



Standards View

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



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Standards Attaché Message

Dear Readers,

Honduras is a beautiful, up-and-coming country in Central America that is making great strides in developing their system of standards. Recently, I participated in a standards seminar organized by the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) and COHCIT, the Honduran standards body. These seminars were held in both San Pedro Sula and Tegucigalpa, and attracted full houses at both venues. NEMA is hoping to return to this promising market in the near future. Thanks to a Department of Commerce grant, they are also planning to offer these seminars in other Latin American countries.

Consequently, the February issue of the Standards View is chock full of information about Honduras, as well as standards news from around the region. Our March issue will be replete with information about Guatemala.

We hope you enjoy this issue, which will be followed immediately by the March and April issues. We apologize for falling behind in issuing this newsletter, due primarily to the busy schedule we have experienced here at CS Mexico this spring. We intend to get caught up shortly. As always, any comments/advice/contributions are welcome.

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

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Honduras



Standards-Related Organizations in Honduras

Source:

U.S. Commercial Service – Market Research Library

Doing Business in El Salvador: A Country Commercial Guide for U.S. Companies. 2006 (Ch. 5 p. 51-56)

http://www.buyusainfo.net/docs/x_8103246.pdf

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 ministries of Agriculture, Natural Resources & 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 the responsibility of the National Science and Technology Council (COHCIT), and 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 these bodies are to:

- a) Formulate and coordinate the execution of standardization and quality control programs according to country needs.
- b) Promulgate and supervise technical regulations.
- 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 standardization projects.
- e) Formulate new laws considered necessary to improve the quality of goods and services offered in the country.

In general, standards issues and related technical regulations do not pose a major hurdle for U.S. exporters. At present, work is being done to define the limits of the procedures described in Executive Decree 130-2005, with regard to both voluntary and mandatory compliance terms, in order to facilitate rational development of the national standardization program. Honduras currently has only nine 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 has been 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 accredited 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.

Hyperlink	Name and Website	Description
	Consejo Hondureño de Ciencia y Tecnología – COHCIT http://www.cohcit.gob.hn	COHCIT is the responsible entity for standards-related duties and activities. Contact: 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

Conformity Assessment

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

Hyperlink	Name and Website	Description
	Servicio Nacional de Sanidad Agropecuaria - SENASA http://www.senasa-sag.gob.hn	Ministry of Industry and Trade – National Plant and National Health Service.
	Secretaría de Agricultura y Ganadería - SAG http://www.sag.gob.hn	Quality Control Lab for Veterinary Products.

Hyperlink**Name and Website****Description**

Secretaría de Salud

<http://www.salud.gob.hn>

Ministry of Health – Food Control Lab under the General Directorate of Sanitary and Environmental Regulations.



http://www.gob.hn/port al/poder_ejecutivo/secretarias/industria_y_comercio/

Ministry of Industry and Trade – Consumer Protection and Metrology Division



<http://www.serna.gob.hn>

Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment, CESCO (Pollution Control Research Center), DECA (Environmental Control and Evaluation Directorate) and the Mining Executive Directorate (DEFOMIN Laboratory).



<http://www.dei.gob.hn>

Ministry of Finance – Customs and Tax División – National Customs Laboratory.

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 certification 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 hard copy 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.



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Regional Highlights



Notify U.S.

**NATIONAL CENTER FOR STANDARDS AND CERTIFICATION
INFORMATION**

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

Notifications from March 4 to March 7, 2008

1) *Canada – Radiocommunication Act – Notice No. SMSE-006-08 – Releasing of new SRSP-513, SRPS-514, RSS-139 and amendment of SRSP-510 and RSS-133.*

Notification Number: CAN/229

03/07/2008

Notice is hereby given that Industry Canada is introducing the following new documents:

- Standard Radio System Plan 513 (SRSP-513), Issue 1: Technical Requirements for Advanced Wireless Services in the Bands 1 710-1 755 MHz and 2 110-2 155 MHz, which sets out the minimum technical requirements for the efficient utilization of these bands.
- Standards Radio Systems Plan 514 (SRSP-514), Issue 1: Technical Requirements for Land Mobile and Fixed Radio Services Operating in the Band 1 670-1 675 MHz, which sets out the minimum technical requirements for the efficient utilization of this band.
- Radio Standards Specification 112 (RSS-112), Issue 1: Land Mobile and Fixed Equipment Operating in the Band 1 670-1 675 MHz, which sets out certification requirements for radiocommunications systems for the land mobile and fixed services in this band.
- Radio Standards Specification 139 (RSS-139), Issue 1: Advanced Wireless Services Equipment Operating in the Bands 1 710-1 755 MHz and 2 110-2 155 MHz, which sets out certification requirements for radiocommunications systems to provide Advanced Wireless Services (AWS) in these bands.

Notice is also given that Industry Canada has released the following revised documents:

- Standard Radio Systems Plan 510 (SRSP-510), Issue 4: Technical Requirements for Personal Communications Services (PCS) in the Bands 1 850-1 915 MHz and 1 930-1 995 MHz, which sets out the minimum technical requirements for the efficient utilization of these bands.

Radio Standards Specification 133 (RSS-133), Issue 4: 2 GHz Personal Communications Services, which sets out certification requirements for radiocommunications systems to provide Personal Communication Services (PCS) in the Bands 1 850-1 915 MHz and 1 930-1 995 MHz.

The above documents were updated to reflect recent changes in equipment and certification requirements.

2) *Canada – Proposed Amendment to the Food and Drug Regulations (Notice of Intent – Project No. 1584 – Schedule F).*

Notification Number: CAN/230

03/07/2008

This Notice of Intent (NOI) is to provide an opportunity to comment on the proposal to amend Part I of Schedule F to the Food and Drug Regulations to revise the listing for naproxen and its salts to allow non-prescription status when sold for oral use with a daily dose of 440 mg.

“Naproxen and its salts” is currently listed in Part I of Schedule F without any qualifying phrases or exceptions. This means that all strengths of naproxen and its salts currently require a prescription in order to be sold in Canada.

The availability of a non-prescription naproxen and its salts with a 440-mg daily dose would provide consumers with another option for self-treatment of mild to moderate pain.

Schedule F is a list of medicinal ingredients, the sale of which is controlled under sections C.01.041 to C.01.049 of the Food and Drug Regulations. Part I of Schedule F lists ingredients that require a prescription for human use and for veterinary use. Part II of Schedule F lists ingredients that require a prescription for human use, but do not require a prescription for veterinary use if so labelled or if in a form unsuitable for human use.

Description: Naproxen and its salts is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) that is used to treat inflammation and pain.

3) *Guatemala – Central American Technical Regulation (RTCA) No. 67.04.50:08 – Food products, Microbiological Criteria for Food Safety.*

Notification Number: GTM/61

03/07/2008

The notified Regulation seeks to establish the microbiological parameters and permissible limits for the registration and sanitary surveillance of food products. The provisions of this Regulation apply to all food products marketed in Central American countries.

4) *Honduras – Central American Technical Regulation (RTCA) No. 67.04.50:08 – Food Products, Microbiological Criteria for Food Safety.*

Notification Number: HND/55

03/07/2008

The notified Regulation seeks to establish the microbiological parameters and permissible limits for the registration and sanitary surveillance of food products. The provisions of this Regulation apply to all food products marketed in Central American countries.

5) Nicaragua – Central American Technical Regulation (RTCA) No. 67.04.50:08 – Food products, Microbiological Criteria for Food Safety.

Notification Number: NIC/89

03/07/2008

The notified Regulation seeks to establish the microbiological parameters and permissible limits for the registration and sanitary surveillance of food products. The provisions of this Regulation apply to all food products marketed in Central American Countries.

6) El Salvador – Salvadoran Mandatory Standard (NSO)/Central American Technical Regulation (RTCA) No. 67.04.50:08: Food Products, Microbiological Criteria for Food Safety.

Notification Number: SLV/118

03/04/2008

The notified Regulation seeks to establish the microbiological parameters and permissible limits for the registration and sanitary surveillance of food products. The provisions of this Regulation apply to all food products marketed in Central American countries.

7) El Salvador – Salvadoran Mandatory Standard (NSO) No. 67.03.02:08: Flours, Nixtamalized Maize (Corn) Flour.

Notification Number: SLV/119

03/04/2008

The notified Standard covers the following: purpose, scope, definitions, specifications and characteristics, contaminants, hygiene, physical requirements, fortification, labeling, analysis and testing methods, references, standards to be consulted, and monitoring and inspection.

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 February 1 to 29, 2008

Author: Jesús González

Standards Highlights - Mexico

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



New Board of Directors

The election for the Board of Directors 2008-2010 was decided this month after the XIV General Assembly Meeting. The selection of the Board of Directors was made in accordance with EMA's Social Guidelines.

For more information, please visit:

http://www.artenativa.com.mx/ema/ema/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=155&Itemid=165

2) 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).



Boletín 57 –ONNCCE
February 2008

Housing Construction Code

The National Housing Commission introduced a *Housing Construction Code* in accordance with the Federal Housing Law. The code incorporates chapters that are related to urban planning and design, with information related to the soil utilization equipment and infrastructure. The code highlights the planning and design of buildings and complexes; concentrating on habitability, accessibility, functionality, operational and sustainability themes.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.onncce.org.mx/envioboletin/boletin57.htm>

Standards News – Mexico

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



One Year After the Publication of the Regulatory Quality Agreement, The Number of the Regulations Decreased. .

One year after the publication in the Official Gazette of the *Regulatory Quality Agreement*, a decrease in the reception of pre-projects has been reported.

President Felipe Calderón Hinojosa celebrated the first anniversary of the *Regulatory Quality Agreement*. One of the main objectives of the current government is promote the release of quality regulations that have a positive impact on employment and the competitiveness in Mexico.

For more information, please visit:

http://www.cofemer.gob.mx/historial.asp?tipo_nav_bar=1&contenido=2&menu_id=9&content_id=99¬icia_id=23

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

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For previous editions, please visit:

https://www.buyusa.gov/mexico/en/standards_view.html

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