not for free sale nor over-the-counter, a Sanitary Registration is also required.

Accreditation
The National Science and Technology Council (COHCIT) is the official accreditation body in Honduras, as part of an agreement signed with the Costa Rican Accreditation Entity (ECA) on November 2005. Additional information on ECA is available at http://www.eca.go.cr

Publication of Technical Regulations
Final technical regulations are published in the local government newspaper "La Gaceta". Honduras' national gazette is available only through printed copies purchased from the National Graphic Arts Company, Tel. (504) 230-3026. New laws and regulations approved by the government's executive branch become effective on the date of publication.

Labeling and Marking
The content, weight and measurement of products sold in Honduras shall be expressed in units established by the metric and decimal system recognized officially.
Importers are instructed that products are required to label information in Spanish such as:
Product definition/description
Name of the product (the official name as noted on the U.S. Certificate of Free Sale)
Physical characteristics, including ingredients (must be qualitative composition, translated literally from English)
Net weight/volume
List of ingredients and additives and the percentage total for each
Name, address and telephone number of Honduran distributor/representative
Sanitary License registration number; obtained from the Ministry of Health
Expiration date

Imported sample-size products must comply with labeling laws. Bulk-packed food products do not require labeling, unless they will be sold at the retail level as an individual unit. Nutritional labeling is not required. The declared net content must be expressed in SI (System International) units; additional net content declaration in other units is optional. Small variations in net content are permitted, but must not be excessive. Honduras does not require a specific container size for any products.

Pharmaceutical products need to list active ingredients, and must include a sell-by date. Cigarettes and alcoholic beverages must contain a warning label that complies with the IHADFA (Instituto Hondureño para la Prevención del Alcoholismo, Drogadicción y Farmacodependencia). Pharmaceutical products, pesticides must be labeled in Spanish if possible. The authority that enforces product labeling requirements for food and pharmaceutical products is the Ministry of Public Health, while the Ministry of Agriculture enforces labeling requirements for pesticides.
Personal Hygiene, Homecare and Cosmetic Products do not require legal registry as with pharmaceutical products, but an inscription process requested by the Ministry of Health, depending on the product.

Trade Agreements
The final act of the Multilateral Commercial Negotiations of the Uruguay Round, which established the World Trade Organization (WTO), was signed by Honduras on April 15, 1995.

Honduras is also a member of the Central American Common Market (CACM) since 1961, which includes Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Guatemala. Panama, although not a full member of the CACM, has participated in CACM activities. As of May 2003, the harmonized tariff level as common external tariff between CACM countries was 77% of the entire customs duty schedule.

Members of the Northern Triangle CA-3 (Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador) signed a free trade agreement (FTA) with Mexico that went into effect in June 2001. In addition, the CA-3 has had an exchange of a limited trade agreement proposal with the Andean Community. Honduras has also signed limited trade agreements with Colombia and Venezuela. At the regional level, a free trade agreement went into effect with the Dominican Republic in December 2001. Regional FTA negotiations are also ongoing with Canada, Chile and the Republic of Panama. Honduras, along with other three Central American countries, reached a free trade agreement with the U.S. on December 2003. The CAFTA agreement aims to abolish nearly all trade barriers between participating countries over the next decade.

Since April 1998, Honduras continues to participate as a member of the CA-4 block in negotiation rounds for the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). Preliminary talks for strengthening commercial relationships through FTAs have also taken place with China (Taiwán), Mercosur and Caricom countries.

Honduras benefits from three preferential trade arrangements with the United States. Special export arrangements have been established through the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (CBERA), the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), and the "9802 Textile Program." Both CBERA and GSP provide unilateral and temporary duty-free trade preferences to designated countries, including Honduras, by the United States. Enhanced CBI benefits for the maquila sector granted October 1, 2000 were a boom to the national maquila industry. For the consecutive period 1999-2003, Honduras has had the first place rank as CBI and Central American supplier to the U.S. market. The 9802 Program provides for reduced duties and liberalized textile and apparel quotas under HTS subheadings 9802.00.60 and 9802.00.80.

The United States and five Central American countries (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua), along with the Dominican Republic signed the U.S.-Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR) in August 2004. The Agreement is currently pending congressional ratification from most member-states. CAFTA-DR not only will liberalize bilateral trade between the United States and the region but also will further integration efforts among the countries of Central America, removing barriers to trade and investment in the region by U.S. companies. CAFTA-DR will also require countries to undertake needed reforms to alleviate systemic problems in such areas as customs administration; protection of intellectual property rights; services, investment, and financial services market access and protection; government procurement; sanitary and phyto-sanitary (SPS) barriers; and other non-tariff barriers.

Central America established a common external tariff schedule in 1998. Six Central American countries signed a revised Protocol for economic integration and macroeconomic coordination in October 1993. The integration protocol allows Central American countries to advance at varying rates toward more open trade. The "Northern Triangle" countries (Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras) have moved the most rapidly to eliminate trade barriers among themselves and are in the process of eliminating customs inspections at their common borders, relying instead on electronic documentation filed in advance.

Contact Information
National Standards Body
National Science and Technology Council (COHCIT)
(Consejo Hondureño de Ciencia y Tecnología)
Mrs. Cristina Rodriguez
Coordinator
Apartado Postal No. 4458
Tegucigalpa, Honduras
Tel: (504) 228-0658; 230-3045; Fax: (504) 230-1899
E-mail: cristina@cohcit.gob.hn
http://www.cohcit.gob.hn
http://ww.hondurascalidad.com

Post Standards Contact
U.S. Embassy - U.S. Commercial Service
Rossana Lobo
Senior Commercial Specialist
Avenida La Paz
Tegucigalpa, Honduras
Tel: (504) 236-9320; Fax: (504) 238-2888
E-mail: Rossana.Lobo@mail.doc.gov
http://www.buyusa.gov/centralamerica/en

Web Resources
Honduran Ministry of Industry & Trade: http://www.sic.gob.hn
Honduran Science and Technology Council: http://www.cohcit.gob.hn
Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration http://www.sieca.org.gt
Honduran Private Enterprise Council: http://www.cohep.com
Chamber of Commerce of Tegucigalpa: www.ccit.hn
Chamber of Commerce of Cortes: www.ccic.hn2.com

-JAMAICA-

Country Commercial Guide for U.S. Companies
Chapter 5: Trade Regulations and Standards

Standards
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Standards

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Standards Organizations
Conformity Assessment
Product Certification
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Labeling and Marking

Overview

The Jamaica Bureau of Standards ("The Bureau") is a statutory body established by the Standards Act of 1968. The Standards Act, as well as the Processed Foods Act (1959)

and the Weights and Measures Act (1976) control the actions of the Bureau. The Bureau's main functions are formulating, promoting and implementing standards for goods, services and processes. It develops and enforces technical regulations for those commodities and practices, which affect health and safety.

Following the reorganization of the Bureau in 2001, the development of standards became industry owned with the Bureau playing the role of facilitator. Standards are written by technical committees. There are several technical committees established and facilitated by the Standardization Division of the Bureau. Membership in the committees should reflect a balanced representation of all parties interested or involved in the committee's scope of operations, namely: producers, manufacturers, importers/distributors, consumers, research organizations, educational institutions, government organizations and individual experts.

The Bureau facilitates trade and protects Jamaican consumers with the timely development and promulgation of national standards. The Standards and Certification department seeks industry participation in allowing the development of new standards and new markets both locally and regionally. The Bureau's mandate includes (i) preparing standards for particular products, practices and processes and (ii) checking products against claims of conformity to published standards.

The Bureau of Standards is controlled by a Standards Council, which is responsible for policymaking and general administration. Standards are developed by standing committees representing varied interests, such as consumer groups, the manufacturing sector and the public in general.

Standards Organizations
The Jamaica Bureau of Standards is the premier standards development organization in Jamaica. At the Bureau, the preparation of standards documents is undertaken upon the authorization of the Standards Council. This authorization could come from representations from national organizations, Bureau of Standards committees or the staff of the Bureau. When the final draft of the standard is ready, the Council authorizes an approach to the Minister for approval. The draft document is then made available to the general public for comment. After consideration of the comments, a final document is prepared and the Standards Council recommends the document to the Minister for approval. The declaration of the standard is published and copies are made available for sale. Standards are revised every five years. The Catalogue of Jamaican Standards is updated every 6 months. It includes a listing of all standards published to date as well as those approved by the Minister awaiting publication.

Apart from the Bureau of Standards, other agencies do have a limited role in standards development. These include the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA), the National Council on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (NCTVET),

Private companies for their own use as well as a handful of government agencies and Ministries.

Conformity Assessment
The Jamaica Bureau of Standards is responsible for issuing licenses to use the Bureau's Certification Mark (Mark of Conformity). A number of well-equipped laboratories carry out tests in such areas as food analysis, chemistry, metallurgy, microbiology, building materials, furniture, packaging, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, weights and measures. Private companies involved in conformity assessment are Technological Solutions Limited and SGS Limited.

Product Certification
The National Certification Mark issued by the Bureau is a mark of quality awarded to products, processes and practices, which conform to relevant standards. Products, which are proven to be of consistent and reliable quality, are granted the National Certification Mark. The Bureau encourages consumers to purchase products, which bear this mark as it guarantees consistent product quality. All manufacturers have the right to apply for the mark. The Bureau's team of analysts and specialist examines the manufacturers' processes, equipment, records, raw material, quality control systems and the finished product to ensure good quality.

The Product Certification offered by the Bureau is voluntary (and at a cost to the applicant). Plans are being developed for the establishment of a National Certification body. Also being planned is a Compliance Sticker Program, which will allow local products of a suitable standard to bear a Compliance Sticker. The program will also extend to compliant imported products.

There is a mutual recognition agreement between the Bureau and the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM).

Accreditation
The Bureau offers laboratory accreditation recognition to Chemical and Microbiological Laboratories, which apply for this recognition. This is voluntary (and at a cost to the applicant). Accreditation services may also be obtained from International agencies. Plans are in place for the development of a National Accreditation Body (separate from the Bureau of Standards), which will take over this function.
The Bureau's Technical Information Center is the only national standards library in Jamaica. It is the center of the international standards information network and serves as:
-The National Enquiry Point under the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)
-Contact Point for Codex Alimentarius Commission in Jamaica
-Local Agent for International Organization for Standardization (ISO), British Standards

Institution (BSI), and American National Standards Institution (ANSI).
The Bureau has membership in the following regional and international organizations:
-International Electro-Technical Commission (IEC)
-Caribbean Regional Organization for Standards and Quality (CROSQ)
-Inter-American Metrology System (SIM)
-Pan-American Standards Commission (COPANT) (an ISO Commission)
-Caribbean Metrology Sub-Region (CARIMET)

In 2004, the Executive Director of Jamaica's Bureau of Standards became the Chairman of the Caribbean Regional Organization for Standards and Quality.
Additionally, the Bureau cooperates with several other regional and international standards and metrology institutions such as the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), National Center for Metrology-Mexico (CENAM), Physikalisch Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB), American Society for Mechanical Engineers (ASME), National Office of Standards-Cuba (NC), Columbian Institute of Certification and Technical Standards (ICONTEC), Barbados national Standards Institute (BNSI), Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS) and the Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS).

Publication of Technical Regulations
Proposed Technical Regulations are made available to the general public for comment. A 30-day period is allowed before publication. Any entity, including U.S. companies, may comment on the proposals before they are published. The Bureau has a Technical Information Center, which has information on standards being developed. Final Technical Regulations are published in the Jamaica Gazette Supplement - Proclamations, Rules and Regulations.

Labeling and Marking
Product labeling is one of the more important and topical matters handled by the Jamaica Bureau of Standards. The Catalogue of Jamaican Standards lists requirements for over 30 different commodities. The list is wide and varied and includes items such as footwear, precious metals, household appliances, panty hose, thread, animal feeds, toys, furniture and various packaged goods.

Labeling requirements are contained in a series of mandatory standards for the Labeling of Commodities (JS 1: Part 1 through to JS 1: Part 30). Adherence to these requirements is closely monitored by the Bureau. Monitoring entails verification of labels against the specifications outlined in the particular labeling standard.

It is critical for the Bureau to develop a system that will allow the organization to exercise its duty with increased efficiency and effectiveness with respect to compliance to compulsory standards (technical regulations). The Label Registration Program was therefore proposed. This program aims to prevent labeling violations both at the Ports of

Entry and in the Domestic Marketplace. Labels of each product can therefore be registered with the Bureau under this program. This registration program is voluntary and will assist the speedy processing of goods through Customs (using a database) for importers who have their labels registered with the Bureau.

The steps required for this process are:
1. The completion of the Label Registration Form
2. Submitting the form along with the labels of the products to be registered (preferably on line) to the Bureau of Standards
3. Make payment using either the e-commerce facility or the other means available and showing proof of payment
4. The label is assessed and a report done
5. If the label is in conformance with the standards the registration will be approved and a registration number assigned and add to list of compliant labels
6. Where a labeling non-conformance is identified, the report shall indicate the areas of non-conformance, and make recommendation to effect corrections
7. The applicant will be required to implement the recommendations and re-submit the corrected label and proceed again
8. Label registration number now used by Customs to process imports
9. Routine periodic verification conducted by Bureau Inspectors/Officers to identify continued compliance
10. If non-compliance is identified registration is withdrawn and distributor advised to reregister the label(s).

Trade Agreements
Preferential Tariff Arrangements: Jamaica has enjoyed preferential tariff arrangements with the United States under the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act or Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI), with the countries of the European Union under the Lome Convention (succeeded by the Coutonou Agreement), with Canada under CARIBCAN, and with other English-speaking Caribbean states under CARICOM.

CBI long provided customs duty-free entry to the United States to qualifying products of Jamaican origin (except textiles, footwear, handbags, luggage, work gloves, leather apparel, tuna fish, petroleum and petroleum products, and watches and watch parts from countries that do not enjoy Most Favored Nation status). An amendment was made to CBI provisions in 1990 (CBI II) allowing additional duty reduction on certain leatherrelated products, including handbags, luggage, flat goods, work gloves, and wearing apparel. To meet CBI eligibility standards, products must contain at least 35 percent value added in Jamaica, of which U.S. materials must comprise 15 percent of the value of the finished product. Articles assembled in Jamaica from 100 percent U.S. components are also given duty-free treatment (with certain exceptions, including textiles/apparel for which the U.S. duty is levied only on the value-added in Jamaica). In May 2000, the U.S. Senate passed the Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act

(CBTPA). The aim of this Act is an expansion of the benefits provided under the CBI to Caribbean firms that export to the United States. In effect, it will restore the margin of preferences CBI countries enjoyed prior to the implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) as well as improve the range of economic opportunities available to the countries. The Jamaican garment industry has not expanded under CBTPA as predicted. In fact it has shed jobs over the past year.

Jamaica has signed a Tax Information Exchange Agreement (TIEA) with the United States. U.S. taxpayers are allowed to deduct legitimate business expenses incurred in attending business meetings and conventions in Jamaica.

Goods of Jamaican origin or those partially produced from extra-regional materials and sufficiently transformed in Jamaica can enter CARICOM markets duty-free. Efforts are being made to boost trade within the region through integration and regional cooperation.

Jamaica exports certain items duty-free to Canada under CARIBCAN. Eligible items must meet a national-origin standard of 60 percent of the factory price originating in Jamaica, Commonwealth Caribbean countries, or Canada. Textiles, garments, lubricating oils, clothing, footwear, luggage, handbags, and leather garments are excluded from CARIBCAN. Processed and fresh vegetables comprise most of the trade under CARIBCAN. Alumina, representing approximately 80 percent of all exports to Canada, was already admitted duty-free prior to the establishment of CARIBCAN. Jamaican exports also benefit from either zero or reduced-duty treatment of several products sent to the European Union under the EU-ACP Partnership (Cotonou) Agreement. The system is not a simple one, as there are special arrangements for certain agricultural products, and the required value-added component varies depending on the type of product.

Web Resources
Jamaica Bureau of Standards www.jbs.org.jm

U.S. exporters seeking general export information/assistance or country-specific commercial information should consult with their nearest **Export Assistance Center** or the **U.S. Department of Commerce's Trade Information Center** at **(800) USA-TRADE**, or go to the following website: http://www.export.gov.

To the best of our knowledge, the information contained in this report is accurate as of the date published. However, **The Department of Commerce** does not take responsibility for actions readers may take based on the information contained herein. Readers should always conduct their own due diligence before entering into business ventures or other commercial arrangements. **The Department of Commerce** can assist companies in these endeavors.

-MEXICO-

Country Commercial Guide for U.S. Companies
Chapter 5: Trade Regulations and Standards

Standards
Trade Agreements
Web Resources

Standards

- Overview
- Standards Organizations
- Conformity Assessment
- Product Certification
- Accreditation
- Publication of Technical Regulations
- Labeling and Marking
- Contact Information

Overview

Traditionally, the Government of Mexico (GOM) had been the primary actor in determining product standards, labeling and certification policy, with little input from the private sector and less from consumers. As a result, independent standards and certification organizations like those in the United States were virtually non-existent in

Mexico. In 1992, the Ministry of Economy (SE-Secretaria de Economía) initiated efforts to reverse this situation, shifting the responsibility for the formulation of voluntary standards to the private sector or to mixed commissions.

In 1992, the Mexican Government undertook an ambitious project to revamp its entire system for formulating product standards, testing, and labeling and certification regulations. The cornerstone of this review is the Federal Law of Standardization and Metrology (Ley Federal de Metrología y Normalización-LFMN) enacted on January 26, 1988 and updated in 1992, which provided for greater transparency and access by the public and interested parties to the standards development process, and has resulted in a reduction of obligatory product standards. This process is not without its problems, but the Mexican Government has been receptive to U.S. concerns and willing to resolve problems.

SE (Ministry of Economy), through its General Bureau of Standards (DGN – Dirección General de Normas), is the organization with the authority to manage and to coordinate the standardization activities in the country. Its authority derives from the LFMN. The implementing regulations (Reglamento de la Ley Federal sobre Metrología y Normalización) were published in the Official Gazette (*Diario Oficial,* DOF) on January 14, 1999. In accordance with the Federal Law, the Law of Metrology and Standardization and its Regulation (Reglamento de la Ley Federal sobre Metrología y Normalización), the National Program of Standardization (Programa Nacional de Normalización, PNN), published annually in the Diario Oficial (DOF), which is the official document used to plan, inform and coordinate the standardization activities, both public and private, carried out by the Mexican Government.
Finally, two definitions are important to keep in mind:

NOMs – Mexican Official Standards – these are technical regulations, including labeling requirements, issued by government agencies and ministries. Compliance is mandatory.

NMX – Mexican “Voluntary” Standards – these are voluntary standards issued by recognized national standard making bodies. Compliance is mandatory only when a claim is made that a product meets the NMX, when a NOM specifies compliance, and whenever applicable in government procurement.

Standards Organizations
In addition to the General Bureau of Standards (DGN) of the Ministry of Economy, organizations that develop NOMs – Mexican Official Standards include:

• SAGARPA (Agriculture)
• STPS (Labor)
• SCT (Communications & Transportation)
• SECTUR (Tourism)

• SEDESOL (Social Development)
• SEMARNAT (Environment)
• SENER (Energy)
The DGN – Dirección General de Normas publishes the National Standardization Plan (PNN – Plan Nacional de Normalización) twice a year. It is available on the DGN website.
Organizations that develop NMX – Mexican "Voluntary" Standards include:
• ANCE (Electrical)
• IMNC (Quality Systems)
• INNTEX (Textiles)
• ONNCCE (Construction)
• NORMEX (Food Products and Quality Systems)
• NYCE (Electronics)

Conformity Assessment
Under NAFTA, Mexico was required, starting January 1, 1998, to recognize conformity assessment bodies in the United States and Canada on terms no less favorable than those applied in Mexico. To date, no U.S. certification bodies have been recognized by Mexico. Based on agreements with other agencies, as well as with other certification organizations, the General Bureau of Standards (DGN) of the Ministry of Economy has set the procedures for the certification of products to the Official Mexican Standards (NOMs) or Mexican Standards (NMXs).

Conformity Assessment procedures issued by the SE/DGN tend to be more fully developed and cover a significantly greater range of NOMs than those of other ministries who develop NOMs.

Product Certification
For the purposes of the certification procedure, the following definitions are issued:
Product Certification: Proof of compliance with the applicable Mexican standard. An accredited certification body must issue these certificates.

DGN: General Bureau of Standards, Ministry of Economy (SE). This agency authorizes the operation of certification and calibration laboratories and verification units, according to the Federal Law of Standardization and Metrology.
Accredited Laboratory: Institutions authorized to test or calibrate products subject to Mexican standards.

Accredited Unit for Sampling Verification: Authorized Unit for product sampling verification.
NOM: Mexican Official Standard (mandatory)
NMX: Mexican Standard (voluntary)

Product Certification Organization: Product Certification Organization accredited by

DGN through EMA (Entidad Mexicana de Acreditación – Mexican Accreditation Agency)

Quality System Certification Organization: Organization accredited by DGN through EMA to certify Quality Assurance Systems.
MRAs (mutual recognition agreements)

There is a significant number of MRAs (mutual recognition agreements) between Mexican and U.S. organizations. However, at present, none of these agreements exempt U.S. products from complying with all applicable Mexican technical regulations and product certification requirements. Key examples of these include:

FMVSS - DGN
(Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard - Mexican Standards Bureau)
Recognition of testing on new pneumatic tires for other than passenger cars

UL - CANIETI
(Underwriters Laboratories - Mexican Chamber of the Electronic, Telecommunications, and Information Industry)
Recognition of testing on electronic appliances
Recognition of testing on copying, fax, and other office machines
Recognition of testing on data processing and networking equipment

UL - NYCE
(Underwriters Laboratories - Normalización y Certificación Electrónica)
Recognition of testing on data processing and networking equipment
Recognition of testing on electric appliances
Recognition of testing on electronic office equipment
Recognition of testing on data processing equipment
Verification unit for electronic products

UL - ANCE
(Underwriters Laboratories - Asociación de Normalización y Certificación)
Recognition of testing on electric appliances
Recognition of testing on electronic office equipment
Recognition of testing on data processing equipment
Recognition of testing on electric ballasts
Recognition of testing on lamps whether or not for indoor use

NIST - CENAM
(National Institute of Standards and Technology - Mexican Metrology Center)
Recognition of measuring capacities including those related to national patterns, calibration certification and reference material

More detailed information regarding the conformity assessment, product certification procedures and MRAs (mutual recognition agreements in Mexico are available upon request from the Standards Attaché at CS Mexico City. (See Contacts – at the end of this section).

Accreditation
In 1999, the Mexican government authorized the first private organization to accredit conformity assessment bodies (calibration laboratories, certification bodies, test laboratories, and verification/inspection units). This private non-profit institution is the EMA (Entidad Mexicana de Acreditación - Mexican Accreditation Entity).

Calibration Laboratories
Calibration laboratories are responsible for transferring the precision of reference standards to the measurement instruments used in the commercial and industrial sectors. The calibration laboratories can be sponsored by public or private organizations, including universities, professional associations and private companies. Individuals interested in performing calibration activities can obtain certification after meeting the certification requirements set by law.

Committees, made up of technicians and specialists in metrology, evaluate applications for certification as calibration laboratories. These committees make recommendations to the DGN for final decisions on certification. The committees also establish the technical specifications for the evaluation of calibration laboratories, set the precision requirements for the calibration chains and set the methods for comparison of standards.
Certification Bodies

The EMA has accredited several organizations for certifying compliance in different specific fields. These organizations include:
ANCE – Asociación de Normalización y Certificación (product certification body for the electric sector NOMs)

CALMECAC - Calidad Mexicana Certificada, A.C. (Certified Mexican Quality).

CNCP - Centro Nacional Para la Calidad del Plástico (Mexican Center for the Quality of Plastic).

CRT - Consejo Regulador Del Tequila (Tequila Regulation Council).

IMNC - Instituto Mexicano De Normalización y Certificación, A.C. (Mexican Institute of Standardization and Certification).

INNTEX - Instituto Nacional De Normalización Textil, A.C. (Mexican Institute of

Textile Standardization).

NORMEX - Sociedad Mexicana de Normalización y Certificación, S.C. (Mexican Society of Standardization and Certification).

NYCE - Normalización y Certificación Electrónica (Electronic Standardization and Certification).

ONNCCE - Organismo de Normalización y Certificación de la Construcción y Edificación (Building and Construction Standardization and Certification Body)

The DGN procedures currently in effect are those published on June 14, 1994. However, the procedures reflect current practices, except where noted as "not implemented". A list of products by tariff number that must comply with an NOM was published on December 25, 1995, and updated on June 28, 1996, in the Diario Oficial. To date, Mexico has not recognized a single conformity body in the United States. This failure remains a topic of discussion between the U.S. and Mexican Governments.

Test Laboratories
Test laboratories are responsible for certifying that products meet Mexican standards and are normally commercial entities that make a profit from the testing of samples. The DGN through EMA is responsible for granting authorizations to test laboratories after receiving the recommendations of the Test Laboratory Evaluating Committees (Comités de Evaluación de Laboratorios de Pruebas).

Each committee oversees a group of evaluators who visit the test laboratories, review their organization, capabilities, staffs, etc. Test laboratories must fully comply with standard NMX-CC-13-1992 and Standard NMX-CC-14-1992, which set the procedures for approval of test laboratories. Once the evaluators have made their review, they submit a report to the committee. Then, the committee writes its recommendations to the DGN, which, in turn, informs the laboratory of the results. Those applicants not receiving authorization are permitted to make the necessary modifications to their facilities in order to comply with standards NMX-CC-13-1992 and NMX-CC-14-1992. After the committee verifies that the laboratory meets the requirements, a second report is prepared for the DGN.

Authorizations as Test Laboratories are valid for two years and can be renewed upon written request. Test laboratories are required to maintain their technical capabilities and to make any modifications that the committee may set. Test laboratories must notify the DGN of any change in equipment, location, and administration. Laboratories have the option to withdraw their certification.

Verification Units

Verification or inspection units check and provide a report or proof of compliance corroborating either visually or by sampling, measuring, testing in laboratories, or examining documents. Labeling NOMs, for example, do not require products to obtain a certificate of compliance; however, verification units can determine whether or not a technical regulation has been correctly applied.

On June 18, 2001, the Mexican standard NMX-EC-17020-IMNC-2000 (equivalent to ISO/IEC 17020:1998) entered into force in order to make the accreditation process of verification units consistent with the international standards. Therefore, as of January 2002, the procedure to evaluate and accredit verification units became effective.

Publication of Technical Regulations
National Gazette
The Mexican national gazette is the Diario Oficial de la Federación (DOF).

Publication of Proposed Technical Regulations
In accordance with the Regulation of the Federal Law of Metrology and Standardization (Reglamento de la Ley Federal sobre Metrología y Normalización, LFMN), the National Program of Standardization (Programa Nacional de Normalización, PNN) is the official document used to plan, inform and coordinate the standardization activities, both public and private, carried out by the Mexican government. The PNN is made up of a list of topics that will be developed into Official Mexican Standards (NOMs), technical regulations, Mexican Standards (MNX's), and Reference Standards (NRF's)--as well as approximate a working calendar for each respective topic. The program is equally composed of information from the 22 National Consulting Standardization Committees (Comités Consultivos Nacionales de Normalización) which are responsible for the creation of NOMs; the 35 Technical Committees of National Standardization (Comités Técnicos de Normalización Nacional) and 7 National Standardization Bodies (Organismos Nacionales de Normalización), both of which are responsible for the creation of NMX; and 2 Standardization Committees (Comités de Normalización), responsible for the creation of NRF's—standards created by governmental entities for the government's procurement.

The PNN is annually integrated by the Technical Secretariat of the National Standardization Commission, revised by the Technical Council of the aforementioned entity, and approved by the National Standardization Commission (CNN, Comisión Nacional de Normalización) in its first meeting of every year.

The LFMN and its Regulation establish a time frame for each step of the NOM-making process (development, draft publication in the Official Gazette (DOF), and publication of modified and definitive technical regulations and standards) and within the PNN framework, the accomplishment of these tasks is limited to the span of a year. The actual NOM-making period, however, is contingent upon various factors, including the

complexity of the topic and the uncertain period between each step (i.e. publishing period in the Official Gazette (DOF)—draft, response, comments, and final technical regulation and standard). Therefore, evaluations conducted on the PNN indicate, more often than not, that the standardization process requires more than a year in order to adequately comply with its objectives.

U.S. entities can participate in the process in several ways. They can:

- Review the PNN with the objective of learning about the topics to be standardized.
- Request to be included in the applicable working group directly from the appropriate office (requires physical presence).
- Present commentaries during the 60 day public consultation.
- Solicit the making, modification, or cancellation of technical regulations and standards (NOM and NMX) to the appropriate government office or to a National Standardization Body.

Labeling and Marking

All products intended for retail sale in Mexico must bear a label in Spanish prior to their importation to Mexico. Products that must comply with commercial and commercial/sanitary information NOMs must follow the guidelines as specified in the applicable NOM. Most NOMs require commercial information to be affixed, adhered, sewn, or tagged onto the product, with at least the following information in Spanish:

- Name or business name and address of the importer,
- Name or business name of the exporter,
- Trademark or commercial name brand of the product,
- Net contents (as specified in NOM-030-SCFI-1993),
- Use, handling, and care instructions for the product as required,
- Warnings or precautions on hazardous products.

This information must be presented attached to the product, packaging or container depending on the product characteristics. This information must be on products as prepared for retail sale. Listing this information on container in which a good is packed for shipment will not satisfy the labeling requirement.

NOMs do not explicitly state that country of origin is required on the label prior to importation. However, Mexican fiscal regulations do require country of origin designation, and the U.S. Department of Commerce recommends that exporters include this information, in Spanish, on the labels they are preparing for goods destined for retail sale in the Mexican market. Along this line, including the importer's taxpayer number (commonly known as RFC) is recommended.

The commercial and commercial-sanitary NOMs currently in force are:
NOM-004SCFI-1994, Commercial Information - Labeling of textile products, garments

and accessories, published in the Diario Oficial de la Federación (DOF) on January 24, 1996.

NOM-020-SCFI-1997, Commercial Information - Labeling of leather and leather-like goods, shoes and accessories published in the DOF on April 27, 1998.

NOM-024-SCFI-1999, Commercial Information for packaging, instructions, and warranties of electric and electronic products and appliances, published in the DOF on January 15, 1999.

NOM-139-SCFI-1999, Commercial Information - Labeling of vanilla extract, derivatives and substitutes, published in the DOF on March 22, 2000.

NOM-055-SCFI-1994, Commercial Information - Fire retardants or inhibitors - published in the DOF on December 8, 1994.

NOM-003-SSA1-1993, Environmental health - Sanitary requirements with which paints, inks, varnishes, lacquers, and enamels must comply, published in the DOF on August 12, 1994.

NOM-084-SCFI-1994, Commercial Information - Commercial and sanitary information specifications for pre packed tuna and bonito food products, published in the DOF on September 22, 1995.

NOM-051-SCFI-1994, General labeling specifications for pre packed food products and non-alcoholic beverages, published in the DOF on January 24, 1996.

NOM-050-SCFI-1994, Commercial Information - General regulations for products, published in the DOF on January 24, 1996. NOTE: A revised version (NOM-050-SCFI-2004) has been published on June 1, 2004, and scheduled to enter into force 60 days after.

NOM-120-SCFI-1996, Commercial Information - Labeling of agricultural products - Grape, published in the DOF on November 22, 1996.

NOM-142-SSA1-1995, Goods and services. Alcoholic beverages. Sanitary specifications. Sanitary and commercial labeling published in the DOF on July 9, 1997.

NOM-015-SCFI-1998, Commercial Information - Labeling of toys, published in the DOF on March 5, 1999.

NOM-141-SSA1-1995, Goods and services - Labeling of pre packed perfumery and beauty products, published in the DOF on July 18, 1997.

NOM-116-SCFI-1997, Automotive industry - Commercial information of lubricant oils for gasoline or diesel engines, published in the DOF on May 4, 1998

NOM-128-SCFI-1998, Commercial Information - Labeling of agricultural products - Avocado, published in the DOF on August 31, 1998.

NOM-129-SCFI-1998, Commercial Information - Labeling of agricultural products - Mango, published in the DOF on August 31, 1998.

Contact Information
The following is key contact information for the most relevant organizations in both the public and private sectors. For additional organizations, please contact the post.

Mexican Public Sector
SE-Secretaria de Economía (Ministry of Economy)

A. DGN-Dirección General de Normas
(General Bureau of Standards)
AV. Puente de Tecamachalco No. 6
Col. Tecamachalco
Naucalpan, Edo. De México
53950 México:

Miguel Aguilar Romo, Director General
Tel. (011-52-55) 5729-9300 Ext. 43200
Fax. (011-52-55) 5729-9484

Rodolfo Consuegra Gamón, Director of Normalization
Tel. (011-52-55) 5729-9300 Ext. 43222
Fax. (011-52-55) 5520-9715

Luis Fernando Vázquez, Conformity Assessment Director
Tel. (011-52-55) 5729-9300 Exts. 43213
Fax. (011-52-55) 5729-9300

Carlos Berzunza Sánchez, Director of International Standardization
Tel. (011-52-55) 5729-9300 Ext 43216
Fax. (011-52-55) 5723-9100

Danielle Schont Avenel, Promotion Director (Inquiry Point)
Tel. (011-52-55) 5729-9300 Ext. 43243
Fax. (011-52-55) 5729-9300

B. Undersecretariat of International Trade Negotiations
Alfonso Reyes No. 30, Piso 18
Col. Hipódromo Condesa
06140 México, D.F.

Kenneth Smith Ramos, Director General for International Trade Negotiations
International Trade Negotiations
Tel. (011-52-55) 5729-9146/ 47
Fax. (011-52-55) 5729-9352

Juan Carlos Baker, Director for NAFTA, Technical Regulations and Standards
Tel (011-52-55) 5729-9122
Fax. (011-52-55) 5729-9352

SEMARNAT- Secretaria de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales
Ing. Juan R. Elvira
Subecretario de Fomento y Normatividad Ambiental
(Deputy Secretary for Development and Environmental Standards)
Blvd. Adolfo Ruiz Cortinez 4209
Piso 5, Ala A
Col. Fracc. Jardines de la Montana
14210 Mexico, D.F.
Tel. (011-5255) 56-280613
Fax. (011-5255)56-280656
E-mail: juan.elvira@semarnat.gob.mx
URL: www.semarnat.gob.mx

SCT – Secretaria de Comunicaciones y Transportes
(Secretariat of Communications and Transport)
Dr. Aaron Dychter Poltolarek
Under Secretary of Transportation
Centro Nacional SCT
Av. Universidad y Xola s/n
Bldg.C, floor 1 - Ala Oriente
Col. Narvarte
03028 México, D.F.
Tel: (011-52-55) 5519-4468 / 5530-7390
Fax: (011-52-55) 5519-4871
E-mail: adychter@sct.gob.mx
URL: http://www.sct.gob.mx

Mexican Private Sector

ANCE – Asociación de Normalización y Certificación del Sector Electrico, A.C.
(National Association for the Standards & Certification of the Electrical Sector)
Ing. Martin Flores Ruiz
Director of Operations
Av. Lazaro Cardenas No. 869,
Fracc. 3, esq. con Jupiter,
Col. Nueva Industrial Vallejo,
C.P. 07700, México, D.F.
Tel. (011-52-55) 5747-4550 x 4602
Fax (011-52-55) 5747-4560
E-mail: ance@ance.org.mx
URL: http://www.ance.org.mx
Standards area: electrical and gas

NYCE – Normalización y Certificación Electrónica, A.C.
(Electronic Standards & Certification)
Ing. Claudio Bortoluz Orlandi
President
Av. Lomas de Sotelo No. 1097
Col. Lomas de Sotelo
11200 México, D.F.
Tel. (011-52-55) 5395-0810 / 0860 / 0893 / 0983 / 0993
Fax (011-52-55) 5395-0700
E-mail: nyce@nyce.org.mx
URL: http://www.nyce.org.mx
Standards area: electronics, and rubber (tires)

INMC – Instituto Mexicano de Normalización y Certificación, A.C.
(Mexican Standards & Certification Institute)
Dra. Mercedes Irueste Alejandre
General Director
Manuel Ma. Contreras No. 133 Piso 6
Col. Cuauhtémoc
06500 México, D.F.
Tel. (011-52-55) 5535-5872 / 5566-4750
Fax (011-52-55) 5705-3686
E-mail: direccion@imnc.org.mx
E-mail: imnc@imnc.org.mx
URL. http://www.imnc.org.mx
Standards area: general and quality systems

NORMEX – Sociedad Mexicana de Normalización y Certificación, S.C.

(Mexican Standards & Certification Society)
Dr. Jaime Gonzalez Basurto
General Director
Cir. Geografor 20
Col. Sat. OTE
53101 Naucalpan de Juarez, Edo. de México
Tel. (011-52-55) 5390-4152 (12 Lines) Office 5374-1402
Fax (011-52-55) 5374-2037
E-mail: normex@normex.com.mx
URL: http://www.normex.com.mx
Standards area: foods, beverages, packaging, packages, and quality systems

ONNCCE – Organismo Nacional de Normalización y Certificación de la Construcción y Edificación, S.C.
(National Body for the Standardization and Certification of Constructions and Buildings)
Arq. Franco Mauricio Bucio Mujica
Technical Director
Constitución No. 50
Col. Escandón
11800 México, D.F.
Tel. (011-52-55) 5273-3399 / 1991
Fax. (011-52-55) 5273-3431
E-mail: onncce@mail.onncce.org.mx
URL. http://www.onncce.org.mx
Standards area: construction

Post Standards Contacts
U.S. Embassy - U.S. Commercial Service
Louis Santamaria
Commercial Officer / Standards Attaché for Mexico, Central America, Caribbean
Liverpool 31, Col. Juarez
06600 Mexico, D.F., Mexico
Tel: (011) 52-55 - 5140-2603 + Fax: (011) 52-55 - 5566-1115
E-mail: Louis.Santamaria@mail.doc.gov
URL: http://www.BuyUSA.gov/mexico + http://www.export.gov

U.S. Embassy - U.S. Commercial Service
Jesus S. Gonzalez
Commercial Specialist
Liverpool 31, Col. Juarez
06600 Mexico, D.F., Mexico
Tel: 52 (55) 5140-2627
Fax: 52 (55) 5535-1139

E-mail: Jesus.Gonzalez@mail.doc.gov
URL: http://www.BuyUSA.gov/mexico + http://www.export.gov

Trade Agreements
The most outstanding feature of the U.S.-Mexico bilateral relationship in the past decade has been the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which created a free trade zone for Mexico, the United States, and Canada. Since the enactment of NAFTA in January 1994, Mexico's imports from the United States have grown exponentially, totaling over $111 billion in 2004. The U.S. share of Mexico's trade has likewise increased with NAFTA, accounting for nearly 75 percent of Mexico's total trade. Mexico is now the second most important U.S. trading partner after Canada. U.S. exports to Mexico are greater than U.S. exports to the rest of Latin America combined. NAFTA continues to boost trade between the three member countries and improve Mexico's overall economic standing. Since the enactment of NAFTA in January 1994, Mexico's exports have increased by over 220 percent, breaking a new record for total exports each year, except 2001 (a recession year). During the same period, Mexico's imports have grown by nearly 165 percent. The U.S. share of Mexico's trade has likewise increased with NAFTA.

Mexico is the country with the largest network of free trade agreements (FTA's) in the world. Including the most recent trade agreement negotiated with Japan, Mexico has FTA's with 33 countries (officially), including the European Union, European Free Trade Area, Israel, and 10 countries in Latin America. The agreement with the European Union was modeled after NAFTA and provides EU goods with rough NAFTA parity from 2003 onwards. Mexico is holding free trade discussions with additional Latin American and trading partners including Brazil, Argentina, and Panama. The significance of this for U.S. exporters is that many of our strongest international trade competitors enjoy duty free access to the Mexican market equivalent to that provided by NAFTA – or if they do not today, they might in the near future. Mexico's membership in the WTO, the APEC, the OECD, the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) negotiations, and its pursuit of bilateral investment treaties give further testimony to Mexico's commitment to economic liberalization.

Web Resources
The following is key contact information for the most relevant organizations' websites in both the public and private sectors. For additional organizations, please contact CS Mexico.

Mexican Public Sector
SE-Secretaria de Economía (Ministry of Economy)

A. DGN-Dirección General de Normas
–Importation requirements by HTS codes: http://www.economia-snci.gob.mx

–Text of NOMs, list of test laboratories, certification bodies and verification units: http://www.economia.gob.mx
B. Undersecretariat of International Trade Negotiations
SAGARPA (Agriculture): http://www.sagarpa.gob.mx
SCT – Secretaria de Comunicaciones y Transportes: http://www.sct.gob.mx
–NOMs, regulations, and requirements for telecomm equipment: http://www.cofetel.gob.mx
SECTUR (Tourism): http://www.sectur.gob.mx
SEDESOL (Social Development): http://www.sedesol.gob.mx
SEMARNAT – Secretaria de Medio Ambiente, Recursos Naturales: http://www.semarnat.gob.mx
SENER (Energy) also SEDE: http://www.sener.gob.mx
SSA (Health)
–NOMs, regulations and more of the Ministry of Health: http://www.ssa.gob.mx
STPS (Labor): http://www.stps.gob.mx

Mexican Private Sector

ANCE – Asociación de Normalización y Certificación del Sector Electrico, A.C.
(National Association for the Standards & Certification of the Electrical Sector)
Standards area: electrical and gas: http://www.ance.org.mx
NYCE – Normalización y Certificación Electrónica, A.C.
(Electronic Standards & Certification)
Standards area: electronics, and rubber (tires): http://www.nyce.org.mx
INMC – Instituto Mexicano de Normalización y Certificación, A.C.
(Mexican Standards & Certification Institute)
Standards area: general and quality systems: http://www.imnc.org.mx
NORMEX – Sociedad Mexicana de Normalización y Certificación, S.C.
(Mexican Standards & Certification Society)
Standards area: foods, beverages, packaging, packages, and quality systems
http://www.normex.com.mx
ONNCCE – Organismo Nacional de Normalización y Certificación de la Construcción y Edificación, S.C.
(National Body for the Standardization and Certification of Constructions and Buildings)
Standards area: construction: http://www.onncce.org.mx
U.S. Standards Bodies with Representation in Mexico
ASTM—American Society for Testing and Materials: http://www.astm.org
Intertek Testing Services de Mexico, S.A. de C.V.: http://www.intertek.com
NEMA— Electrical Equipment Standards: http://www.nema.org
NFPA—National Fire Protection Association: http://www.nfpa.org
UL— Underwriters Laboratories Inc.: http://www.ul.com
Post Standards Contacts
U.S. Embassy - U.S. Commercial Service
http://www.BuyUSA.gov/mexico http://www.export.gov

-NICARAGUA-

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Overview
Nicaragua's standards system is not well developed due to lack of adequate laboratory equipment and funding. The Ministry of Development, Industry and Commerce (MIFIC) is responsible for the formulation and implementation of the requirements and standards that local and foreign companies must follow in order to sell their products in the local market. The National Standards and Quality Commission, composed of public and private sector members, is responsible for proposing and reviewing new standards and regulations.

Standards Organizations
Besides MIFIC, there are no organizations in Nicaragua that develop standards. For more information, visit
http://www.mific.gob.ni/dirTransparencia/tecNormalizacion/default.asp

NIST Notify US Service
Member countries of the World Trade Organization (WTO) are required under the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement) to report to the WTO all proposed technical regulations that could affect trade with other Member countries. Notify US is a free, web-based e-mail subscription service that offers an opportunity to review and comment on proposed foreign technical regulations that can affect your access to international markets. Register online at Internet URL: http://www.nist.gov/notifyus/

Conformity Assessment
Conformity assessment in Nicaragua is limited to export products such as coffee and peanuts.

Product Certification
The Ministry of Health (MINSA) is responsible for the registration and authorization of import permits for chemical products, cosmetics, drugs and other pharmaceutical products imported into Nicaragua. The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAGFOR) is responsible for the registration and authorization of

import permits for fertilizers, and food and agricultural products imported into the country. There are no private institutions that are authorized to grant certifications, although there are plans to accredit testing laboratories for dairy, water and microbiological parameters for consumption products.

Accreditation
The Ministry of Development, Industry and Commerce (MIFIC), through its Department of Standards and Technology, provides accreditation services to standards certifying organizations.

Publication of Technical Regulations
Official technical regulations are published by the Department of Standards and Technology of the Ministry of Development, Industry and Commerce (MIFIC). For information on standards and regulations, visit the MIFIC web site at http://www.mific.gob.ni/dirTransparencia/tecNormalizacion/catalogo.asp.

Labeling and Marking
Food and pharmaceutical labels must be in Spanish and must indicate product origin, contents, price, weight, production date and expiration date. Information on risk and proper use is also required.

Law 291 established a regulatory process for approving genetically modified organisms for import or sale under the responsibility of the interagency commission for risk evaluation (CONARGEN). Imported agricultural products derived from biotechnology are supposed to be identified as such, but there is no law in place governing the use of labels on biotechnology products. Currently there are three bills under review at the National Assembly, the first was introduced by the government, the second was drafted by an environmental organization and the third is a compromise draft. The compromise bill is expected to conform to treaty obligations. It proposes the establishment of procedures for risk analysis of agricultural biotechnology products, norms for their use, and regulations for their production and importation

Contacts
- Ministry of Industry, Development and Commerce: www.mific.gob.ni
- MIFIC Department of Standards and Technology: http://www.mific.gob.ni/dirTransparencia/tecNormalizacion/default.asp

Trade Agreements
Nicaragua, along with Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and the Dominican Republic, signed the Central America- Dominican Republic-United States Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR) in August 2004. The Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua and the United States have already ratified

the agreement.

Nicaragua has signed a bilateral free trade agreement with Mexico, and is a member of the Central American Common Market (CACM), along with Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. The CACM member nations collectively signed a free trade agreement with the Dominican Republic in 1998. Nicaragua is a beneficiary of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act and the Caribbean Basin Trade Preference Act.

Web Resources
Bureau of Industry and Security, US Department of Commerce: http://www.bxa.doc.gov/
NIST Notify US Service: http://www.nist.gov/notifyus/
Centro de Tramite de las Exportaciones (CETREX): http://www.cetrex.com.ni
Direccion General de Aduanas (DGA): http://www.dga.gob.ni
Department of Standards and Technology, Ministry of Industry, Development and Commerce: http://www.mific.gob.ni/dirTransparencia/tecNormalizacion/default.asp
Nicaraguan Ministry of Industry, Development and Commerce: http://www.mific.gob.ni
Nicaraguan Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry: http://www.magfor.gob.ni
Nicaraguan Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources: http://www.marena.gob.ni
Nicaraguan Ministry of Health: http://www.minsa.gob.ni

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Overview
As a WTO member, Panama implemented the WTO's Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) that includes the Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards. The Government of Panama (GOP) passed Law 23 of July 15, 1997, which established new dispositions on product standards, labeling and certification policy, and redefined the functions of the Directorate General of Standards and Industrial Technology (DGNTI) and the Panamanian Commission for Industrial and Technical Standards (COPANIT). Basically, DGNTI was given the main role in establishing

standards and technical regulations, while COPANIT was given an advisory role to DGNTI. The National Council for Accreditation (CNA) was charged with all national accreditations.

Panama has an open economy and there are no significant market access problems related to standards and technical regulations. Certain market access problems have occurred in the past with several agricultural products, but they have been mostly related to phytosanitary issues.

According to WTO guidelines, Panama informs WTO of any standards or technical regulations activities. U.S. companies can participate in the standards development process by contacting DGNTI and submitting specific requests or suggestions. There are no limitations to participation by foreign countries. Products for which Panama has not set standards/regulations can enter the Panamanian market provided that they comply with standards and technical regulations from the United States, Europe or any industrial country

Standards Organizations
The Directorate General of Standards and Industrial Technology (DGNTI) establishes technical regulations and standards in Panama. Because of budget and other limitations, this organization has been mostly dedicated to establishing standards for food products, upon specific requests by industrial organizations and according to WTO guidelines. DGNTI establishes a semiannual working plan showing all activities it will undertake for the following six months. DGNTI performs its functions through its three departments: Standards, Certifications and the Information Center.

Conformity Assessment
The General Directorate of Standards and Industrial Technology (DGNTI), as well as a number of public and private organizations, are responsible for conducting conformity assessments.

In Panama, several organizations conduct conformity assessments on a regular basis. These organizations include the Central Laboratory of Health from the Ministry of Health (MINSA), the University of Panama, the Technological University of Panama, the National Secretariat of Science and Technology (SENACYT), the Ministry of Agricultural Development (MIDA), the Free Competition and Consumer Affaires Commission (CLICAC) and the Agricultural Marketing Institute (IMA).

Panama does not have any Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) with U.S. organizations.

Product Certification
Once the conformity assessments have been conducted the DGNTI would issue a conformity assessment certificate. DGNTI is the only organization authorized to issue conformity assessments related to products. Other private organizations such as SGS and Bureau Veritas deal with conformity assessments on system or procedures and can issue certificates but only related to systems.

Accreditation
The National Council for Accreditation (CNA) created by Law 23, July 15, 1997, is the government authority in charge of all national accreditations. This Council is formed by a number of government organizations including the Ministries of Commerce, Health and Agricultural Development, and the National Secretariat of Science and Technology (SENACYT). The CNA works through a technical secretariat, which is the technical body of the Council. Accreditation is largely voluntary.

The technical secretariat appoints accreditation committees, which are groups formed by specialists from the public and private sectors. These committees provide basic input for CNA decisions.

Accreditation is obligatory for fuel laboratories and environmental testing laboratories. All other accreditations are voluntary.

Accreditation can be granted in three categories: Laboratories (calibration and testing), inspection organizations, and certifying organizations.

As of January 2005, there ware only four organizations that had been accredited by CNA, but there were several accreditation applications under review.

Publication of Technical Regulations
All final technical norms and regulations are published by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in the Official Gazette or “Gaceta Oficial”.

Law 23 requires that the Panamanian Commission for Industrial and Technical Standards (COPANIT) and the General Directorate of Standards and Industrial Technology (DGNTI) publish all agreements, technical regulations, norms and procedures.

Official Gazette or Gaceta Oficial
P.O. Box 2189
Panama 1, Rep. of Panama
Tel. (507) 227-9833
Fax. (507) 227-9830

The WTO TBT Inquiry Point and National Information Center is:
Comision Panameña de Normas Industriales y Tecnicas (COPANIT)
P.O. Box 9658
Panama 4, Rep. Of Panama
Tel. (507) 360-0716
Fax. (507) 360-0721
E-mail: dgnti@mici.gob.pa
http://www.mici.gob.pa

Labeling and Marking
Local regulations require labels to be in the Spanish language, although this is not enforced at present, except for medicines, agricultural chemicals, toxic products, and food products that require specific instructions or warnings due to human health risks. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry is currently reviewing a decree that would require all labels to be in Spanish. Labels are required to have basic information regarding the name and address of manufacturer, expiration date, list of ingredients, lot number, and the product from, e.g. powder, liquid, etc.

In general, products which comply with U.S. labeling and marking requirements are accepted for sale in Panama. Food products labeling and marking must comply with CODEX Alimentarius guidelines.

All goods arriving in Panama intended for reexportation immediately must be marked "PANAMA IN TRANSIT" on each box or outside container.

Trade Agreements
Panama currently has two bilateral free trade agreements (FTA) in force: one with El Salvador that entered into force on April 11, 2002, and the second with Taiwan that entered into force on January 1, 2004. For the past three years, Panama has shown a strong interest in a FTA with the United States. Following President Moscoso's visit to the U.S. in June 2003, the U.S. and Panama began negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement in April 2004. To date, there have been eight negotiating rounds. Negotiations are also currently underway for an FTA with Singapore. In the 1990s, Panama had negotiated a framework for free trade negotiations with all five countries of Central America, and is currently continuing free trade negotiations with the four remaining countries and Mexico, although many of these are on hold. The Torrijos Government is also looking to aggressively deepen its trade integration with Andean and Mercosur countries. Panama has bilateral preferential trade agreements with Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic. These accords are limited in scope. Panama also has limited preferential agreements with Mexico and Colombia. On November 5, 2004, Panama announced it would join the now G-4 (Group

of Four), formerly the G-3 consisting of Colombia, Venezuela, and Mexico. However, negotiations to formally join the G-4's commercial framework have not begun.
Panama is a beneficiary of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act, better known as the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI), which provides for one-way free trade access for specific Panamanian exports to the U.S. In 2000, the U.S. Government enacted new legislation enhancing the CBI program. The new CBI Law permits more liberal treatment of textile imports from CBI countries. Since Panama is not an important textile exporter, the new legislation has limited value for Panama.

Web Resources
Ministerio de Comercio e Industrias de Panama: Http://www.mici.gob.pa

U.S. exporters seeking general export information/assistance or country-specific commercial information should consult with their nearest **Export Assistance Center** or the **U.S. Department of Commerce's Trade Information Center** at **(800) USA-TRADE**, or go to the following website: http://www.export.gov.

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-PERU-

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Overview

INDECOPI (the National Institute for the defense of Competition and the Protection of Intellectual Propertywww.indecopi.gob.pe) is the Peruvian standards development organization, among its other responsibilities. Its Comission of Technical Regulations (CTR), created in 1992, looks after standards matters. The Commission has three functions:

a) Approve technical standards and metrology norms.
b) Qualify the public or private institutions that will provide conformity assessments.
c) Defend Free Trade under WTO-TBT commitments.

Standards Organizations

Following the list of the different committees and directories inside the CTR working with standards issues:

a) Committee for Testing Methodology
b) Committee for Water Meters Testing
c) Committee for Testing Laboratories
d) Committee for Product Certifying Organizations

e) Committee for Metrology Services
f) Committee for Quality Management Accreditation
g) Committee for International Standards Norms.

NIST Notify U.S. Service
Member countries of the World Trade Organization (WTO) are required under the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement) to report to the WTO all proposed technical regulations that could affect trade with other Member countries. **Notify U.S.** is a free, web-based e-mail subscription service that offers an opportunity to review and comment on proposed foreign technical regulations that can affect your access to international markets. Register online at Internet URL: http://www.nist.gov/notifyus/

Conformity Assessment
The following firms are certified by CTR to provide Conformity Assessment services:

a) INASA- Phone: (511) 578-2624, www.inassagroup.com.pe
b) SGS del Peru: (511) 575-2020, http://www.pe.sgs.com, marisol_rosemberg@sgs.com
c) BSI Inspectorate Peru: (511) 613-8080, echumpitazi@inspectorate.com.pe, rcayllahua@inspectorate.com.pe
d) EQUAS S.A.: (511) 548-0180, 348-1230, equas@infonegocio.net.pe
e) SG Nortek: (metrology services) (511) 572-2630, sgnortek@terra.com.pe

Product Certification
Products coming from the U.S. will not have problems if suppliers receive in advance all information regarding the products composition and components. The Peruvian standards body (CTR) works according to a regulatory framework similar to that of the U.S. It is common to have seminars sponsored by: ANSI, ASTM, NEMA and others to encourage greater conformity with global norms.

Accreditation
There are accreditation bodies for different industries. The laboratories that can provide assistance to U.S exporters are:

a) INTERTEK Testing Services Peru: (511) 562-0022, www.itscb.com
b) CESMEC Peru: (511) 452-1223, 464-0248, cesmec@cesmecperu.com
c) CIMM Peru: (511) 457-5284, 457-5321, cimmperu@millicom.com.pe
d) Instituto La Molina Calidad Total Labs: (511) 349-2192, http://www.lamolina.edu.pe/calidadtotal/, calitot@lamolina.edu.pe
e) EcoLab: (511) 337-5414, http://www.ecolab.com.pe, ecolab@terra.com.pe.

Publication of Technical Regulations
The office responsible for publishing and notifying private and public organizations is the National Information Service (SNI-CRT) under CTR. This office is also responsible for notifying the WTO-TBT Committee about changes related to standards issues in Peru. It is under that scheme that the U.S. and other countries may comment on modifications and propose new standards.

Labeling and Marking
In November 2004 Peru issued a new regulation to facilitate trade regarding labeling and marking referred to as (Ley del Rotulado) Law 28405. This new law establishes that products exported to Peru should have a label with the following information: name of product, country of origin, address of exporter or importer or distributor, expiration date, conservation method, weight in metric system and risks if any to use it. International quality marks should be visible and easy to identify.

Contacts
The contact information at INDECOPI and CTR in Lima is (511) 224-7800 ext.1261, fax (511) 224-7800 ext. 1296.
The points of contact at the U.S. Foreign Commercial Service in the Embassy Lima are:
Margaret Hanson-Muse, Commercial Counselor
Cesar Jochamowitz, Senior Commercial Advisor
Phone: (511) 618-2442, 434-3040, fax 434-3041.

Trade Agreements
Peru has been a member of the Andean Community (and its predecessor, the Andean Pact) since 1969. The Andean Community is comprised of Peru, Venezuela, Ecuador, Colombia, and Bolivia. In January 2002, the five member countries of the Andean Community agreed to establish an Andean free trade zone, a common external tariff (CET), and a customs harmonization policy by January 2004. The CET agreement established a unified tariff schedule that was to come into effect at the end of 2003. Peru and the other Andean Community members have agreed to postpone, once again, until January 1, 2006 the implementation of the CET. Peruvian trade officials concurred with industry representatives and economists who raised concerns that the implementation of the CET as initially agreed would lead to increased tariffs on several consumer products and lower Peru's competitiveness.

As part of the Andean Community, Peru has participated in lengthy negotiations to establish a free trade area with Mercosur (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay economic integration process). On April 16, 1998, the Andean Community signed a framework agreement with Mercosur as the first step toward building a South American free trade zone. The Andean Community committed to a goods-based free trade

agreement with Mercosur in October 2004. In August 2003, Peru negotiated a separate free trade agreement with Mercosur, which was signed in November 2005. The Agreement has yet to go into effect, as the GOP continues negotiations with the Mercosur countries on sensitive agricultural products.

Within the framework of the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI), Peru has signed bilateral trade agreements with Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Mexico, Paraguay, and Uruguay. Although tariff concessions under most of these agreements are relatively limited, Peru's 1998 agreement with Chile calls for the elimination of all trade barriers by the year 2016. In August 2005, Peru and Chile began negotiations to accelerate and broaden the reduction of tariffs, possibly leading to a FTA.

Peru is a member of the WTO and became a full member of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in November 1998. Peru signed a partial free trade agreement with Thailand, in November 2005. The two governments continue negotiations on sensitive agricultural products. The Peruvian Government also plans to begin FTA negotiations with Singapore and several other Asian countries as well as with the European Union after the conclusion of the U.S.-Peruvian FTA.

In 2002, the United States renewed and expanded preferential duty rates granted to Peru under the Andean Trade Preference Act (ATPA) of 1991. The expanded agreement, the Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act (ATPDEA), expires in December 2006 and allows unilateral duty free access to the U.S. market for 6,300 products (including many new items such as textiles, handicrafts and tuna). In December 2005, the United States and Peru finalized negotiations for a bilateral trade agreement. The agreement has yet to be approved and ratified by both the U.S. and Peruvian Congresses but is scheduled to go into effect on January 1, 2007, to prevent any lapse in preferential benefits. Peru is currently the 45th largest export market for U.S. goods, with U.S. exports exceeding $1.5 billion in 2004. U.S. foreign direct investment in Peru totaled nearly $3 billion in 2004. The Peruvian Trade Promotion Agreement extends the list of countries in the Americas with which the United States has completed such agreements and would complement the goal of completing Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) negotiations.

Before the U.S. Congress approves the agreement, Peru must continue to resolve several pending bilateral disputes. In September 2002, the Toledo Administration gave a written commitment to the U.S. Government in September 2002 to resolve ten bilateral investment disputes. Currently, four disputes remain unresolved, with one dispute in international arbitration.

Web Resources
DIGESA: http://www.digesa.sld.pe/
SENASA: http://www.senasa.gob.pe/

Superintendencia Nacional de Administracion Tributaria: http://www.sunat.gob.pe
Aduanas: http://www.sunat.gob.pe/aduanas/version_ingles/index.html
INDECOPI: http://www.indecopi.gob.pe
INASA: www.inassagroup.com.pe
SGS del Peru: http://www.pe.sgs.com
INTERTEK Testing Services Peru: http://www.itscb.com
Instituto La Molina Calidad Total Labs: http://www.lamolina.edu.pe/calidadtotal/
EcoLab: http://www.ecolab.com.pe

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Overview
The Trinidad & Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS) is responsible for all trade standards except those pertaining to food, drugs and cosmetics items, which the Chemistry, Food and Drug Division of the Ministry of Health monitors. The TTBS uses the ISO 9000 series of standards and is a member of ISONET. The government is not a party to the WTO Standards Code.

Use of either the metric or English system of weights and measures is allowed in Trinidad & Tobago. Products that meet U.S., U.K. or Canadian standards will be accepted by the TTBS.

Standards Organizations
The Trinidad & Tobago Bureau of Standards is the National Standards Body of Trinidad & Tobago. It was established in an Act of Parliament (No. 38 of 1972), and now operates under the Standards Act 18 of 1997, which mandates it to be the national standards body, the national quality certifying body, and the national laboratory accrediting body. The TTBS is a full member of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the Caribbean Common Market Standards Council (CCMSC), and the Pan American Standards Commission (COPANT).

The Bureau is managed by the Standards Council, which is appointed by the Minister of Trade and Industry. An Executive Director, Secretary (Administration), Head of Division, and Manager of Units control the day-to-day activities.

The Standardization Division develops national standards for use in Trinidad and Tobago. A standard goes through three stages in its development.

-*Technical Committee Stage*: where a draft document is developed by interested parties from various sectors of the society.

- *Public Comment Stage*: where availability of the draft is notified to the public and comments invited within a specified time.
- *Declaration Stage*: where comments are integrated into the final document that is then published as a declared national standard after approved by the Bureau.

The final standard may be declared voluntary or compulsory at the discretion of the Bureau based upon the recommendations of the technical committee responsible for the development of the standard. Compulsory standards are declared by the Minister responsible for trade and industry by Order published in the Gazette.

The Division also offers consultancy in the investigation and interpretation of specifications and in the preparation of industry and company standards.
The following are the main subject groups within the International Classification of Standards scheme (ICS).
- Agriculture
- Ceramics
- Chemical Technology
- Clothing Industry
- Company Organization and Management
- Construction Materials and Building
- Electrical Engineering
- Electronics
- Environment and Health Protection Safety
- Fluid Systems and Components for General Use
- Food Technology
- Housekeeping, Entertainment, Sports
- Generalities, Terminology, Documentation
- Information Technology, Office Equipment
- Manufacturing Engineering
- Materials Handling Equipment
- Mechanical Systems and Components for General Use
- Metallurgy
- Metrology and Measurement, Physical Phenomena
- Packaging and Distribution of Goods
- Paint and Color Industries
- Paper Technology
- Petroleum and Related Technologies
- Precision Mechanics, Jewelry
- Road Vehicle Engineering
- Rubber and Plastics Industries
- Telecommunications
- Testing
- Textile and Leather Technology

- Wood Technology

Conformity Assessment
Conformity Assessment is the act of determining whether the laws and standards outlined by the Bureau are conformed to. To accomplish this, the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards established an Inspection and Monitoring Unit.

TTBS has established an Implementation Division for monitoring both imported and locally manufactured products to meet the requirements of compulsory standards. A sample of a new product line is examined while for used products every single product is inspected.

The products presently inspected in Trinidad and Tobago are:
- Garment and Textiles
- Tires
- Electrical and electronic products
- Footwear
- Lead Acid Starter Batteries for Automobiles
- Bleach

The products are inspected at the three main ports of entry:
- Point Lisas
- Port of Spain
- Piarco Airport.

The Testing Division of the Bureau includes five laboratories, which are equipped to service both the private and public industrial and manufacturing sectors. Testing services are provided in the following categories:

Electrical Products
The Electrical Products Laboratory provides electronic and electrical performance testing and measurement services.

Chemical Products
The Chemical Products Laboratory provides analytical and testing services to the chemical sector and related industries.

Fiber Products
The Fiber Products Laboratory provides testing and analytical services to the garment, footwear, and related industries. More recently, paper products have been included in the list of items tested routinely.

Materials Testing

The Materials Testing Laboratory is equipped to perform mechanical tests on ferrous and non-ferrous metals, construction materials, ceramics and surface coatings.
Based on the Standards Act No.18 of 1997, the Trinidad & Tobago Bureau of Standards is the National Laboratory Accrediting organization. The Laboratory Quality Improvement Program (LABQUIP) will accredit the labs. Additionally, the Ministries of the government institute certain regulations.

Product Certification
The TTBS uses the ISO 9000 and ISO 14000 certification system. Also, the Trinidad & Tobago Tourism industry has its own set of certification rules.
T&T is a part of a mutual recognition agreement with the ISO's Laboratory Competency Program.

The Certification Division can certify a company's quality system to the ISO 9000 Quality Assurance Standards and/or its product to national standards. It can also grant exporters a certificate of conformity or export worthiness for a particular batch or product volume. Using highly trained auditors and documented procedures, it can determine and verify if systems or products conform to established criteria or specifications.
The Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards is the only indigenous CARICOM ISO 9000 third party registrar.

Accreditation
The Trinidad & Tobago Bureau of Standards is the only locally accredited body. However, the Bureau does not have jurisdiction over foreign accreditation bodies that visit Trinidad to certify laboratories. The United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) will accredit technical labs in Trinidad & Tobago and has this right without interference from the TTBS.

Publication of Technical Regulations
The technical regulations are a part of compulsory standards. There are 60 classifications for technical regulations, all of which are compulsory for technical regulations.

The TTBS informs the WTO of changes in the standards. The National Institute of Science and Technology (NIST), a non-regulatory agency within the U.S. Commerce Department's Technology Administration, is also informed of recent changes. TTBS is the inquiring point for agencies and organizations that need information about standards and regulations in Trinidad & Tobago.

Labeling and Marking
Most standards for labeling and marking are compulsory, while others are voluntary. Depending on the industry, such as toilet tissue, wood technology, and clothing, certain requirements are mandated.

Trade Agreements
U.S./Trinidad & Tobago Bilateral Investment Treaty
(Signed September 26, 1994; entered into force December 26, 1996)
U.S./Trinidad & Tobago Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Protection of Intellectual Property Rights (entered into force 1994)

Web Resources
T&T Bureau of Standards: http://www.ttbs.org.tt
U.S. Department of Commerce: http://www.bxa.doc.gov/reslinks.htm
U.S. Customs and Border Protection: http://www.cbp.gov
U.S. Department of Commerce Trade Compliance Center: http://www.tcc.mac.doc.gov

-URUGUAY-

Country Commercial Guide for U.S. Companies
Chapter 5: Trade Regulations and Standards

Standards
Trade Agreements
Web Resources

Standards
. Overview
. Standards Organizations
. Product Certification
. Publication of Technical Regulations
. Labeling and Marking

Overview

Uruguay uses the metric system of weights and measures. The Laboratorio Tecnologico del Uruguay (LATU – http://www.latu.org.uy) is the officially approved agency that controls standards and quality control of imports and exports. A national quality committee reviews and recommends issuance of ISO 9000/9001 certificates, if warranted. The Uruguayan Institute of Technical Norms (UNIT – http://www.unit.org.uy carries out certification and elaborates technical norms. It is the exclusive representative of ISO, IEC, and the World Quality Council (WQC) in Uruguay.

Standards Organizations
Laboratorio Tecnologico del Uruguay - LATU – http://www.latu.org.uy
Uruguayan Institute of Technical Norms (UNIT – http://www.unit.org.uy

Product Certification
UNIT and ASTM signed a Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) in November 2001. For more information check in
http://www.astm.org/cgibin/SoftCart.exe/SNEWS/JANUARY_2002/intl_jan02.html?L+mystore+gswn7960
check in MOUs.

UNIT (http://www.unit.org.uy) is the official Certification office for all industries with the exception of beef it is the National Institute of Beef (INAC http://www.inac.gub.uy).

Publication of Technical Regulations
Diario Official (national gazette) http://www.impo.com.uy/pagprincipal.htm
Proposed technical regulations and comments are submitted and published in http://www.ursec.gub.uy and http://www.ursea.gub.uy.

Labeling and Marking
Labeling and marking requirements for all imported products are controlled by LATU (Technical Laboratory), Ministry of Public Health, and municipal offices.

Trade Agreements
Uruguay is a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI, a Montevideo-based trade association that includes ten South American countries plus Mexico and Cuba). Uruguay holds numerous bilateral trade agreements with ALADI partners. In June 2004, the Uruguayan Government broadened the comprehensive trade agreement originally signed with Mexico in 1999. Uruguay is a founding member of MERCOSUR and Montevideo is the headquarters of its Secretariat. Trade relations with neighboring Argentina and Brazil are particularly important and Uruguay holds separate trade arrangements for certain products with Brazil and Argentina (PEC and CAUCE, respectively), which are renewed periodically.

Web Resources

Laboratorio Tecnologico del Uruguay - LATU – http://www.latu.org.uy
Uruguayan Institute of Technical Norms (UNIT – http://www.unit.org.uy
Diario Official (national gazette) http://www.impo.com.uy/pagprincipal.htm
Communication Regulatory Agency: http://www.ursec.gub.uy
Energy and Water Regulatory Agency: http://www.ursea.gub.uy

U.S. exporters seeking general export information/assistance or country-specific commercial information should consult with their nearest **Export Assistance Center** or the **U.S. Department of Commerce's Trade Information Center** at **(800) USA-TRADE**, or go to the following website: http://www.export.gov.

To the best of our knowledge, the information contained in this report is accurate as of the date published. However, **The Department of Commerce** does not take responsibility for actions readers may take based on the information contained herein. Readers should always conduct their own due diligence before entering into business ventures or other commercial arrangements. **The Department of Commerce** can assist companies in these endeavors.

-VENEZUELA-

Country Commercial Guide for U.S. Companies
Chapter 5: Trade Regulations and Standards

Standards
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Technical Regulations
Labeling and Marketing
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Special Import Privileges
Membership in Free Trade Agreements

Overview: Venezuela's standards regime has undergone several organizational and legal changes over the last few years. It now consists of two organizations. One is a private non-profit foundation, FONDONORMA, and the other is part of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. While there is some overlap between the two organizations, in practice, the system appears to work well and to the general satisfaction of the private sector. Certifications, conformity certificates, testing, adherence to international practices and norms are now common. The use of foreign standards iis now possible and accepted for imported products.

Standards: The Venezuelan Commission for Industrial Standards, known for many years as COVENIN, no longer exists. However, Venezuelan standards developed by FONDONORMA still are called COVENIN norms. COVENIN has been replaced by the "Fondo para la Normalizacion y Certificacion de Calidad" (FONDONORMA). This organization, a non-profit foundation, is owned by the private sector through trade and industry associations, large private companies and individuals. It also has a few government organizations, mainly ministries, among its council members. The president is elected by the council members. Internationally, FONDONORMA is a member of he International Organization of Standardization (ISO) and awards ISO certificates to local companies. It is also a member of the Pan-American Standards Commission (COPANT) and of the International Certification Network (I Q Net). FONDONORMA does not receive budgetary support from the government, but instead derives its income from issuing quality certificates and testing certificates. Other sources of income include guidance and support to the private sector in adopting and applying standards, certificates for customs indicating that a foreign standard is an acceptable replacement for a COVENIN standard, accreditation of testing laboratories, seminars and other activities promoting the acceptance of standards by trade and industry.

FONDONORMA, through individual industry committees, develops new standards as the need is perceived. Its primary objective is quality assurance of both locally made and imported products. The committees attempt to avoid obstacles to trade, both for local and for imported products, and there does not seem to be a tendency favoring protectionism. In addition to the ISO certification and the development of COVENIN standards, FONDONORMA also issues a NORVEN seal of quality to local manufacturers for specific products and for services. This seal is widely sought after by domestic companies and is used for their promotions. FONDONORMA does not have an annual plan for developing and issuing new standards but appears instead to be responsive to perceived needs or to pressures by government agencies or ministries. With FONDONORMA's being a private sector organization and a support body to both government and to the private sector, a new law was passed in 2002 creating the "Venezuelan System for Quality." A new agency, the National Autonomous Service for Standardization, Quality, Metrology and Technical Regulations" (SENCAMER), was established to administer standards and quality control. SENCAMER is part of the ministry of Production and Industry and is headed by a Director General. Being a part of the Federal Government, decisions and regulations issued by SENCAMER have the full backing of the Venezuelan government. While FONDONORMA develops standards, they are issued and published by SENCAMER and are called COVENIN standards. The standards issued are normally obligatory. SENCAMER is responsible for assuring compliance. The agency also accredits testing laboratories, accredits training institutions, supervises fire prevention and fire fighting bodies, supervises elevator maintenance and inspections, develops technical regulations, supervises vehicle technical and safety standards and can intervene in services for the protection of the environment. SENCAMER also owns and operates Venezuela's metrology laboratory in charge of certifying equipment and activities used for the measuring of masses, weights, dimensions, temperatures, pressure, torsion forces, electricity and physical-chemical apparatus. Their new laboratory, which not only contains all basic standards for comparison and calibration but all needed instrumentation, is located in the city of Maracay. The lab was developed by, and has received financial assistance from, a German institute. The metrology laboratory is used widely by industry to re-certify weights and measures. One example of this is all of the scales used in supermarkets, which must be re-certified periodically and are issued a sticker showing the date of the last verification.

Conformity Assessment: It is mainly FONDONORMA which issues conformity assessments for quality assurance and adherence to existing standards from ISO and SENCAMER. It also issues conformity assessments, if required, for local products being exported to verify their adherence to foreign standards or the IQNet 9004. Thus, while not having its own laboratories, FONDONORMA is the channel for obtaining conformity testing certificates. SENCAMER issues the same type of conformity statement, using often its own Metrology lab or other private and government testing laboratories, such as the National Hygiene Institute for pharmaceuticals, the well-equipped laboratories

operated by the Engineering Foundation (Fundacion Institute de Ingenieria) or any accredited private testing organization.

Product Certification: Normally, there are no overall requirements for product certification in Venezuela, although such a requirement might be imposed as part of an authorization for sale by a specific ministry as part of its product registration requirements. Prime examples include pharmaceuticals or cosmetics, where the applicant is required to submit samples for laboratory testing and certification to their non-harmful effect. The ISO, NORVEN or IQNet certification normally is accepted as proof that the product or service is in adherence to existing norms or standards. As far as we have been able to ascertain, there are no mutual recognition agreements with any U.S. organizations. Accreditation: All testing laboratories to be used for official product testing must be accredited by FONDONORMA or SENCAMER

Technical Regulations: Venezuela's national gazette is called "Gaceta Oficial". It is published by the government printing office daily except weekends and holidays. It publishes new laws, resolutions, decrees, government appointees, and other data but not what we would call "notices of proposed rulemaking" or new regulations. Comments are not invited. However, newspapers sometimes report when a government agency prepares a new regulation, and the new regulation may also be published by a newspaper. To determine the full contents of a new regulation, it must be obtained directly from the government agency that created it. News reports may differ widely from the real regulation or may only be simply extracts. U.S. users potentially affected by a new regulation have no opportunity to make comments verbally or in writing. Written requests are seldom answered. New regulations always are created with a "take it or leave it" philosophy. Changes rarely are made and only if the press reports widespread dissatisfaction. The same holds true for new standards themselves and these are only available by request from either FONDONORMA or SENCAMER.

Labeling/Marking: Labeling or markings of products are ordered by resolutions issued by the responsible ministry and not by the standard making body. The regulations vary according to the product, such as pharmaceuticals, textiles, household chemicals. The normal and basic rule is: all labels must be in the Spanish language and all measurements must be in the metric system. For products which require registration and authorization for sale to the public, the normal requirement include a list of contents (not necessarily an analysis with percentages except for pharmaceuticals), the name of the manufacturer, importer or distributor, the name of a sponsoring and responsible pharmacist in the case of drugs, warnings if applicable and any other data required as part of the product's registration requirements. While foreign language labels are allowed, a separate glued-on or self-adhesive label can affix the Spanish text. Clothing labels also must show the type of material used, washing instructions with internationally used icons being acceptable.

Contact Information:
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Caracas, Venezuela
Phone: (58-212) 575-4111
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web page: www.fondonorma.org.ve
Contact: Lic. Yadira Guevara, Gerente de Certificacion de Productos
Lic. Norma Arias, Directora General

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web page: www.sencamer.gov.ve
Contact: Lic. Marla Milagros Toro, Directora General
All correspondence must be in the Spanish language. Venezuelan government Agencies by law are prohibited from corresponding in a foreign language.
The Commercial Service in Caracas carefully monitors technical standards developments that might have an impact on U.S. commercial interests. For more information on technical standards, you can contact either the Commercial Attache, Michael Carroll, at michael.carroll@mail.doc.gov, or the Senior Advisor to the Commercial Counselor, Hans Mueller, at hans.mueller@mail.doc.gov.

Free Trade Zones / Warehouses
Venezuela has four free trade zones. The Paraguana Peninsula Free Trade Zone is for industrial purposes only, is very small, and is being used by only a few enterprises. Another is the duty-free area comprised of the entire island of Margarita. The sale of duty-free merchandise from the island to the mainland is subject to quotas. In December of 1998 Merida was declared a free trade zone to the producers of goods and services within the cultural, scientific and technological areas. The most recent addition to the list is Santa Elena de Uairen in the State of Bolivar, which became a free trade zone in May of 1999.

Duty-free bonded warehouses are available at ports, airports and in most major towns. Industrial establishments can also be declared in-bond if these are used for assembly, completion or improvement of products for re-export.

Special Import Provisions
There are no special requirements except those discussed above. It should be noted that freight handling in ports and airports is somewhat rudimentary and that damage might occur unless the products are well packed. Containers are handled efficiently, but will not pass customs as such unless their contents fall under one single tariff classification number. If they contain consolidated mixed cargo, customs will separate their contents to check each single item. In order to alleviate congestion at ports and airports, Customs will authorize this procedure to take place in a bonded warehouse or under special arrangements at extra cost at the recipient's warehouse. The containers must be sealed during the transfer.

Courier services such as UPS, Federal Express and DHL should not be used to transport merchandise if packages exceed two kilograms in weight. In those cases, the shipments are treated as airfreight and could be subject to delays in customs. These facilities should be used primarily for the shipment of documents. Likewise, parcel post shipment using the mail should be avoided. Venezuelan mail is very unreliable. If such a parcel arrives, customs will send a notification by mail to the recipient, who then has to reply by mail that he is willing to accept the package. The recipient then has to go, in person, to the central post office, where in the presence of a customs official the package is opened. This entire procedure can take several weeks or even months. In short, the speediest procedure is airfreight, or in the case of very heavy shipments, sea freight.

Membership in Free Trade Agreements
Venezuela is a member of the Andean Pact with Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia and Peru, and as such is a member of the group's free trade zone. The Pact negotiated a common external tariff (CET) which entered into effect in February of 1995, for Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador.
Bilateral commerce with Colombia has increased substantially as a result of Venezuela's free trade arrangement with its neighbor. A recent change in the trade policy with Columbia, which went into effect in July of 1999, has resulted in the requirement that all goods in transit to Venezuela be transferred to local transportation companies. Venezuela is also expanding its relations with Mexico and Colombia through the Group of Three Free Trade Agreement, which became effective January 1, 1995. Venezuela has partial free trade agreements with Chile, countries of Central America and CARICOM.

Together with other Andean pact members, Venezuela is involved in the Free Trade Area of the Americas negotiations as well as other regional talks.