Serbia

Overview
The Institute for Standardization of Serbia (ISS) is recognized by the Law on Standardization (Official Gazette of RS No. 36/09) as the only National Standards Body in Serbia. The ISS is responsible for developing and adopting standards (which are considered voluntary under the law). Certain standards with mandatory application that had been adopted prior to 1996 became voluntary on June 30, 2009 or were converted where appropriate, into technical regulations. The specific legislative framework for voluntary standardization in the Republic of Serbia is in place and fully operational.

According to the new Law on Standardization which came into effect on May 23, 2009, Serbian standards may also be published in one of the official languages of the European organizations for standardization (CEN, CENELEC and ETSI). By the end of May 2009, the collection of Serbian standards and related documents comprised 17,294 documents.

The ISS is a full member of ISO and IEC, affiliate member of CEN and CENELEC, and has accepted the WTO TBT Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption, and Application of Standards (Annex 3 to the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade). The education and release of standards and standards development is carried out in accordance with the above Code and Decree on the Procedure of Notification and the Manner of Providing Information Related to Technical Regulations, Conformity Assessment and Standards (Official Gazette of RS No. 45/10).

Information on particular standards can be obtained from the Information Centre of the Institute for Standardization of Serbia:
Telephone: +381 11 654 72 93 and +381 11 754 12 60;
E-mail: ljubica.petrovic@iss.rs and iss1@iss.rs

The Ministry of Economy and Regional Development is responsible for standardization, technical regulations, accreditation and measures, and precious metals, as well as preparing regulations in these areas. Other ministries are responsible for preparation and adoption of technical regulations within their scope of activities. In accordance with the Law on Technical Requirements for Products and Conformity Assessment (Official Gazette of RS No. 36/09), which was adopted by the National Parliament in May 2009, technical regulations are prepared and adopted by the ministries responsible for the subject matter in question.

The Law on Technical Requirements for Products and Conformity Assessment (Official Gazette of RS No. 36/09) prescribes that products subject to technical regulations may be placed or made available on the market only if they are in conformity with the prescribed technical requirements, if their conformity has been assessed according to the prescribed procedure, and if they are accompanied by the relevant documents of conformity and marked in the prescribed manner. Technical regulations may refer to or incorporate standards or technical specifications. The Ministry of Economy and Regional Development keeps the register of adopted technical regulations and those under preparation. The procedures for conformity assessment with technical regulations are prescribed directly in technical regulations or indirectly in standards or technical specifications to which technical regulations refer. Documents of conformity may be issued by manufacturers, appointed conformity assessment bodies, or state administration authority, as prescribed by the particular technical regulation.

The importation of measuring instruments is unrestricted, but products must fulfill the conditions prescribed by the Law on Metrology (Official Gazette of RS No. 30/10) before the products can be placed on the market or put in use. The Directorate for Measures and Precious Metals, within
the Ministry of Economy and Regional Development, is responsible for implementation of this Law.

With the adoption of the new Law on Food Safety (Official Gazette of RS No. 41/09) in May 2009, the Law on Quality Control of Agricultural and Food Products in Foreign Trade (Official Gazette of FRY No. 12/95, 28/96, 59/98, and RS OG No. 101/05) has been abolished. Thus, the mandatory quality control of agricultural and food products at Serbia’s border is no longer applied.

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Standards Organizations
Based on the Law on Standardization (Official Gazette of RS No. 36/09), the Government of the Republic of Serbia issued the Decision on Amendments to the Founding Act of the ISS in October 2009. In accordance with the above Law and Decision, the ISS was registered by the Government of Serbia and registered as a legal entity. The Institute performs tasks specified by the Law on Standardization and its work is supervised by the Ministry of Economy and Regional Development. This ISS is composed of the Assembly, Managing Board, Director and a Supervisory Board. Expert councils were established to direct work in specific areas of standardization.

The ISS has adopted the abbreviation SRPS (Srpski Standardi), as the official designation of Serbian standards and related documents.

The majority of Serbian standards and related documents have been developed in accordance with international ISO, IEC and European (EN) or national standards and related documents of other countries.

Activities of the Institute
The ISS performs the following tasks:

- adopt, publish, review and withdraw Serbian standards, in accordance with the rules of the Institute;
- interpret Serbian standards and their interpretation application of Serbian standards, at the request of the interested party;
- ensure the compliance of Serbian standards with international and European standards;
- keep the register of adopted and withdrawn Serbian standards, in accordance with the rules of the Institute;
- participate in the preparation and review of international and European standards in the areas of interest for the Republic of Serbia;
- cooperate with the international and European organizations for standardization and national bodies for standardization of countries signatories of relevant agreements in the area of standardization;
- perform the standardization related tasks, in accordance with the obligations arising from ratified international agreements to which the Republic of Serbia is a signatory;
- ensure the public availability of adopted and withdrawn Serbian standards, publications, as well as standards and publications of relevant international, European and national bodies for standardization, and carry out their sale;
- at the request of the state administration authority, provide the information whether a relevant Serbian standard has been adopted in the area that is being regulated by a technical
regulation, or its adoption is pending, namely whether relevant international or European standard exists;

Provide information and notifications related to standards, in accordance with the requirements provided for in the relevant international agreements and the obligations arising from the membership in relevant international and European organizations for standardization;

represent and act in the interest of the Republic of Serbia in the area of standardization in the international and European organizations for standardization;

approve the use of national mark of conformity with the Serbian standards, in accordance with the rules of the Institute;

issue the rules based on which Serbian standards are adopted, published, reviewed and withdrawn;

delegate to the interested parties, in accordance with its rules, preparation of proposals of Serbian standards in specific areas;

promote the application of Serbian standards;

perform other tasks in the area of standardization, in accordance with the law and articles of association.

The ISS no longer carries out activities related to the homologation of vehicles, equipment and parts. This responsibility has been transferred to the Agency for Traffic Safety. The ISS represents the interests of Serbia in the international and European organizations for standardization including:

The International Organization for Standardization – ISO; status of a full member;

The International Electrotechnical Commission – IEC; status of a full member;

IEC International System for Conformity Testing and Certification of Electrical Equipment – IECEE, with the Scheme for the recognition of test results – IECEE/CB Scheme; status of a full member;

IEC Scheme for Certification to Standards for Electrical Equipment used in Explosive Atmospheres – IECEx; status of a full member;

IEC Quality Assessment System for Electronic Components – IECQ; status of a full member;

European Committee for Standardization – CEN; affiliate status;

European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization – CENELEC; affiliate status.

International agreements:

UN/ECE Agreement Concerning the Approval of Uniform Technical Prescriptions for Wheeled Vehicles, Equipment and Parts which can be fitted and/or be used on wheeled vehicles and the conditions for reciprocal recognition of approvals granted on the basis of these prescriptions. The Ministry of Infrastructure’s Agency for Traffic Safety is the responsible agency.

The ISS conducts bilateral cooperation with foreign organizations for standardization. Concluding bilateral agreements is related to the work of joint commissions/committees for trade and economic cooperation between Serbia and other countries or it is governed by the appropriate international agreements.

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NIST Notify U.S. Service
Member countries of the World Trade Organization (WTO) are required under the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement) to report to the WTO all proposed technical regulations that could affect trade with other Member countries. Notify U.S. is a free, web-based e-mail subscription service that offers an opportunity to review and comment on proposed foreign technical regulations that can affect your access to international markets. Register online at Internet URL: http://www.nist.gov/notifyus/

Conformity Assessment
Conformity assessment may be conducted by manufacturers, appointed conformity assessment bodies or state administration authorities, as prescribed by the particular technical regulation. Technical regulations specify the type of the document of conformity which must accompany the product prior to its placement on the market. Document of conformity is understood to mean declaration of conformity, testing report, certificate, certificate on control or any other document verifying the conformity of products with the prescribed requirements. Conformity assessment bodies are appointed by the responsible ministers for performing conformity assessment with specific technical regulations. Pursuant to specific technical regulation, in cases where a state administration authority conducts conformity assessment, it may authorize conformity assessment body (bodies) to perform technical valuation for the needs of such authority. The Ministry of Economy and Regional Development maintains a public register of appointed and authorized conformity assessment bodies. The Government of Serbia has adopted the Decree on the Procedure of Notification and the Manner of Providing Information Related to Technical Regulations, Conformity Assessment and Standards (Official Gazette of RS No. 45/10), which prescribes that the Ministry of Economy and Regional Development is responsible for providing information on request with regard to technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures, and the ISS acts as the inquiry point for standards. Within the Ministry, these tasks are performed by the Department for Quality Infrastructure.

Conformity assessment is conducted in accordance with the Decree on Manner of Performing Conformity Assessment, Content of Document of Conformity, as well as Form, Appearance and Content of the Conformity Marking (Official Gazette of RS No. 98/09). In addition, the Law on Technical Requirements for Products and Conformity Assessment (Official Gazette of RS No. 36/09) and the Decree on Manner of Recognition of Foreign Documents and Markings of Conformity (Official Gazette of RS No. 98/09) contain provisions on the conditions and manner of recognition of foreign documents and markings of conformity as valid in Serbia.

Product Certification
A product may be placed on the market only if:
- It conforms with the prescribed technical requirements,
- Conformity was assessed according to the prescribed procedure;
- It is marked in accordance with the regulations; and
- It is accompanied with the prescribed documents of conformity and other prescribed documentation.

There are no existing Mutual Recognition Agreements with any US organization or any other countries.
Accreditation
Accreditation is a third-party attestation performed by the National Accreditation Body and is used to determine and confirm that an organization meets the requirements necessary to perform certain conformity assessment activities laid down in relevant international standards and that it is competent to perform these activities.

In Serbia, accreditation is granted by the Accreditation Board of Serbia (ATS). ATS is an independent non-profit organization implementing the Law on Accreditation by assessing the competence of conformity assessment bodies (CABS).

Conformity assessment of products, processes, and services with technical regulations and standards is performed by professional and technically competent laboratories and certification and inspection bodies, known as conformity assessment bodies (CABS). Accredited CABS check whether standards and technical regulations were met in order to provide harmonised, safe, quality and reliable products, processes and services to consumers.

The Impartiality rule requires that the accreditation body be impartial in making a decision on accreditation and not have any conflict of interest with the body applying for accreditation. The ATS shall also not be subject to any other pressure of a political, commercial, financial, etc. nature. ATS applies itself to promote the recognition of the role of accreditation and the adequate exploitation of its function, as a service of general interest, representing the last authoritative level of control of conformity assessment services delivered in both voluntary (market driven) and mandatory (law regulated) spheres.

As such, accreditation must be operated under the following conditions:
   - At the national level, with a recognized mandate from the government.
   - In complete independence and impartiality.
   - With full accountability towards all interested parties, with no single interest or group of interests predominating.
   - As a non-profit distributing service activity and without any competition.

In awarding accreditation, ATS endeavor to safeguard as far as possible the interests of all parties involved. ATS takes into consideration market orientation, transparency, competency and integrity in their activities. Furthermore, when deploying an assessment team key selection criteria must involve independence and competence of the assessors.

Accreditation is not mandatory for CABS unless otherwise stipulated in different technical regulations or sub-laws/sectors laws (e.g. veterinary matters, food safety, environmental protection, agriculture)

The ATS performs its activities on the basis of: the Law on Accreditation (“Official Journal of Serbia & Montenegro”, No. 44/2005), Act on Establishment of the Accreditation Board of Serbia (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 96/2006), Statute of the Accreditation Board of Serbia, following standards: SRPS ISO/IEC 17011, 17020, 17021, 17024, 17025, SRPS ISO 15189, and SRPS EN 45011 containing requirements related to the work of a national accreditation body and competence assessment of conformity assessment bodies, Rules of Accreditation, procedures, instructions and guides of the EA - European Cooperation for Accreditation and/or ILAC - International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation and/or IAF - International Accreditation Forum,
sectors laws and regulations laying down accreditation process and compulsory conformity assessment activities.

ATS cooperates with bodies and organisations belonging to the public administration system of the Republic of Serbia, in accordance with the rules associated with SRPS ISO/IEC 17011, and which does not jeopardise its independent status. ATS represents the Republic of Serbia in European and international accreditation organisations and takes part in the work thereof.

In 2002 the ATS became an associate member of the European Cooperation for Accreditation (EA) by signing the Memorandum of Understanding. In 2007 the Memorandum of Understanding was replaced with the Contract of Cooperation with the EA which is in keeping with the changes related to the status of EA members.

In 2009 the ATS became an associate member of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC).

Scope of Activities of the ATS

The Law on Accreditation lays down the accreditation process, establishment and scope of business activities of the Serbian Accreditation Board, its structure and financing.

Pursuant to the Law on Accreditation and Act on Establishment of the Accreditation Board of Serbia, the Accreditation Board shall perform the following activities:

1. Accreditation activities such as the accreditation of: testing laboratories; calibration laboratories; medical laboratories; inspection bodies; certification bodies certifying products and processes; management systems; persons; and EMAS system verifiers;
2. Develop and publish Rules of Accreditation that must be based on the relevant Serbian, European and international standards and documents of the European and international accreditation organisations;
3. Participate in the work of the European and international accreditation organisations and represent the interests of Serbia therein as per the responsibilities taken on by means of international contracts;
4. Keep the Register of Accredited Bodies;
5. Organise and provide training to assessors in the field of accreditation;
6. Organise seminars and courses and promote the importance and role of accreditation process;
7. Perform other activities in the field of accreditation in accordance with the law, Act on Establishment of the Accreditation Board of Serbia and Statute.

Certification

The work of a certification body is divided into three categories:
• Products;
• Management systems (quality, environment);
• Persons.
Certification bodies – services relating to the certification of products, processes and services in accordance with regulations and developed certification schemes; management systems (quality management system, environmental management system, food safety management system, etc.) and persons (welders, persons performing non-destructive tests, etc.) can get accredited.
Standards applied:
Certification bodies are accredited according to their fields of work, under the following standards:
• SRPS EN 45011 for products;
• SRPS ISO/IEC 17021 for management systems;
• SRPS ISO/IEC 17024 for persons.

Testing
Testing laboratories – testing: foodstuffs, environment, electrical appliances, pressure vessels, chemical products, metals and metal products, construction materials, etc. can get accredited.

Standards applied:
• Laboratories are accredited according to SRPS ISO/IEC 17025.
• Medical laboratories are accredited according to a special standard SRPS ISO 15189.

Calibration
Calibration laboratories – calibrating measuring and testing equipment can get accredited.
Length, mass, volume: important measurements where calibration plays a role. Calibration is essential for manufacturing processes and forms the basis for testing laboratories and many inspection activities.

Standard applied:
Calibration laboratories are accredited according to SRPS ISO/IEC 17025.

Inspection
Inspection bodies – inspecting: lifts and cranes, pressure vessels, electrical equipment and installations, furniture quality, inspection in the field of motor vehicles and other fields can get accredited.

Standard applied: Accreditation of an inspection body is based on the SRPS ISO/IEC 17020.

More information can be obtained from Accreditation Board of Serbia – ATS at: www.ats.rs

Publication of Technical Regulations
The Ministry of Economy and Regional Development keeps registers of current technical regulations and those under preparation, which includes the name of the Ministry that adopted the technical regulation.

The Regulation on Manner of Providing Information and Notification of Technical Regulations, Standards and Conformity Assessment (Official Gazette of RS No. 126/07), the Ministry of Economy and Regional Development, in accordance with the provisions of ratified international agreements, notifies the relevant international body by submitting written notice on commencing of preparation of a technical regulation, text of the draft or brief rationale of the technical regulation and objective for its adoption, as well as information on the products to be covered by the technical regulation. This notice is published on the Internet website of the Ministry. If prescribed by ratified international agreements, the Ministry shall submit to the signatory of international agreements, upon its request, draft or particulars of the technical regulation and, whenever possible, identify the parts of technical regulation which in substance deviate from relevant international standards. Without discrimination, reasonable time will be allowed for submitting written comments. Adopted technical regulations are published in the Official Gazette of Serbia.

In addition, in accordance with the above-mentioned regulation, the Ministry of Economy and Regional Development is responsible for providing information and relevant documents to interested parties, upon their request, with regard to adopted and proposed technical
regulations and conformity assessment procedures. These tasks are performed by the Department for Quality Infrastructure within the Ministry.

**Labeling and Marking**
The conformity mark, verifying conformity of the product with certain technical regulations, may be the Serbian conformity mark, CE mark, or other conformity mark according to special regulations (e.g. homologation mark).

The Serbian conformity mark confirms that the product meets requirements of a Serbian technical regulation and that the prescribed conformity assessment procedures have been observed. This mark is in the form of three capital letters ‘A’ connected in the shape of an equilateral triangle, and is affixed to the product in such a manner as to be visible. It is prohibited to affix on a product any other mark of similar content or form, which could be misleading to the consumers, or if such would impair the visibility or legibility of the conformity mark. The CE mark confirms that the product meets requirements of relevant technical regulations that prescribe their affixing. The provisions for applying these marks are provided in the Decree on Manner of Performing Conformity Assessment, Content of Document of Conformity, as well as Form, Appearance and Content of the Conformity Marking (Official Gazette of RS No. 98/09).

Pursuant to the Law on Standardization (RS OG No. 36/09), the ISS approves use of national marks of conformity with Serbian standards. Certification bodies could be providers of other conformity marks. Manufacturers and service providers could issue a declaration of conformity with Serbian standards, but this declaration did not result in the use of a conformity mark. As compliance with standards was voluntary, products were not required to bear a national conformity mark, but affixing the mark to a product demonstrated that the requirements of a specific ISS standard were met.

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**Trade Agreements**

Serbia has been an active participant in the Stability Pact's Intra-Regional Trade working group. Serbia has entered into free trade agreements (FTAs) with: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova and Romania. The agreements liberalized at least 90 percent of mutual trade by the end of 2008. However, the FTAs signed under the auspices of the Stability Pact for SEE are not applicable as of the day the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA 2006) entered into force for relevant countries (Serbia signed the CEFTA on December 19, 2006). Parties to CEFTA 2006 are Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and UNMIK (on behalf of Kosovo). CEFTA converted 31 bilateral deals into a multilateral document. Apart from being a good signal to foreign investors, CEFTA created a regional free trade area, with tariff-free trade for 100% of industrial products and 90% of agricultural products. CEFTA is a market of 30 million people.

In 2011, Serbia generated a surplus of USD 1.5 billion in trade with CEFTA signatories, mostly due to exports of grains, grain-based products, and beverages. The largest surpluses occurred with Montenegro, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia, and Albania.

Goods originating from Serbia and exported to the EU customs area are subject to preferential custom regimes. In 2000, the European Commission introduced Autonomous Trade Measures for Serbia. These measures permitted exports to the EU without customs duties and quantitative restrictions for almost all products originating from Serbia. The EU has also conducted a feasibility study, which led to negotiations on a Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) that would result in the asymmetric reduction of tariffs. The SAA was completed in 2005 and subsequently signed and ratified in Serbia in 2008. Serbia and the EU signed an interim agreement on trade and trade issues in 2008 for the purpose of implementing trade related to
the SAA. Serbia unilaterally applied the interim trade agreement as of February 2009 which the EU signed in December 2009. In addition, trade with Kosovo, which is under UN administration, proceeds duty free, although goods are assessed relevant taxes. Previous FTAs signed with Hungary, the Slovak Republic, Bulgaria and Romania were abolished after these countries joined to the EU.

In 2009, Serbia signed FTAs with Belarus, Turkey and EFTA countries. The FTAs with Belarus, Turkey and EFTA were ratified and are being implemented in all of these countries except in Iceland and Norway, where ratification of the agreement by these two countries is pending. In 2010 Serbia signed its most recent FTA with Kazakhstan. Serbia also has a free trade agreement with Russia, which offers access to a market of 150 million people. The agreement does not encompass all products.

The United States restored Normal Trade Relations (Most-Favored Nation status) to Serbia in December 2003. This provides improved access to the U.S. market for goods exported from Serbia. In 2005, the U.S. Government designated Serbia as a beneficiary of the U.S. Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), a program that would provide duty-free access to the U.S. market in various eligible categories.

Serbia is also a beneficiary of Japan’s GSP (preferential duties on importation to Japan).

**Web Resources**

- [www.carina.rs](http://www.carina.rs)
- [www.iss.rs](http://www.iss.rs)
- [www.merr.gov.rs](http://www.merr.gov.rs)
- [www.ats.rs](http://www.ats.rs)