

STANDARDS IN CHILE

Overview

Chile is both a standards maker and a standards taker. The country has in recent days been making a concerted effort to develop standards 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) is the institution that oversees, fosters and develops the use of standards 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 Underwriters Laboratories (UL) to issue product certification.

Setting certain high profile standards or technical regulations are handled directly by Chile's central government. Such is 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 Free Trade Agreement (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 parties shall seek 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 than 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. They face a challenge when standards adopted by their key trading partners, such as the U.S. and the E.U., differ as when ISO and ASTM issue distinct standards. Another initiative on Chile's standards policy agenda is their effort to improve the Quality Management Systems (QMS) used by their small and medium size enterprises.

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 with 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 and Accreditation

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

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

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. The public comment procedure of the regulations under discussion is straightforward and is done via Internet. (<https://www.inn.cl/pags/normalizacion/index.html>) It is open to all parties interested in a particular norm.

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. The procedures are outlined at <http://www.inn.cl/pags/normalizacion/index.html> under the heading, ESTUDIO DE NORMAS TECNICAS.

Labeling/Marking Requirements

Chile does not have any general regulation for labeling. Labeling requirements are product specific. There are 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.

Contact Information

Standards Liaison of the U.S. Commercial Service (U.S. Embassy) Santiago: Marcelo Orellana, Commercial Specialist. Phone: +56-2-330-3455; Fax: +56-2-330-3172; E-Mail: marcelo.orellana@mail.doc.gov; www.buyusa.gov/chile/en.

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

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.

Additional contact information for Chile's National TBT Commission Information Center is as follows:

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4/13/2004					
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Presidente Comisión Nacional sobre Obstáculos Técnicos
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