

# Standards View

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



Dear Standards Colleagues,

Welcome to our first Standards View newsletter issue of 2009! This month we feature the Caribbean powerhouse nation of the Dominican Republic. Next month, the D.R. will host the annual meeting of COPANT, the Panamerican Standards Commission, in which I will be participating as a representative of the Office of the Standards Liaison from the Department of Commerce. The D.R. will also be the site of the next seminar given by the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA), date TBD. So, this island nation will become front and center in the Latin American standards world. Therefore, in this issue, we introduce you to DIGENOR, the main standards body for the Dominican government and describe their system of standards development. As usual, we also provide a list of notifications sent to the NIST NotifyUS site, and provide links to access our monthly NOM/NMX reports for Mexico. If you have any standards news you would like to share, please send to Claudia Salgado for inclusion in the next newsletter. We trust you will find this issue useful and informative.

Best Regards,

**Dale Wright**

Commercial Officer/Standards Attaché for Mexico, Canada, Central America and the Caribbean

## *Contents*

<b>Standards-Related Organizations in Dominican Republic</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Regional Highlights</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Standards Reports – Mexico</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Standards Highlights – Mexico</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Standards News - Mexico</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Contact Information</b>	<b>25</b>



# Standards-Related Organizations in Dominican Republic

Source:

U.S. Commercial Service – Market Research Library

*Doing Business in Dominican Republic: A Country Commercial Guide for U.S. Companies. 2009 (Ch. 5 p.47-50)*

[http://www.buyusainfo.net/docs/x\\_1711588.pdf](http://www.buyusainfo.net/docs/x_1711588.pdf)



## 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 of 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 Water and Wastewater Equipment Manufacturers Association (WWMEA)

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.



**Websites:**

- DIGENOR: <http://www.digenor.gob.do/>  
 ANDESAPA: <http://www.andesapa.org/>  
 COPANT: <http://www.copant.org/>  
 WWEMA: <http://www.wwema.org/>



**Conformity Assessment**

Due to a lack of resources at DIGENOR, products are typically tested in private Laboratories overseas.



## 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. However the Dominican government has indicated that they are in the process of accrediting one laboratory, which will be ready in 2009.

## 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/Marking Requirements

The Dominican Republic has two standards on labeling: NORDOM 53 relating to food, and NORDOM 407 relating to medication; which are in line with international practices (ISO 750). The former follows the Codex Alimentarius standard.

According to NORDOM 53 the following must be in Spanish:

1. Name of the food product
2. Ingredient list
3. Net and drained weight using the Metric system (grams, kg, etc.)
4. Industrial and Sanitary registration number or its equivalent.
5. Usage instructions
6. Name and address of manufacturer/distributor

Article 112 of the General Health Law (42-01) indicates that the following products must be labeled in Spanish: cosmetics, medical equipment, tobacco products, agricultural chemicals, and any other substances that may represent a risk to human health.



## Resources

### CONTACTS

Dr. Julio Santana de Leon

Director

Dirección General de Normas y Sistemas de Calidad (DIGENOR)

Secretaría 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@codetel.net.do](mailto:digenor@codetel.net.do)

Web Page: <http://www.digenor.gov.do>

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS)

Ave. Pedro Henríquez Ureña No. 133

Edificio Empresarial Reyna I, 4th Floor

Santo Domingo, Dom. Rep.

Telephone: (809) 227-0112 Ext. 275

Fax: (809) 732-9454

E-mail: [agsantodomingo@usda.gov](mailto:agsantodomingo@usda.gov)

Web Page: <http://www.usemb.gov.do/FAS>

Contact: Jamie Rothschild, Agricultural Attaché

E-mail: [Jamie.Rothschild@usda.gov](mailto:Jamie.Rothschild@usda.gov)

U.S. Department of Commerce

U.S. Commercial Service

Isolda Frias - Commercial Advisor

American Embassy Santo Domingo

Unit 5515 Box 508

APO AA 34041

Phone: (809) 227-2121 Ext. 226

Fax: (809) 920-0267

Web site: <http://www.BuyUSA.gov/caribbean>

E-mail: [isolda.frias@mail.doc.gov](mailto:isolda.frias@mail.doc.gov)



## Regional Highlights

Notifications from February 9 to March 27 2009



*Notify U.S*

**NATIONAL CENTER FOR STANDARDS AND  
CERTIFICATION INFORMATION**

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

### **1) *United States – Addendum***

Notification number: USA/155/Add.1

03/27/2009

The Department of Energy (DOE) is publishing this technical amendment to place the energy conservation standards and test procedures, and related definitions, prescribed in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA 2007) for certain consumer products and commercial and industrial equipment in the Code of Federal Regulations.

### **2) *Canada - Proposed Amendment to the Motor Vehicle Safety Regulations (Electronic Stability Control Systems).***

Notification number: CAN/260

03/26/2009

This proposed amendment would modify Schedule IV of the Motor Vehicle Safety Regulations to introduce a new Canada Motor Vehicle Safety Standard, Standard 126, entitled "Electronic Stability Control Systems," hereafter referred to as the Canadian safety standard 126. This proposed Canadian safety standard would require electronic stability control (ESC) systems on new light-duty vehicles (vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating of 4,536 kg or less) manufactured after 31 August 2011.

Implementation of this Canadian safety standard is expected to reduce the number of crashes in which the driver loses directional control of the vehicle. It is proposed that the Canadian safety standard be harmonized to the safety standard of the United States' requirements pertaining to ESC. Harmonizing with United States standards would provide Canadians the benefits obtainable with ESC, and would remove any potential impediment to trade between the two countries.

ESC is a technology designed primarily to assist the driver in maintaining control of a vehicle during emergency maneuvers, such as swerving or braking suddenly to avoid an obstacle. ESC can also help the driver maintain control in such situations as when cornering on slippery surfaces. ESC works by monitoring, on a continuous basis, steering wheel

activity and vehicle direction by utilizing wheel-speed, yaw rate and steering angle sensors. The ESC system works by automatically activating the brake on one or several wheels as needed to maintain vehicle control; in some cases, current ESC systems also reduce engine power simultaneously with the application of the brakes.

**3) United States – Addendum**

Notification number: USA/293/Add.2

03/25/2009

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has announced the availability of a draft guidance for industry entitled "Labeling OTC Skin Protectant Drug Products." This guidance clarifies the permitted combinations of active ingredients along with the corresponding required labelling.

**4) Canada - Proposed Amendment to the Textile Labelling and Advertising Regulations.**

Notification number: CAN/259

03/23/2009

The Textile Labelling Act (TLA) and the Textile Labelling and Advertising Regulations (TLAR) are intended to protect consumers against misrepresentation in the labelling and advertising of textile products as well as to ensure that consumers may choose textiles on the basis of fiber content.

The TLAR require that the fiber content be disclosed by generic name, and section 26 of the TLAR prescribes the generic fiber names that may be used in Canada to indicate the fiber content of a consumer textile article. If the generic fiber that a manufacturer wishes to use is not prescribed under section 26, the manufacturer must apply to the Minister of Industry, as outlined in section 27 of the TLAR, to have a new generic fiber name prescribed. In 2006, the Competition Bureau (the "Bureau"), acting on behalf of the Minister, received two applications for new generic fiber names: "lastol" and "polylactic acid" or "PLA."

In order for manufacturers to be able to use the new fiber names on the labels of consumer textile articles, section 26 of the TLAR must be amended to include them in the list of Generic Names for Textile Fibers. This regulatory amendment proposal would amend section 26 of the TLAR to add the generic fiber names "lastol" and "PLA" and their corresponding definitions to the list of generic names in section 26 of the TLAR.

**5) United States - Food Additives Permitted for Direct Addition to Food for Human Consumption; Vitamin D2.**

Notification number: USA/462

03/23/2009

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is amending the food additive regulations to provide for the safe use of vitamin D2 as a nutrient supplement in soy-based food products.

**6) United States – Addendum**

Notification number: USA/447/Add.1

03/23/2009

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (Commission or CPSC) is issuing a final rule on procedures and requirements on requests for: a Commission determination that a commodity or class of materials or a specific material or product does not exceed the lead content limits specified under section 101(a) of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (CPSIA), Public Law 110-314; or an exclusion of a commodity or class of materials or a specific material or product under section 101(b)(1) of the CPSIA, that exceeds the lead content limits under section 101(a) of the CPSIA, but which will not result in the absorption of any lead into the human body nor have any other adverse impact on public health or safety.

**7) *United States – Addendum***

Notification number: USA/285/Add.4  
03/23/2009

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is holding a public scoping session for issue-focused public meeting(s) on the APHIS proposed rule Importation, Interstate Movement, and Release into the Environment of Certain Genetically Engineered Organisms. The purpose of the scoping session is to discuss with all interested parties the agenda and format for an April 2009 issue meeting(s). APHIS is extending the comment period for the proposed rule, (originally announced to end 17 March 17 2009), until 60 days following the April meeting(s).

**8) *United States – Addendum***

Notification number: USA/172/Add.2  
03/23/2009

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is confirming the effective date of 5 January 2011, for the final rule that appeared in the Federal Register of 5 January 2009. The final rule amends the regulations for cochineal extract and carmine by requiring their declaration by name on the label of all food and cosmetic products that contain these color additives.

**9) *United States – Addendum***

Notification number: USA/151/Add.4  
03/23/2009

Section 325 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 provides the Commission with authority to promulgate energy labelling rules for consumer electronics, including televisions. The Commission is seeking comment on whether it should require labels for televisions and other consumer electronic products.

**10) *United States - Vegetables, Import Regulations; Partial Exemption to the Minimum Grade Requirements for Fresh Tomatoes.***

Notification number: USA/461  
03/17/2009

The notified technical regulation proposes a partial exemption to the minimum grade requirements under the tomato import regulation.

**11) *United States - Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard; Rearview Mirrors.***

Notification number: USA/460



03/12/2009

The notified technical regulation initiates rulemaking to amend Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 111, Rearview Mirrors, to improve a driver's ability to see areas to the rear of a motor vehicle in order to mitigate fatalities and injuries associated with backover incidents.

**12) United States - Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard; Air Brake Systems.**

Notification number: USA/459

03/12/2009

Extends by 18 months a requirement that trailers with antilock brake systems be equipped with an external antilock malfunction indicator lamp. It also considers making the requirement permanent. The indicator lamp requirement, which is included in the Federal motor vehicle safety standard that governs vehicles equipped with air brakes, was originally scheduled to sunset on 1 March 2009, but has been extended to 1 September 2009 in an interim final rule published in the Federal Register 3 March 2009. Under this proposal, the sunset date would be extended until 1 March 2011.

**13) United States - 19 Virginia Administrative Code (VAC) 30-200-10, Approved helmets for All-Terrain Vehicles and Mopeds.**

Notification number: USA/458

03/11/2009

Sets forth the specifications for helmets approved for use by operators of all-terrain vehicles and, when required by local ordinance, operators of mopeds.

**14) United States – Addendum**

Notification number: USA/438/Add.1

03/11/2009

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is reopening the comment period until 10 April 2009 and will hold public meetings concerning the proposed rule for Approval Tests and Standards for Closed-Circuit Escape that was published in the Federal Register on 10 December 2008.

**15) United States – Addendum**

Notification number: USA/435/Add.1

03/11/2009

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is reopening the comment period until 10 April 2009 and will hold public meetings concerning the proposed rule for Quality Assurance Requirements for Respirators that was published in the Federal Register on 10 December 2008.

**16) Canada – Addendum: Proposed Organic Products Regulations, 2009**

Notification number: CAN/177/Rev. 2

03/02/2009

Item 8. Description of content:

The Organic Products Regulations (OPR) were promulgated on 14 December 2006, with an intended entry-into-force date of 14 December 2008. This was later extended to 30 June 2009 (G/TBT/N/CAN/177/Rev.1/Add.1). The OPR provides a framework for a federally regulated organic regime in Canada. Since their promulgation in 2006, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (Agency) has reviewed the OPR and determined that certain elements required clarification and elaboration. The proposed Regulations will allow the Agency to fully implement the Canada Organic Regime and achieve the intended and expected outcome of a federally regulated program for organic agriculture.

A number of amendments were made to the OPR that address:

- (i) the scope of application;
- (ii) regulatory issues resulting from the adoption of the CGSB 310 Standard and Permitted Substances List (PSL) into the regulatory framework;
- (iii) the strengthening of the Agency's ability to negotiate import-export agreements with foreign governments;
- (iv) adjusting export requirements to allow flexibility in international trade; and
- (v) consumer confusion through the introduction of a single organic agricultural product legend.

The proposed Regulations meet the original objectives of the OPR, including the facilitation of international market access, protection of consumers against deceptive and misleading labelling practices through a uniform approach to organic product certification and labelling, and supporting further development of the domestic market. The proposed Regulations address the issues identified above and add new provisions to preserve the organic nature and integrity of organic products.

Item 10. Relevant documents:

- Canada Gazette, Part I, 14 February, Pages 344-372 (<http://canadagazette.gc.ca/partI/2008/20090214/pdf/g1-14307.pdf>)
- ISO/IEC 17011: Conformity assessment - General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies
- ISO/IEC Guide 65: General requirements for bodies operating product certification systems

Item 12. Proposed date of entry into force: 30 June 2009

Item 13. Final date for comments: 29 April 2009

**17) Canada – Addendum: Regulations Amending the Motor Vehicle Safety Regulations (Vehicle Identification Number).**

Notification number: CAN/250/Add.1  
02/26/2009

The proposed amendment notified in G/TBT/N/CAN/250 (dated 28 August 2008) was adopted 18 February 2009 as the Regulations Amending the Motor Vehicle Safety Regulations (Vehicle Identification Number).

**18) Canada – Addendum: Regulations Amending the Motor Vehicle Safety Regulations (Door Locks and Door Retention Components).**

Notification number: CAN/185/Add.2  
02/26/2009

This amendment of the Motor Vehicle Safety Regulations, section 206 Door Locks and Door Retention Components (the Canadian safety standard) will delay by two years, from September 1, 2009 to September 1, 2011, the mandatory compliance date for recently incorporated testing requirements. This delay will minimize the impact on manufacturers of these new testing requirements.

Subsection 12(4) of the Motor Vehicle Safety Act requires that sections of the regulations that incorporate Technical Standards Documents expire five years after the day on which they come into force to allow for a review of the safety requirements. The section 206 is set to expire on January 1, 2010. As a result, it is also necessary to reintroduce the Canadian safety standard to clarify to manufacturers that this safety standard will continue to apply to current and future vehicles.

**19) El Salvador - Proposed Draft Salvadoran Mandatory Standard (NSO) No. 67.03.03:09: Pasta – Specifications.**

Notification number: SLV/127  
02/24/2009

The notified draft Standard covers the following: Purpose; Scope; Definitions; Description; Raw materials and additives; Requirements; General requirements; Organoleptic requirements; Physical and chemical requirements; Microbiological characteristics; Fortification with vitamins and minerals; Food additives; Sampling; Sampling procedure; Testing methods; Packing, packaging and labelling; Storage and transport; Monitoring and inspection; Appendix; Standards to be consulted; Consistency and bibliography; Annex A.

**20) United States – Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Motorcycle Helmets.**

Notification number: USA/457  
02/20/2009

NHTSA is proposing to amend the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 218, Motorcycle Helmets. The proposed amendments adopt additional requirements and revise existing requirements to reduce misleading labeling of novelty helmets that creates the impression that uncertified, noncompliant helmets have been properly certified as compliant. Other amendments specify a quasi-static load application rate for the helmet retention system; revise the impact attenuation test by specifying test velocity and tolerance limits and remove the drop height requirement; provide tolerances for the helmet conditioning specifications; revise requirements for size labeling and location of the DOT

symbol; correct figures 7 and 8 in the Standard; and update the reference in S7.1.9 to SAE Recommended Practice J211.

**21) United States – Addendum**

Notification number: USA/219/Add.1

02/20/2009

EPA is proposing to amend the Renewable Fuel Standard program requirements. Following publication of the final rule promulgating the Renewable Fuel Standard regulations, EPA discovered a number of technical errors and areas within the regulations that could benefit from clarification or modification. This proposed rule would amend the regulations to make the appropriate corrections, clarifications and modifications. If we receive no adverse comment, we will not take further action on this proposed rule.

**22) United States – Addendum**

Notification Number: USA/450/Add.2

02/19/2009

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is issuing an interim final rule concerning certain electronic devices for which it is not technologically feasible to meet the lead limits as required under section 101 of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (CPSIA), Public Law 110-314, 122 Stat. 3016. By notice published elsewhere in today's Federal Register, the Commission is withdrawing the proposed rule on exemptions for certain electronic devices published in the Federal Register on 15 January 2009, 74 FR 2435.

**23) United States – Addendum**

Notification Number: USA/450/Add.1

02/19/2009

As of 10 February 2009 the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC or Commission) is withdrawing the proposed rule published in the Federal Register on 15 January 2009, 74 FR 2435, concerning certain children's electronic devices for which it is not technologically feasible to meet the lead limits as required under section 101 of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (CPSIA), Public Law 110-314, 122 Stat. 3016. The Commission is issuing an interim final rule on exemptions for certain children's electronic devices which is published elsewhere in the Federal Register of 12 February 2009.

**24) Canada - Radiocommunication Act - Notice No. SMSE-003-09 - New Issues of SRSP-510, SRSP-513, RSS-133, RSS-137 and RSS-139.**

Notification number: CAN/258

02/17/2009

Notice is hereby given that Industry Canada is releasing the following updated documents:

Standard Radio System Plan 510 (SRSP-510), Issue 5: Technical Requirements for Personal Communications Services (PCS) in the Bands 1850-1915 MHz and 1930-1995 MHz, which sets out the minimum technical requirements for the efficient utilization of these bands;

Standard Radio System Plan 513 (SRSP-513), Issue 2: Technical Requirements for Advanced Wireless Services in the Bands 1710-1755 MHz and 2110-2155 MHz, which sets out the minimum technical requirements for the efficient utilization of these bands;

Radio Standards Specification 133 (RSS-133), Issue 5: 2 GHz Personal Communications Services, which sets certification requirements for transmitters and receivers used in radiocommunications systems to provide Personal Communications Services (PCS) in the bands 1850-1915 MHz and 1930-1995 MHz;

Radio Standards Specification 137 (RSS-137), Issue 2: Location and Monitoring Service in the Band 902-928 MHz, which sets certification requirements for radio equipment for the location and monitoring service (LMS) in the band 902-928 MHz; and

Radio Standards Specification 139 (RSS-139), Issue 2: Advanced Wireless Services Equipment Operating in the Bands 1710-1755 MHz and 2110-2155 MHz, which sets certification requirements for transmitters and receivers, used in radiocommunications systems to provide Advanced Wireless Services (AWS) in these bands.

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

**25) Canada – Addendum**

Notification number: CAN/189/Add.3  
02/16/2009

The proposed amendment notified in G/TBT/N/CAN/189/Add.2 (dated 17 September 2008) was adopted 13 January 2009 as the Regulations Adding Perfluorooctane Sulfonate and Its Salts to the Virtual Elimination List.

**26) Costa Rica - Costa Rican Technical Regulation (RTCR) No. 427:2009 on Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for Pesticides in Plants.**

Notification number: CRI/87  
02/16/2009

The notified Technical Regulation establishes the Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) authorized at national level for pesticides and their metabolites in the various plant crops for human and animal consumption.

**27) Costa Rica – Addendum**

Notification number: CRI/51/Add.2  
02/16/2009

Pursuant to Costa Rican Technical Regulation (RTCR) No. 428:2009: Regulation authorizing a single change of manufacturer or formulator for registered pesticides, an addendum is being issued to the Regulation governing the registration, use and control of synthetic formulated pesticides, technical-grade active ingredients, co-formulants and related substances for agricultural use, notified on 14 August 2006 by the Government of Costa Rica in document G/TBT/N/CRI/51, with a view to facilitating the understanding of labelling information.

**28) Mexico - Draft Mexican Official Standard PROY-NOM-173-SCFI-2008: "Pre-Packaged Fruit Juice, Trade Descriptions, Physico-Chemical Specifications, Commercial Information and Test Methods".**

Notification number: MEX/168  
02/16/2009

The notified draft Mexican Official Standard is applicable to products described as fruit juice which are marketed in national territory.

**29) United States - Proposed Amendments to Air Pollution Control Regulation No. 25 Control of Volatile Organic Compounds from Cutback and Emulsified Asphalt.**

Notification number: USA/456  
02/16/2009

Revises rules pertaining to the control of volatile organic compounds from cutback and emulsified asphalt. Prohibits the use of cutback asphalt. Limits the VOC content of emulsified asphalt used for road paving, maintenance or repair during the ozone season (April through September).

**30) United States - Proposed Amendments to Air Pollution Control Regulation No. 44 Control of Volatile Organic Compounds from Adhesives and Sealants.**

Notification number: USA/455  
02/16/2009

Revises rules pertaining to the control of volatile organic compounds from adhesives and sealants. Limits the VOC content of 40 categories of adhesive and sealant products.

**31) United States - Proposed Amendments to Air Pollution Control Regulations No. 33 Control of Volatile Organic Compounds from Architectural Coatings and Industrial Maintenance Coatings.**

Notification number: USA/454  
02/16/2009

Revises rules pertaining to the control of volatile organic compounds from architectural and industrial maintenance coatings; limits the VOC content of 53 categories of architectural and industrial maintenance coatings.

**32) United States - Proposed Amendments to Air Pollution Control Regulations No. 31 Control of Volatile Organic Compounds from Consumer Products.**

Notification number: USA/453  
02/16/2009

Revises rules pertaining to the control of volatile organic compounds from consumer products; limits VOC content of 102 categories of consumer product.

**33) United States – Addendum**

Notification number: USA/434/Add.1  
02/16/2009

Because EPA received adverse comments EPA is withdrawing the provision for the allowance of an alternative test method for olefins in gasoline of the direct final, published on 8 December 2008. The provisions for which EPA did not receive adverse comment will become effective on 6 February 2009 as provided in the 8 December 2008 direct final rule.

**34) United States – Addendum**

Notification number: USA/432/Add.1

02/16/2009

EPA issued an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPR) in the Federal Register of 3 December 2008, describing EPA's initial steps to investigate and request comment, information, and data relating to formaldehyde emissions from pressed wood products. The ANPR also announced five public meetings that EPA scheduled in order to obtain additional stakeholder input. EPA is announcing today one additional public meeting to enable more complete public participation. Additionally, this document extends the comment period for 45 days from 2 February 2009 to 19 March 2009. This extension is necessary to provide the public with an opportunity to provide additional and more thorough comments to the docket.

**35) United States – Addendum**

Notification number: USA/424/Add.1

02/16/2009

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 amended the Lacey Act to provide, among other things, that importers submit a declaration at the time of importation for certain plants and plant products. The declaration requirements of the Lacey Act became effective on 15 December 2008; however, enforcement of the declaration requirement will be phased in and will begin on 1 April 2009 (unless the implementation date must be delayed slightly for technical reasons). This notice provides information about the revised plan for phased-in enforcement of the declaration requirement and other implementation plans.

Enforcement of the declaration will be based on an affirmative list of HTS codes. In the initial enforcement phase the declaration will be required for goods entered under the following HTS codes: 4401, 4403, 4404, 4406, 4407, 4408, 4409, 4417, and 4418. The revised schedule describes plans for implementing enforcement of the declaration through 2010. Comments are invited on the schedule and other aspects of implementation.

**36) United States – Addendum**

Notification number: USA/98

02/11/2009

EPA is amending the new source performance standards (NSPS) for electric utility steam generating units and industrial-commercial-institutional steam generating units. These amendments to the regulations are to add compliance alternatives for owners and operators of certain affected sources, eliminate the opacity standard for facilities with a particulate matter (PM) limit of 0.030 lb/million British thermal units (MMBtu) or less that choose to voluntarily install and use PM continuous emission monitors (CEMS) to demonstrate compliance with that limit, and to correct technical and editorial errors.

**37) Costa Rica - Costa Rican Technical Regulation (RTCR) No. 422:2008: Unripened cheese, including fresh cheese.**

Notification number: CRI/86

02/10/2009

Costa Rican Standard (NCR) No. 148:1993: Metrology: net contents of pre-packaged products and amendments thereto, Official Journal No. 132 of 13 July 1993; Executive Decree No. 23355-MEIC, Costa Rican Standard (NCR) No. 26:1994: Metrology: International system of units) and amendments thereto, published in Official Journal No. 114 of 15 June 1994; Executive Decree No. 26012-MEIC, Costa Rican Technical Regulation (RTCR) No. 100:1997: Labelling of pre-packaged foods and amendments thereto, published in Official Journal No. 91 of 14 May 1997; Executive Decree No. 30256-MEIC-S, Costa Rican Technical Regulation (RTCR) No. 135:2002: Nutrition labelling of pre-packaged foods and amendments thereto, published in Official Journal No. 71 of 15 April 2002; Executive Decree No. 31595-S: Regulation on the notification of raw materials and the sanitary registration, importation, customs clearance and monitoring of foodstuffs and amendments thereto, published in Official Journal No. 16 of 23 January 2004; Executive Decree No. 33288-MEIC-MAG-S, Costa Rican Technical Regulation (RTCR) No. 395:2006: Use of dairy terms and amendments thereto, published in Official Journal No. 164 of 28 August 2006; Executive Decree No. 33371-COMEX-MEIC. Resolution No. 168-2006 (COMIECO XLIX): Central American Technical Regulation (RTCA) No. 01.01.11:06: Quantity of product in pre-packages and amendments thereto, published in Official Journal No. 194 of 10 October 2006; Executive Decree No. 33812 MEIC-MAG-S, Costa Rican Technical Regulation (RTCR) No. 401-2006: Raw milk and processed milk and amendments thereto, published in Official Journal No. 112 of 12 June 2007.

**38) Mexico - Mexican Official Standard NOM-059-SSA1-2006: Good Manufacturing Practices for Establishments in the Chemico-pharmaceutical Industry Engaged in the Manufacture of Medicines (amendment to Mexican Official Standard NOM-059-SSA1-1993, published on 31 July 1998).**

Notification number: MEX/167

02/10/2009

The notified Mexican Official Standard sets forth the minimum requirements for the manufacture of medicines marketed in Mexico to ensure that consumers are supplied with good quality products. Compliance with this Mexican Official Standard must be demonstrated and documented.

**39) Costa Rica - Costa Rican Technical Regulation (RTCR) No. 423:2008: Milk powder.**

Notification number: CRI/185

02/09/2009

The notified Technical Regulation concerns milk powder intended for direct consumption or further processing. It does not apply to milk powder blended with vegetable fat.

For further details on the above 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 January 1 to 31, 2009***

Author: Jesús González

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

***Mexico: NOMs and NMXs issued by the Mexican Government, during the period February 1 to 28, 2009***

Author: Jesús González

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

***Mexico: NOMs and NMXs issued by the Mexican Government, during the period March 1 to 31, 2009***

Author: Jesús González

To locate previous reports, please visit the Market Research Library at:  
[http://www.buyusainfo.net/adsearch.cfm?search\\_type=int&loadnav=no](http://www.buyusainfo.net/adsearch.cfm?search_type=int&loadnav=no)

## Standards Highlights - Mexico

1) AMECE – Asociación Mexicana de Comercio Electrónico (Mexican Association of Electronic Commerce Standards).

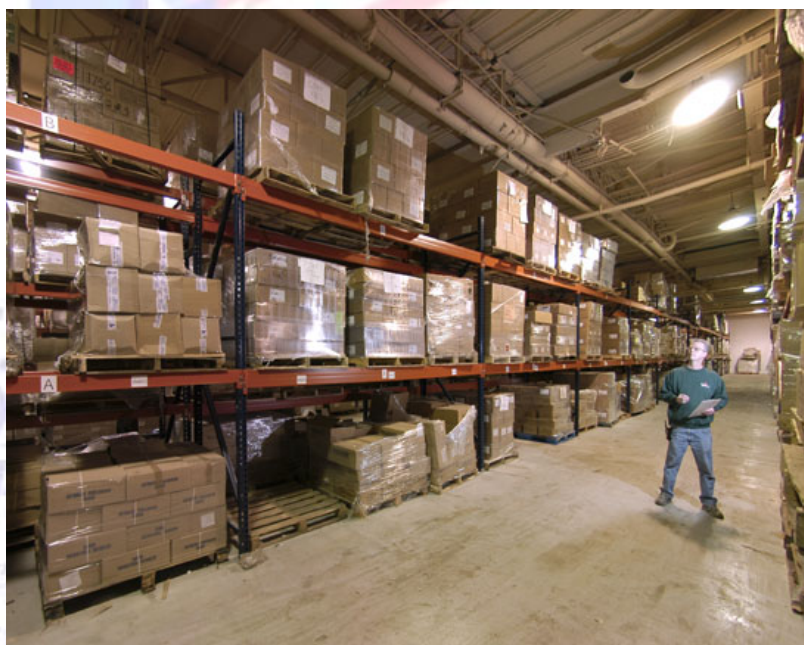


### ***Improving the accuracy of information in Tiendas Garcés Distribution Centers using the RECADV (Receiving of Merchandise Advice System)***

Source: AMECE - GS1 Mexico

By: Eduardo Nuñez; AMECE - GS1 Mexico

Tiendas Garcés is a top self-service store chain among families in the State of Mexico and Michoacán. At the present time, the chain has 33 stores and one distribution center covering more than 10,000m<sup>2</sup> which supplies said stores on a daily basis, guaranteeing that customers can find what they are looking for.



As part of their desire to optimize the supply chain, Tiendas Garcés has undertaken the initiative to achieve automatic integration, without human intervention, of the exchange of transactions, purchase orders, shipment notices, and receiving of merchandise. Consequently, they are using AMECE-GS1 Mexico for implementation, in line with international electronic GS1 system standards.

One of the main objectives of implementing the Receiving of Merchandise Advice System (RECADV) in Tiendas Garcés is to obtain a cleaner invoice from the supplier and thus clean payments, avoiding the need for clarifications and credit notes. The chain started to use this electronic message system with its general merchandise suppliers and is currently working on implementing the RECADV system with its clothing suppliers.

Tiendas Garcés sends RECADV from its Central Warehouse to 300 general merchandise suppliers.

Tiendas Garcés releases on average 400 invoices for payment on a daily basis, increasing to 800 invoices on weekends.

The IT department at Tiendas Garcés devoted three months to implementing the EDIFACT 01B RECADV message system in September 2007. Their first act was to add a new field to the supplier table in order to identify those suppliers who receive service from the Technological Supplier and thus send them the Receiving of Merchandise Advice. Then, together with the Technological Supplier, they worked on developing the layout that needs to be generated in the ERP when generating the confirmation of receipt of invoice.

On average, 25 Receiving of Merchandise Advices are generated and sent by Tiendas Garcés daily.



Tiendas Garcés believes that electronic transactions using EDI (Electronic Data Interchange) maintain the quality and control of their information and safety in their internal communications, with Points of Sale and with Trading Partners. With the implementation of the complete Electronic Invoicing Model in Tiendas Garcés, time and resources required in order to review clarifications and validation

of documents can be reduced and the number of clarifications and inconsistencies in the payment of invoices can also be considerably reduced, translating into benefits and savings for Tiendas Garcés.

2) AMECE – Asociación Mexicana de Comercio Electrónico (Mexican Association of Electronic Commerce Standards).



### ***GTIN-14 for logistical processes in Mexico***

Source: AMECE - GS1 Mexico

By: Mario Sequeira and Eduardo Núñez

This survey was designed and applied by AMECE-GS1 Mexico in 2008 in order to find out the level of perception and preparation of companies in relation to the adoption and real use of GTIN-14 Bar Codes (Global Trade Identification Number Information) in Mexico. The purpose of this survey is to understand the current situation in Mexico in order to identify opportunities and challenges for companies. Seventy-



nine percent of participating companies were manufacturers, 8% distributors, 4% importers, 3% retail chains, 3% intermediaries, and 3% others.

The main results obtained include the following:

- 75% of companies identify their dispatch units with a bar code.
- The bar code most frequently used to identify dispatch units is the GTIN-14.
  - 28% of companies identify between 81% and 100% of their products with a GTIN code.
  - The main factors that prevent the implementation of the GTIN-14 are a lack of clarity in the use of bar codes and trade agreements between manufacturers-clients that prohibit working with the bar code.
  - The main processes for using the GTIN-14 code in the company are distribution-shipment of merchandise and receipt of merchandise.
  - 75% of companies consider that the use of the GTIN-14 essential in order to improve the efficiency of operations in the supply chain.
  - The main areas which require the implementation and use of the GTIN-14 bar code to identify merchandise with a standard code are logistics, sales, and warehousing.
  - 78% of participants indicate that, at the

present time, in self-service stores (customer), purchase orders are generated by requesting the merchandise in shipment units identified by the GTIN-14 code.

- 40% of companies mentioned that they plan to use the GTIN-14 code logistically and physically by 2009.

To find out more about the impacts/changes relating to the implementation of the GTIN-14, its benefits, obstacles to implementing the code, activities for improving knowledge in this respect, as well as the rest of the results, please consult the complete study at:

[http://www.amece.org.mx/amece/Documentos/descargas/estudios/2008/ESTUDIO\\_GTIN\\_14\\_2008.pdf](http://www.amece.org.mx/amece/Documentos/descargas/estudios/2008/ESTUDIO_GTIN_14_2008.pdf)

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



### *Accreditations for Indefinite Time*

Starting on January 1st, accreditations have become valid for indefinite time as long as they continue to meet the regulation requirements established by the entity.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.ema.org.mx/descargas/ati/ati.pdf>

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



Source: Bulletin Sistema 40

January, 2009

Page 10

***New Procedure for Evaluation and Accreditation of Verification Units (MP-HP002-07).***

As part of the areas of improvement identified in 2008, EMA revised the Procedure for Evaluation and Accreditation of Verification Units. This revision includes the process to re-evaluate the accreditation, the definition of the evaluation criteria and the evaluation in-situ.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.ema.org.mx/descargas/sistema.pdf>

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



Source: Bulletin Sistema 40

January, 2009

Page 11

***New Guide for Application of Verification Units.***

In 2008, the content of the application guide for technical standard NMX-EC-17020-IMNC-2000 was revised with the objective of providing a detailed description of the evaluation requirements for verification units (inspection organizations).

The new guide provides inspectors with a clearer understanding of the evaluation requirements, avoiding the use of particular or personal criteria.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.ema.org.mx/descargas/sistema.pdf>

6) NORMEX – Organismo Nacional de Normalización y Certificación (National Organization of Normalization and Certification).



March 17, 2009

### ***Used Clothes, a Sanitary Risk***

Specialists advise that used clothes sold in flea markets enter the country under the category of “rags”, without declaration of origin. This lack of regulation has exposed consumers to diseases.

Government authorities are concerned about used clothes, not only because their sales have increased in the last few months due to the financial crisis, but because some items are contaminated.

Federal authorities have that used clothes come from places like morgues, hospitals, homes for the elderly and cemeteries from other countries, particularly the United States.

Currently, there is no regulation for used clothes in Mexico.

To learn more, please visit:

<http://www.normex.com.mx/secc-noticias/36-certificacion-producto/58-ropa-usada-un-riesgo-sanitario>

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



### ***Are Certifications the Same?***

Source: Boletín ONNCE 70

March, 2009

Page 1

Many organizations offer certification services to the construction industry. However, a publicly and jurisdictionally recognized organization should meet the following requirements: it should offer a registered system and specific procedures related to evaluation, it should have qualified inspectors and technical experts and it should provide laboratory, testing and calibration services.

To learn more, please visit:

<http://www.onnce.org.mx/envioboletin/boletin70.pdf>

## Standards News – Mexico

1) AMECE – Asociación Mexicana de Comercio Electrónico (Mexican Association of Electronic Commerce Standards).



On March 25 during the seminar “ABC of the Logistical Process” organized by the American Business Information Center of the U.S. Commercial Service in Mexico City, AMECE offered a conference entitled “Electronic Collaboration Standards – Supply Messages”.



Juan Manuel Pérez from AMECE discussed the importance of using electronic standards in the logistical process as guidance for best practices in the delivery and reception of products worldwide. These standards are designed to improve the communication in all the steps of the logistical process, particularly during:

- 1) The supply change management. Combining several tools to align and synchronize information, to manage and handle purchase orders, to deliver and receive merchandise, to prepare invoices, payments and refunds and to report sales.
- 2) The dispatch advice. Serving as a link between the seller and the buyer to indicate when the merchandise has been delivered, received or sent back, to provide



shipment details and to follow the customs process.

- 3) Advanced shipping notification. Allowing the buyer to confirm the reception of goods, to notify any discrepancies between the number of articles received, and number sent, and to advise of instructions to correct the debit, credit or invoice notes.

To learn more, please contact:  
AMECE / GS1 México  
Blvd. Ávila Camacho No. 138 – 9° Piso  
Col. Lomas de Chapultepec  
C.P. 11000 México, D.F.  
(52) 55- 5249 5249  
[www.amece.org.mx](http://www.amece.org.mx)

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



### ***COFETEL Publishes the Technical Plan for Interconnection and Interoperation***

Source: Press Release  
February 10, 2008

COFETEL published in *Diario Oficial de la Federación* (Official Gazette) the Technical Plan for Interconnection and Interoperation (PTFII).

The objective of this document is the regulation the plans offered and access of interconnection services among concessionaries, promoting an even competition and ensuring the successful interconnection and interoperation of public telecommunication networks under the conditions and periods that the law establishes.

For more information, please visit:  
[http://www.cft.gob.mx/wb/Cofetel\\_2008/022009](http://www.cft.gob.mx/wb/Cofetel_2008/022009)

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



### ***Modification to the Federal Law for Consumer Protection***

Source: GACETA NYCE 2  
March – April 2009  
Page 8

On January 29, the modifications to the Federal Law for Consumer Protection established by the agency were published in *Diario Oficial de la Federación* (Official Gazette). The modifications include: reform of articles: 73 TER, fraction XII; 92, first and last paragraph; 92 TER; 98 BIS; 128 and 131: Articles 73 QUÁTER and 73 QUINTUS were added as part of the Federal Law for Consumer Protection.

To learn more, please visit:  
<http://www.nyce.org.mx/doc/gaceta7.pdf>



## Contact Information

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

**Website:** <http://www.buyusa.gov/mexico/en/>

Liverpool #31 Col. Juárez

Del. Cuauhtémoc

México, D.F. 06600

Tel. 52-55-51402600 Fax. 52-55-55661115

For further information about **standards**, please contact:

- \* Dale Wright  
U.S. Foreign Commercial Service Officer and Standards Attaché for Canada,  
Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean.  
[dale.wright@mail.doc.gov](mailto:dale.wright@mail.doc.gov) Tel. 52-55-51402603
- \* Jesus Gonzalez  
Commercial Specialist  
[jesus.Gonzalez@mail.doc.gov](mailto:jesus.Gonzalez@mail.doc.gov) Tel. 52-55-51402627

For issues related to **content**, please contact:

- \* Claudia Salgado  
Commercial Assistant  
[claudia.salgado@mail.doc.gov](mailto:claudia.salgado@mail.doc.gov) Tel. 52-55-51402639

To receive **notifications**, please register at:

[http://www.buyusa.gov/mexico/en/claudia\\_salgado.html](http://www.buyusa.gov/mexico/en/claudia_salgado.html)

**Previous editions** can be found at:

[https://www.buyusa.gov/mexico/en/standards\\_view.html](https://www.buyusa.gov/mexico/en/standards_view.html)