



Standards View

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



Standards Attaché Message

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the March edition of the Standards View newsletter. Our featured country this month is Guatemala, a beautiful gem of a nation located on the border with Mexico. Any country that names its currency, the Quetzal, after their national bird gets my vote! In fact, Guatemala is the next destination for our friends from the National Electrical Manufacturers Association in their seminar series around the region. These seminars are aimed at teaching our friends in the CAFTA-DR and Andean regions the importance of developing standards for electrical products, the danger of buying counterfeit products, etc. The NEMA seminar in Guatemala will take place in September.

Within these pages, you will find: information on the Guatemalan standards regime; a link to the NOM/NMX report for Mexico compiled monthly by our erstwhile standards specialist here in CS Mexico, Mr. Jesus Gonzalez; standards news from around the region; and, a summary of notifications that have been received by the NIST Notify US portal. Enjoy!

Dale Wright
Standards Attaché
Mexico, Canada, Central America and the Caribbean

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Guatemala



Standards-Related Organizations in Guatemala

Source:

U.S. Commercial Service – Market Research Library

Doing Business in Guatemala: A Country Commercial Guide for U.S. Companies. 2007 (Ch. 5 p. 62-65)

http://www.buyusainfo.net/docs/x_1861219.pdf

Overview

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

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

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

Standards Organizations

COGUANOR is empowered to direct and coordinate national policy regarding the setting of standards. Through the Ministry of Economy, it proposes the modification of current standards and adoption of new standards to the government's executive branch, oversees the application of adopted standards, and its technical committees are responsible for reviewing standards when necessary. COGUANOR also maintains communication with regional and international standards organizations.

COGUANOR is governed by an executive advisory committee, which is made up of representatives from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Labor, Bar of Engineers, and the Chambers of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce.

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

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

Hyperlink	Name and Website	Description
	Comisión Guatemalteca de Normas – COGUANOR	The National Standards Comisión, COGUANOR, is responsible for developing standards to encourage the development of agricultural, comercial and industrial activities.
	http://www.coguanor.org/	Contact: Lic. Magin Beteta, Secretario Ejecutivo mbeteta@mail.mineco.gob.gt
	Centro Nacional de Metrología	The National Center of Metrology is part of the National Quality Systems Directorate in accordance with the 182-2000, 145-2002, and 57-2003 Government Decrees.
	http://www.mineco.gob.gt/mineco/calidad/metrologia.htm	
	Oficina Guatemalteca de Acreditación	The Guatemalan Accreditation Office is part of the National Quality Systems Directorate as established in the 182-2000, 145-2002, and 57-2003 Government Decrees.
	http://www.mineco.gob.gt/mineco/calidad/acreditacion/oga.php	

Conformity Assessment/Testing


The Guatemalan Consumer Service and Support Board (DIACO) was created in 1995.

In December 2003, Government Decree 777-2003 added a Testing and Inspection Department to DIACO. This department is responsible for investigating compliance with the legal requirements of COGUANOR and international treaties ratified by Guatemala.

When the United States and Central America launched the free trade agreement negotiations, they initiated an active working group dialogue on SPS barriers to agricultural trade that met in conjunction with the negotiations to facilitate market access.

The objective was to leverage the impetus of active trade negotiations to seek changes to the Central American countries' SPS regimes. Through the work of this group, Guatemala has committed to resolve specific measures affecting U.S. exports to Guatemala. In particular for meat, poultry and dairy, Guatemala will recognize the

equivalence of the U.S. food safety and inspection system, thereby eliminating the need for plant-by-plant inspections. For distilled spirits, U.S. industry welcomes the trade facilitation initiative of the five Central American countries, including Guatemala, to develop common standards for distilled spirits products. However, outstanding concerns remain, over issues such as alcohol content, brand registration and certification requirements.

Hyperlink	Name and Website	Description
	Dirección de Atención y Asistencia al Consumidor de Guatemala – DIACO www.diaco.gob.gt	The Guatemalan Consumer Service and Support Board was created in 1995. In 2003, Government Decree 777-2003 added a Testing and Inspection Department to DIACO. Contact: Lic. Silvia Padilla Directora diacoquecajas@mail.mineco.gob.gt

Product Certification

Any commercially-sold food products imported into Guatemala must present a phytosanitary and/or zoo-sanitary certificate, certificate of origin, commercial invoice, free sale certificate and bill of lading to receive an import license. These documents must be legalized at the Guatemalan Embassy or one of its Consulates in the United States. All documents must be translated into Spanish. In addition, all packaged food products require product registration from the Division of Registration and Control of Medicines and Foods and must obtain a sanitary import certificate from the Ministry of Health.

Guatemalan norms regarding food additives are based on the Codex Alimentarium food additives list. Any additives added to this list must be approved by COGUANOR's executive advisory committee. The approval process can take six months or perhaps longer.

Pesticides are regulated by the Technical Directorate of Vegetable Health of the Ministry of Agriculture. They maintain a list of prohibited pesticides.

Guatemala has been a correspondent member of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) since 1997, meaning that they do not actively participate in the development of policies and standards, but are kept fully informed of such developments.

Hyperlink	Name and Website	Description
	Ministerio de Salud Pública – Programa de Accesibilidad de Medicamentos – PROAM http://www.proam.gob.gt/	Ministry of Health - Division of Registration and Control of Medicines and Foods – PROAM All packaged food products require product registration from the División of Registration and Control of Medicines and Foods
	Ministerio de Salud Pública y Asistencia Social de Guatemala http://www.mspas.gob.gt/	Ministry of Health. All packaged food products must obtain a sanitary import certificate from the Ministry of Health.
	Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación de Guatemala – MAGA http://portal.maga.gob.gt/portal/page/portal/main	Ministry of Agriculture – MAGA Pesticides are regulated by the Technical Directorate of Vegetable Health of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Accreditation

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

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

OGA is a full member of the Interamerican Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC), created in 1996, consisting of various accreditation agencies from 20 countries of the Americas. OGA is also a member of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), an associate member of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), a

correspondent member of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Publication of Technical Regulations

Guatemala's national gazette is the *Diario de Centro America*, available online (see contact information below). New national standards that have been approved by the government's executive branch become effective on the date that they are published in the *Diario de Centro America*.

Contact:

- National Gazette -*Diario de Centro America*: www.diariodecentroamerica.gob.gt
- Luis Eduardo Marroquin, Director: lborrayo@dca.gob.gt



Regional Highlights



Notify U.S

**NATIONAL CENTER FOR STANDARDS AND CERTIFICATION
INFORMATION**

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

Notifications from March 12 to March 26, 2008

1) ***Nicaragua – Nicaraguan Mandatory Technical Standard (NTON) No. 11 Certification of Open-Pollinated Onion Seed.***

Notification Number: NIC/92

03/12/2008

The purpose of the notified regulation is to establish the provisions, requirements and procedures governing the production, certification, marketing, exportation and importation of onion seed.

2) ***Nicaragua – Nicaraguan Mandatory Technical Standard (NTON) No. 03 074-07 Minimum Quality and Safety Requirements for Bananas.***

Notification Number: NIC/93

03/12/2008

The notified Technical Standard establishes the characteristics, specifications and minimum quality and safety requirements to be met by bananas, as a fruit for human consumption.

3) ***Nicaragua – Nicaraguan Mandatory Technical Standard (NTON) 11 018-06 for the Certification of Tomato and Pepper Seeds.***

Notification Number: NIC/91

03/12/2008

The purpose of this Standard is to establish the provisions, requirements and procedures governing production, certification, marketing, exports and imports of tomato and pepper seeds in Nicaragua.

4) ***Nicaragua – Nicaraguan Mandatory Technical Standard (NTON) No. 05 031-07 on the Use of Waste Water From the Sugar Industry and Alcohol Distilleries for the Irrigation of Sugar Cane Plantations.***

Notification Number: NIC/97

03/12/2008

The purpose of the notified regulation is to establish the criteria and technical specifications for the use of waste from the sugar cane industry and alcohol distilleries as a nutritional supplement in the irrigation of sugar cane plantations.

5) Nicaragua – Nicaraguan Mandatory Technical Standard (NTON) No. 03 078-07 Sanitary Requirements for Fresh Meat Outlets.

Notification Number: NIC/94
03/12/2008

The purpose of this Regulation is to establish hygiene and sanitary requirements for all outlets throughout the country that sell fresh meat for human consumption.

6) Nicaragua –Nicaraguan Mandatory Technical Standard (NTON) No. 03 079-08 for the Transport of Foodstuffs.

Notification Number: NIC/90
03/12/2008

The purpose of this Regulation is to establish the minimum sanitary requirements for food cargo carriers.

7) Nicaragua – Addendum.

Notification Number: NIC/39/NIC (NIC/39)
03/12/2008

The Government of Nicaragua hereby notifies that Nicaraguan Mandatory Technical Standard (NTON) No. 13 002-00 on potatoes, notified in document G/TBT/N/NIC/39 of 11 May 2004, has been partially amended. The final date for comments is 60 days from the date of this notification.

8) Nicaragua – Addendum.

Notification Number: NIC/1/NIC (NIC/1)
03/12/2008

The Government of Nicaragua hereby notifies that Nicaraguan Mandatory Technical Standard (NTON) No. 03 021-99 for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods, notified in document G/TBT/N/NIC/1 of 15 February 2001, has been partially amended. The final date for comments is 60 days from the date of this notification.

9) Nicaragua – Nicaraguan Mandatory Technical Standard (NTON) No. 03 077-07 for Pure Roasted Coffee, Whole Bean or Ground.

Notification Number: NIC/96
03/12/2008

The purpose of this Standard is to establish the quality and safety specifications for the processing and marketing of pure roasted coffee (whole bean or ground).

10) Nicaragua – Nicaraguan Mandatory Technical Standard (NTON) No. 18 002-07 for the Certification of Seeds and Plants of Forested Species.

Notification Number: NIC/95
03/12/2008

The purpose of this Regulation is to establish provisions, requirements and procedures governing the production, certification, marketing, export and import of seeds and forest plants.

11) Mexico – Draft Amendment to Mexican Official Standard NOM-022-STPS-199, Static Electricity in the Workplace – Safety and Health Requirements.

Notification Number: MEX/137

03/20/2008

The notified text sets forth the safety requirements for preventing static electricity hazards in the workplace. It is applicable throughout Mexican territory and covers all places of work in which inflammable or explosive substances are stored, handled or transported. It also covers places of work in which the processes carried out involve the use of materials, substances or equipment capable of storing or generating a static electricity charge, and those which, due to their location, the physical characteristics of the building and geographical location, are at risk of being struck by lightning.

12) Mexico – Draft Mexican Official Standard PROY-NOM-029-SCFI-2007, Trade Practices, Information Requirements for the Marketing of Timeshare Services.

Notification Number: MEX/138

03/20/2008

This draft Mexican Official Standard lays down the trade information requirements and regulatory elements applicable to timeshare service providers, with a view to ensuring customer satisfaction with the services contracted. It is of interest and generally applicable to all persons who are directly or indirectly engaged in the marketing, operation and provision of timeshare services in Mexican territory and in the marketing in Mexico of timeshare services provided abroad.

13) El Salvador – Addendum.

Notification Number: SLV/117/SLV (SLV/117)

03/26/2008

With regard to notification G/TBT/N/SLV/117 on Salvadoran Mandatory Standard 13.11.02:07: “Atmospheric Emissions, Stationary Point Sources,” please note that the information given in item 5 should read “Atmospheric Emissions, Stationary Point Sources” and not “Cosmetics, Toiletries.”

14) El Salvador – Addendum.

Notification Number: SLV/116/SLV (SLV/116)

03/26/2008

The final date for comments with regard to the notification G/TBT/N/SLV/116, dated 18 January 2008, on Salvadoran Mandatory Standard (NSO) No. 67.01.15:07: Milk Products, Flavoured Pasteurized and Ultra-pasteurized Milk, Specifications” has been extended until 18 April 2008.

15) El Salvador - Addendum.

Notification Number: SLV/114/SLV (SLV/114)

03/26/2008

The final date for comments with regard to the notification G/TBT/N/SLV/114, dated 18 January 2008, on Salvadoran Mandatory Standard (NSO) No. 13.07.02:07: Water, Bottled water (First revision) has been extended until 18 April 2008.

16) Canada – Proposed Amendment to the Food and Drug Regulations (Project No. 1578 – Schedule F).

Notification Number: CAN/231
03/26/2008

This notification announces the availability of a letter that provides an opportunity to comment on the proposed addition of four medical ingredients to Schedule F, Part I to the Food and Drug Regulations.

Description of the medical ingredients:

1. Aliskiren and its salts is the first of a new pharmacological class of medicines called rennin inhibitors. It is used to treat mild to moderate hypertension (high blood pressure). Aliskiren and its salts may be used alone or together with other blood pressure medications. Individualized instructions and direct supervision by a practitioner are required. Aliskiren and its salts may have undesirable or severe side effects at normal therapeutic dosage levels.
2. Anidulafungin is an antifungal medication that is indicated for the treatment of serious, often fatal fungal infections. Direct practitioner intervention is required for diagnosis, supervision of drug administration and ongoing assessment of treatment. Anidulafungin requires specialized non-routine laboratory testing and monitoring procedures to ensure maximum benefit from therapy.
3. Lanreotide and its salts is used for the long-term treatment of excessive growth (acromegaly) due to pituitary tumors in patients who have had inadequate response to or cannot be treated with surgery and/or radiation. Lanreotide and its salts must be administered by deep injection under the skin and requires laboratory monitoring during treatment. Lanreotide and its salts may have undesirable or severe side effects at normal therapeutic dosage levels.
4. Raltegravir and its salts is an antiretroviral agent that is used in combination with other antiretroviral drugs to treat HIV-1 infection. Administration of raltegravir and its salts requires direct practitioner supervision and routine laboratory monitoring, including assessment of treatment efficacy. Raltegravir and its salts may have undesirable or severe side effects at normal therapeutic dosage levels.

The degree of regulatory control afforded by Schedule F (prescription drug) status coincides with the risk factors associated with each medicinal ingredient. Oversight by a practitioner is necessary to ensure that appropriate risk/benefit information is considered before the drug containing the medicinal ingredient is administered and that the drug therapy is properly monitored.

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 labeled or if in a form unsuitable for human use.

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 March 1 to 31, 2008

Author: Jesús González

Standards Highlights - Mexico

1) 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 58 –ONNCCE
March 2008

Who certifies?

Certification assures, through a document issued by an accredited entity, that the product, process, system, person or service satisfies the requirements or demands defined by a regulatory document of public knowledge.

Nowadays, several public and private organizations offer their services; however, the majority of them do not possess an Accreditation certificate granted by an impartial entity.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.onncce.org.mx/envioboletin/boletin58.htm>

2) ONNCCE

Metrology Symposium 2008

The National Metrology Center (CENAM) will hold the Metrology Symposium 2008 from October 22 to 24. The symposium will take place in the City of Santiago, Querétaro.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.cenam.mx/simposio2008/>

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



e-NYCE

NYCE introduces *e-NYCE*, a value-added service for customers. In *e-NYCE*, users reduce operation costs by accessing documents online. Users also have the option of downloading, printing and administering the current documentation.

For more information, please visit:

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

4) NYCE

Gaceta 8
P. 4-5

Why imported products have to be re-labeled?

According with the Federal Law on Metrology and Regulation: “Information on the commercial, sanitary, ecological, quality, security and hygienic issues are required on labels, containers, packages and publicity of the products and services, in order to provide information to consumers or users”. This information is necessary to avoid risk for the health of persons, animals, vegetation and the environment. Re-labeling is also important to determine the customs fees of the imported products and to assure that they conform with the commercial information specified in the Official Mexican Standards for their commercialization in Mexico.

The label should contain:

- Name or generic denomination of the product.
- Quantity specification in accordance with the draft technical regulation: NOM-030-SCFI.
- Manufacturer name and fiscal address.
- Country of origin.
- Risk warnings or caution graphics/symbols in case the product is dangerous.
- Instructions on the usage, handling or conservation of the product.
- Expiration date.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.nyce.org.mx/doc/gaceta8.pdf>

5) NYCE

Gaceta 8

P. 10

Certifying Chocolate

To obtain the seal of Genuine Chocolate issued by NYCE, which complies with the chocolate denomination described in draft technical regulation NOM-186-SSA1/SCFI-2002, please visit:

www.nyce.org.mx/choco.html

www.aschoco.org.mx

Or contact: emedina@nyce.org.mx

Tel. 52-55-53950777 ext. 234

Standards News – Mexico

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



Workshop - Empowerment of competitiveness in Mexico: Revision of Existent Regulations.

On April 1st, COFEMER organized, along with the Organization and Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), a workshop to discuss the technical aspects of the Regulatory Revision, when taken during the process of promulgating the Regulatory Framework for Competitiveness in Mexico, introduced by the government of Felipe Calderón Hinojosa at the end of 2007.

This process includes the evaluation of current law and regulations in the economic sector and the development of alternatives that decrease or eliminate the negative effects of regulation, in order to gain more economic productivity and competitiveness that benefits society.

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=24

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



Press Release
07/2008

COFETEL Revises the National Table of Frequency Reference

On April 4 COFETEL published in the Official Gazette the revision to the *National Table of Frequency Reference (CNAF)*. This document will serve as a frame of reference to promote the development of new technologies and services to the benefit of industry and Mexican consumers.

The updates made to the *CNAF* will provide technical and legal certainty to operators and will promote the use of frequency bands that facilitate technological and service convergence such as, voice, data and video services under the same technological platform (triple play).

The *CNAF* presents the band frequency reference for radio transmission, terrestrial and aerospace communication and fixed and mobile communication; including aeronautic and maritime communication bands, for the purposes of navigation, rescue, localization and communication.

For more information, please visit:

http://www.cft.gob.mx/cofetel/html/1_cft/bol2008/COMUNICADO_7_08.pdf

U.S.
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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:

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

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For **previous editions**, please visit:

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

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