



# Standards View

*Monthly Electronic Newsletter of the U.S. Commercial Service at Mexico City*



## Standards Attaché Message

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the December issue of our Standards View newsletter. We apologize for the publication delay, caused by the holidays and an extremely busy schedule of events being experienced by the Commercial Service in Mexico. This issue features the country Costa Rica. We have endeavored to provide the most current information on the standards regime of this Central American country. If, however, you find any information lacking or in error, please let us know and we will correct it forthwith. Meanwhile, we hope you enjoy the contents of this newsletter. Please be looking for the January issue, which will follow closely on the heels of this one, and will focus on El Salvador. We wish you a prosperous and healthy 2008.

*Dale Wright*  
Standards Attaché  
Mexico, Canada, Central America and The Caribbean

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## Costa Rica



## ***Standards-Related Organizations in Costa Rica***

Source:

U.S. Commercial Service – Market Research Library

***Doing Business in Costa Rica: A Country Commercial Guide for U.S. Companies. 2007 (p. 5,6, 58-65)***

[http://www.buyusainfo.net/docs/x\\_3932272.pdf](http://www.buyusainfo.net/docs/x_3932272.pdf)

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.

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 to labeling and usage instructions.

Beside MEIC, there are no organizations in Costa Rican that develop standards.

### ***Standards Certification Services***

The Instituto de Normas Técnicas (INTECO) is the only entity accredited in Costa Rica at the moment that provides standards certification services to local companies.

### ***Product Certification***

The Costa Rica Ministry of Health is responsible for the registration and authorization of import permits for food products, chemical products, cosmetics, and drugs and other pharmaceutical product 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.

### ***Accreditation***

The Costa Rican Ministry of Science and Technology (MICIT) is the Government agency that provides accreditation services through ECA (Ente Costarricense de Acreditación), the only standards certifying organization in Costa Rica.

### ***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.

La Gaceta may be accessed online at: [www.imprenal.go.cr](http://www.imprenal.go.cr)

### ***Standards, Testing, Labeling and Certification***

Sanitary and phytosanitary requirements and approval processes in Costa Rica can often be cumbersome and lengthy. In addition, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) enforces sanitary/phytosanitary (SPS) measures that are inconsistent with international standards and are not otherwise based on science.

Currently, all food, pharmaceuticals, agricultural goods, chemical and cosmetics for human and animal consumption, locally produced or imported, must be tested and registered by the Ministry of Health before they are allowed to be sold.

In addition, a complete list of accredited labs in Costa Rica is available in the U.S. Commercial Service 2007 Country Commercial Guide (p. 59):

[http://www.buyusainfo.net/docs/x\\_3932272.pdf](http://www.buyusainfo.net/docs/x_3932272.pdf)

<b>Entities for</b>	<b>Hyperlink</b>	<b>Name and Website</b>	<b>Description</b>
Standards		Ministerio de Economía, Industria y Comercio – MEIC  <a href="http://www.meic.go.cr/">http://www.meic.go.cr/</a>	The Ministry of Economy, Industry and Commerce is responsible for the formulation and implementation of the requirements and standards that national and foreign companies must follow, in order to sell their products in the local market.  The Technical Regulation Section of the MEIC has created a site to provide updated information on national and international norms, in order to guarantee the transparency and juridical security of the international trade transactions. For more information, please visit: <a href="http://www.reglatec.go.cr/">http://www.reglatec.go.cr/</a>
Certification Services		Instituto de Normas Técnicas – INTECO  <a href="http://www.inteco.or.cr/esp/index.html">http://www.inteco.or.cr/esp/index.html</a>	The Instituto de Normas Técnicas de Costa Rica (INTECO) is a private association created in 1987 and recognized in 1995 by executive decree as the National Standardization Entity. Its mission is to contribute to the country by developing activities of standardization, certification, training and information, assuring and improving the quality and productivity of organizations, their products and services, and protecting the environment to improve the well-being of the society.



Entities for	Hyperlink	Name and Website	Description
Product Certification		Ministerio de Salud Costa Rica  <a href="http://www.ministeriodesalud.go.cr/index1.htm">http://www.ministeriodesalud.go.cr/index1.htm</a>	The Costa Rica Ministry of Health guarantees the protection and improvement of the society's health through the institutional exercise and leadership with focus on health promotion and social participation, under the principles of transparency, equality, solidarity and universality.
Product Certification		Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería – MAG  <a href="http://www.mag.go.cr/">http://www.mag.go.cr/</a>	The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) enforces sanitary/phytosanitary (SPS) measures that are inconsistent with international standards and are not otherwise based on science.
Accreditation		Ministerio de Economía, Industria y Comercio – MEIC  <a href="http://www.micit.go.cr/">http://www.micit.go.cr/</a>	The Ministry of Science and Technology was established in 1986. Currently, the Ministry focuses on activating the development of information technologies and telecommunications to contribute to the society's transformation and the country's economic development.
Accreditation		Ente Costarricense de Acreditación – ECA  <a href="http://www.eca.or.cr/">http://www.eca.or.cr/</a>	The Costa Rican Ministry of Science and Technology (MICIT) provides accreditation services thru ECA, the Standards Certifying Organization in Costa Rica.



## *Regional Highlights*



### ***Notify U.S***

**NATIONAL CENTER FOR STANDARDS AND CERTIFICATION  
INFORMATION**

<http://tsapps.nist.gov/notifyus/data/index/index.cfm>

Notifications from November 26 to December 21, 2007

1) ***Honduras - Regulation on Seeds, prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.***

Notification Number: HND/49

12/21/2007

It was created with the purpose of regulating official and private research into the improvement of existing plant varieties and the development of new, improved varieties of direct or indirect use to mankind; regulating the production and processing of certified and verified seeds; regulating the certification, distribution and sale of seeds; monitoring compliance with the technical and administrative provisions referred to in the Regulation guaranteeing the availability of seeds with high genetic, physiological, physical and phytosanitary quality; preventing the introduction and spread of weeds, other pests and non-registered plant varieties; and ensuring that the certification and control of seed production is carried out in a transparent manner and on the basis of technical and scientific arguments.

2) ***Honduras – Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Regulation Governing the Inspection and Safety of Product and By-products of Plant Origin.***

Notification Number: HND/51

12/21/2007

The primary purpose of the notified Regulation is to protect health by minimizing the risk of food-borne diseases to consumers of unsanitary, noxious, improperly labeled or adulterated food. It also seeks to contribute to economic development by maintaining consumer confidence in the food system and establishing a solid regulatory framework for domestic and international trade in food by means of mechanisms to ensure implementation and enforcement of the law in all aspects pertaining to sanitary-hygienic inspection procedures in the growing areas, means of transport and marketing establishments for products and by-products of plant origin for domestic consumption, import and export.

3) ***Honduras – Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Regulation on Organic Agriculture.***

Notification Number: HND/52

12/21/2007



It was created with the purpose of regulating the production, processing, import, export and marketing of organic agriculture produce and laying down the procedures, steps, and rules for the different stages of the processes related to and the certification of such products; establishing mechanisms to protect consumers against deception and fraud in the marketplace and unsubstantiated product claims; establishing mechanisms to protect producers of organic produce against misrepresentation of other non-controlled agricultural produce as being organic; and ensuring that all stages of production, processing, preparation, storage, transport, import, export and marketing are subject to inspection and comply with these guidelines.

4) ***Honduras – Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Regulation Governing Living Modified Organisms for Agricultural Use***

Notification Number: HND/48

12/21/2007

The notified text seeks to regulate the confined use, contained use, release into the environment, marketing, multiplication, reproduction, transportation, import, export and transit of, and research into, living modified organisms for agricultural use, generated using modern biotechnology techniques, with a view to preventing and minimizing the possible risks of such activities to the environment, agriculture and human health.

5) ***Honduras – Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Regulation Governing the Registration and Control of Veterinary Products.***

Notification Number: HND/50

12/21/2007

It was created with the purpose of regulating the procedures governing the registration, import, formulation, manufacture, repacking, repackaging, transport, storage, sale, proper use and handling, and export of veterinary products, biologics, pesticides for animal use, biotech products and related substances, as well as establishments engaged in importing, producing, distributing, selling and/or exporting such products.

6) ***Honduras – Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Regulation Governing the Registration, Use and Control of Fertilizers and Raw Materials.***

Notification Number: HND/53 HND/54

12/21/2007

The notified Regulation seeks to establish technical, administrative and legal provisions within the framework of the *Ley Fitozoosanitaria* (Plant Animal Health Law) with regard to the registration, import, manufacture, formulation, repacking, repackaging, transport, storage, sale, use, handling and export of fertilizers and agricultural raw materials.

7) ***Mexico – Draft Mexican Official Standards PROY-NOM-148-SCFI-2007 Commercial Practices – Marketing of pets or service animals and supply of services for their care and training.***

Notification Number: MEX/130

12/14/2007

The purpose of this draft is to establish the minimum elements and requirements for commercial information, and the minimum content of standard form contracts, if used, and

guarantees, if offered, to which the suppliers indicated in section 1.2 must conform, in order that the consumers may obtain clear and adequate information so as to take the decision most appropriate to their needs. This Mexican Official Standard is generally applicable throughout the national territory and is binding on the suppliers involved in the marketing of pets or service animals and/or the supply of services for their care and/or training. It is not applicable to the provision of professional services of veterinary medicine.

**8) Mexico – Conformity Assessment Procedure in respect of Mexican Official Standards NOM-026-STPS-1998, Signs and Colours for Safety and Health, and Identification Risk of Accidents by Fluids Conducted in Pipes.**

Notification Number: MEX/131

12/14/2007

The purpose of this conformity assessment procedure is to define the verification criteria relating to signs and colours for safety and health and identification of risk of accidents by fluids conducted in pipes, with a view to their uniform application by those involved in the verification process.

**9) Mexico – Conformity Assessment Procedure in respect of Mexican Official Standard NOM-010-ENER-2004, Energy Efficiency of Submersible Deep Well Motor Pumps, Testing Limits and Methods.**

Identification Number: MEX/132

12/14/2007

The purpose of this conformity assessment procedure is to facilitate the application of Mexican Official Standard NOM-010-ENER-2004, Energy Efficiency of Submersible Deep Well Motor Pumps. Testing limits and methods, by providing guidance for certification bodies, testing laboratories, manufacturers, importers and traders.

**10) Costa Rica – Addendum**

Identification Number: CRI/69/CRI (CRI/69)

12/10/2007

Notification published by the Government of Costa Rica on October 17, 2007 titled: “Rice in the Husk. Specifications and Analysis Methods for Marketing and Processing” has been extended for comments until 17 January 2008 at the request of the Government of the United States of America.

**11) Costa Rica – Addendum**

Identification Number: CRI/70/CRI (CRI/70)

12/10/2007

Notification published by the Government of Costa Rica on October 17, 2007 titled: “General Standard for Cheese” has been extended for comments until 17 January 2008 at the request of the Government of the United States of America.

**12) Canada – Radiocommunication Act – Notice No. SMSE-011-07 – New Issue of Radio Standards Specification 142 (RSS-142)**

Identification Number: CAN/222

12/7/2007

Notification on the amendment made by Industry Canada on the Radio Standards Specification 142 (RSS-142), which sets out certification requirements for Narrowband Multipoint Communication Systems (MCS), including utility telemetry systems in the bands 1 429.5-1 430.5 MHz and 1 493.5-1 496.5 MHz. This new issue is:

Radio Standards Specification 142, Issue 3: Narrowband Multipoint Communication Systems in the Bands 1 429.5-1 430.5 MHz and 1 493.5-1 496.5 MHz.

RSS-142 was updated to reflect new changes in equipment and certification requirements.

**13) *Draft Mexican Official Standards PROY-NOM-005-SCT/2006: Emergency Information on the Transport of Hazardous Substances, Materials and Wastes.***

Identification Number: MEX/129

11/26/2007

The purpose of this draft is to establish the data and specifications to be included in the Emergency Information on the Transport of Hazardous Substances, Materials and Wastes, indicating the action to be taken in the case of incidents or accidents (leaks, spillage, explosions, fires, exposure, etc.) and which all transport units must carry during the transport of hazardous substances, materials and wastes in a bag or folder in an accessible place in the unit, separate from the load. This Mexican Official Standards is mandatory for shippers, transporters and consignees of hazardous substances, materials and wastes transported via the main land, sea and air communication routes.

**14) *El Salvador – Salvadoran Mandatory Standard (NSO): 29.47.01:07 Energy efficiency and safety of integrated compact fluorescent lamps, energy performance and labeling requirements.***

Identification Number: SLV/112

11/26/2007

This standard covers the following: purpose, scope of application, definitions, symbols and abbreviations, classification, specifications, sampling, test methods, criteria for approval, labeling, monitoring and inspection, reference documents and annexes.

**15) *El Salvador – Energy Efficiency of Three-Phase Squirrel-Cage AC Induction Motors with a Rated Output of 0.746 to 373 kW. Limits, Test Methods and Labelling.***

Identification Number: SLV/113

11/26/2007

This standard covers the following: purpose, scope of application, definitions, symbols and abbreviations, classification, specifications, sampling, test methods, criteria for approval, labeling, monitoring and inspection, reference documents and annexes.

For further details on the mentioned notifications and to download the documents, please visit Notify U.S.

<http://www.nist.gov/notifyus>



## *Standards Reports – Mexico*

1) U.S. Commercial Service – Market Research Library

*Mexico: NOMs and NMXs issued by the Mexican Government, during the period November 1 to 31, 2007*

Author: Jesús González

### *Standards Highlights - Mexico*

1) DGN – Dirección General de Normas – Secretaría de Economía (General Bureau of Standards– Ministry of Economy).



The General Bureau of Standards of the Ministry of Economy as part of the Project to facilitate the Free Trade Agreement between Mexico and the European Union (PROTLCUEM), introduces the presentation of Technical Regulations PROTLCUEM, as discussed in the Forum.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.economia.gob.mx/?P=154>

2) EMA – Entidad Mexicana de Acreditación A.C. (Mexican Accreditation Entity).



### *International Information*

EMA publishes in its website information on all the standards treaties and agreements it has with other countries or regions, for instance, the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation, the Interamerican Accreditation Cooperation, and the International Accreditation Forum, to mention a few.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.ema.org.mx/index1024.htm>

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



### ***I.T. Standards***

Gaceta 5 NYCE (p. 5)  
November, 2007

In Mexico, the standardization body covering electronics, information technology and telecommunications is NYCE.

For the last 12 years, NYCE has generated numerous standards for the Mexican industry.

As there is a great opportunity in the country for the development of the software industry; NYCE has as a goal the generation of 38 standards to support the development of this sector.

NYCE's performance is based on the conception and harmonization of I.T. standards in security, metrics, services, and processes, among others. Its participation is fundamental towards the generation of trust among individuals and institutions in society.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.nyce.org.mx/doc/gaceta5.pdf>

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



### ***Experience makes the difference – 2008 goals***

The experience gained in certification activities throughout the years has allowed NYCE to create solutions that have benefited 150, 000 clients.

Starting in 2008, the area of Electronic Products and Measurement Instruments Certification offers innovations such as:

- Automatic rectification.
- New and simple formats for service request.
- Follow up visits without document verification.
- Immediate and personalized attention.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.nyce.org.mx/>

5) ONNCCE – Organismo Nacional de Normalización y Certificación de la Construcción y Edificación S.C. en México (National Organization for Standardization of Building and Construction Industries).



### ***Standards Validity***

On December 14, 2007 it was published in the Diario Oficial de la Federación (Official Gazette) the validity of the following Mexican Standards (NMXs):

NMX-C-451-ONNCCE-2007,  
NMX-C-452-ONNCCE-2007,  
NMX-C-453-ONNCCE-2007,  
NMX-C-454-ONNCCE-2007,  
NMX-C-455-ONNCCE-2007,  
NMX-C-456-ONNCCE-2007  
NMX-C-457-ONNCCE-2007.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.onncce.org.mx/>

### ***Standards News – Mexico***

1) COFETEL – Comisión Federal de Telecomunicaciones (Federal Telecommunications Commission).



***International Commitment with the demand of the spectrum.***

***It's necessary to empower Cofetel***

***Hector Osuna meets with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)***

Gaceta Cofetel No. 30  
September-October, 2007

The General Secretariat of the International Telecommunication Union, Hamadoun Touré, emphasized the importance of empowering Cofetel. During the inauguration of the World Radiocommunication Conference of the ITU in Geneva, Switzerland, the officer of ITU met with the president of Cofetel, Héctor Osuna Jaime. The committee of the ITU accepted by unanimity to designate Mexico as host of the 2010 Conference, to be celebrated in the port of Veracruz.

Osuna Jaime appreciated the distinction by acknowledging the leadership of Mexico in Latin America.

Osuna and Touré discussed topics such as the telecommunications services convergence, next generation networks, cybersecurity and communications in case of emergency.

2) COFEMER – Comisión Federal de Mejora Regulatoria (Federal Bureau of Regulatory Improvement).



***Announcement of Biennial Programs of Regulatory Improvement 2007-2009***

In a COFEMER Committee meeting, led by the Secretary of the Ministry Economy, Eduardo Sojo, the launching of Biennial Programs of Regulatory Improvement 2007-2009 were announced. These programs will be fundamental instruments of planning and transparency that will allow interested sectors to learn in advance and give their opinion on Federal Government regulatory actions.

For more information, please visit:

[http://www.cofemer.gob.mx/historial.asp?tipo\\_nav\\_bar=1&contenido=2&menu\\_id=9&content\\_id=99&noticia\\_id=21](http://www.cofemer.gob.mx/historial.asp?tipo_nav_bar=1&contenido=2&menu_id=9&content_id=99&noticia_id=21)

A large, faded watermark of the U.S. Commercial Service logo is visible in the background. It includes the text 'U.S. COMMERCIAL SERVICE' in a large, serif font, followed by 'United States of America' and 'Department of Commerce' in a smaller, italicized serif font. The background also features a stylized American flag with stars and stripes.

*U.S.  
COMMERCIAL  
SERVICE  
United States of America  
Department of Commerce*

For information about the U.S. Commercial Service in Mexico City, please visit our website or contact us today:

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