

## Overview

Standards are widely used in all sectors of Malaysian society, and the national standardization system uses a consensus process to develop new standards, allowing manufacturers, traders, consumers, government, and others to provide input and consideration into the development process. Malaysia adheres to the WTO's "Standard Code" on Technical Barriers to Trade. SIRIM Berhad, formerly known as the Standards and Industrial Research Institute of Malaysia, is the government-owned company providing institutional and technical infrastructure for the Government.

## Standards Organizations

[SIRIM Berhad](#) is the national organization of standardization and quality and also serves as the government's catalyst for industrial research and development. Its functions include developing Malaysian standards, undertaking scientific industrial research, and providing technology transfer and consultancy services.

As the appointed standards development agency, SIRIM publishes Malaysian standards and provides quality certification services. Today, more than 3,600 standards are available. The current standards are also reviewed every five years or whenever required to keep current with the latest technological developments. Many of these standards are implemented in product certification, quality management systems, and environmental management systems certification.

## 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

There are a few important national testing organizations that operate under SIRIM and define the structure and objectives of national standardization as well as ensure the functionality and quality assurance of products. For a list of conformity assessment bodies visit the [Department of Standards and Malaysia](#) website and click on "Accreditation" and then on "Directory of Accredited CBs" as well as on "Directory of Accredited Labs".

## Product Certification

Malaysia is part of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Mutual Recognition Arrangement. This is a multilateral arrangement between the U.S. and the economies of twenty nations, most of which are located in Southeast Asia. The purpose of the APEC MRA is to facilitate trade, promote market access, reduce or minimize non-tariff trade barriers, and arrive at a Mutual Recognition Arrangement of conformity assessment processes. All economies in the APEC Arrangement, including Malaysia, are already in Phase I, which encompasses mutual recognition of test reports. Many economies are ready for Phase II, which is an acceptance of product approvals from one another.

## Accreditation

The [Department of Standards Malaysia](#) (DSM) was established following the establishment of SIRIM to undertake the statutory roles in national standardization formerly carried out by the Institute. It operates as the sole national accreditation body

in the country. DSM provides accreditation services to certification bodies, inspection bodies, and testing and calibration laboratories. DSM is responsible for processing applications for accreditation and their submission to the Director General who, in successful cases, issues certificates of accreditation. DSM fee structure for accreditation is: (a) application fee - RM 5,000; (b) annual fee - RM 5,000. An accreditation certificate is valid for three years.

### **Publication of Technical Regulations**

Malaysia's legislative body produces an official gazette entitled *Government Gazette*. Proposed and final technical regulations are published, but accessing the government information over the Internet requires a subscription. The website [LawNet](#) provides basic information and accepts feedback on any number of subjects. U.S. firms can review and comment on proposed standards and technical regulations through the [SIRIM Berhad](#) website, by clicking on "Corporate Ads" and then "Public Comment." A list of existing standards can be found on the same site, by clicking on "Online Services" and then "MS Catalog Online."

### **Labeling and Marking**

[Sirim QAS](#), a subsidiary of SIRIM Bhd, is the leading certification, inspection and testing body in Malaysia, and provides marks for a variety of certifications. For a full list, visit its website at: <http://www.sirim-qas.com.my/certlist2.asp>. Permission to use the SIRIM Quality Mark on products or services is given to manufacturers and companies whose products and services consistently conform to the relevant MS guidelines. To ensure compliance to the requirement of the Mark, SIRIM periodically tests the product, makes both regular and unannounced visits to manufacturers, and regularly checks their quality control and procedures. For other information on labeling, please see the section earlier in [Chapter 5](#).

### **Contacts**

Standards contacts at the U.S. Embassy in Malaysia: [Terry J. Sorgi](#) and [Tracy Yeoh](#)  
Department of Standards Malaysia: <http://www.dsm.gov.my/>  
LawNet: <http://www.lawnet.com.my/>  
Malaysian Certified: <http://www.malaysiancertified.com.my/>  
Notify US: <http://www.nist.gov/notifyus/>  
SIRIM Berhad: <http://www.sirim.my/>  
SIRIM QAS: <http://www.sirim-qas.com.my/>

### **Trade Agreements**

Malaysia has pursued bilateral and regional free trade arrangements in complement to its active participation in the World Trade Organization. Malaysia's specific objective in concluding FTAs is to maintain the country's competitive position vis-à-vis its neighbors. Malaysia also requires that the FTAs it negotiates include elements of trade and investment cooperation that allows its industry to build capacity through technical cooperation and collaboration.

Malaysia is a member of the [ASEAN Free Trade Area \(AFTA\)](#), which aims to reduce trade barriers among the member countries over a 15-year period. A key AFTA objective is for the six original ASEAN members (Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, Brunei) to reduce import duties to 5% or less by 2010, with newer members (Vietnam, Laos, Burma, and Cambodia) to do the same by 2015. By 2003, 99.26% of Malaysian goods included in the AFTA Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT) scheme were subject to duties of less than 5%; of these products, 60.4% were subject to zero tariff.

Malaysia has signed and implemented bilateral FTAs with Japan and Pakistan and recently concluded negotiations with New Zealand. Malaysia is also a party to five regional FTAs namely ASEAN-China, ASEAN-Korea, ASEAN-Japan, ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand and ASEAN-India. Currently, Malaysia is negotiating bilateral FTAs with India, Chile and Australia, and the regional ASEAN-EU FTA.

The U.S. and Malaysia signed a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement in May 2004. The TIFA established a Trade and Investment Council (TIC) that meets several times a year to discuss ways to improve the bilateral trading relationship. Malaysia is also a member of the [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation \(APEC\)](#) group.

### **Web Resources**

ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA): [www.aseansec.org/economic/afta/afta.htm](http://www.aseansec.org/economic/afta/afta.htm)

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC): [www.apec.org](http://www.apec.org)

ASEAN Tariff Database: [www.us-asean.org/aftatariffs.asp](http://www.us-asean.org/aftatariffs.asp)

ATA Carnet: [www.atacarnet.com/](http://www.atacarnet.com/)

Bureau of Industry and Security: [www.bis.doc.gov/](http://www.bis.doc.gov/)

Department of Standards Malaysia (DSM): [www.dsm.gov.my/](http://www.dsm.gov.my/)

Government Gazette (subscription needed): [www.lawnet.com.my](http://www.lawnet.com.my)

Malaysia's APEC Action Plan: [www.apec-iap.org/document/MAS\\_2005\\_IAP.htm](http://www.apec-iap.org/document/MAS_2005_IAP.htm)

Malaysian Customs Department: [www.customs.gov.my](http://www.customs.gov.my)

Malaysia's Economic Planning Unit: [www.epu.jpm.my/](http://www.epu.jpm.my/)

Malaysia's External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE): [www.matrade.gov.my/](http://www.matrade.gov.my/)

Malaysia's National Economic Action Council: <http://neac.gov.my/>

Ministry of International Trade and Industry: [www.miti.gov.my/](http://www.miti.gov.my/)

SIRIM: [www.sirim.my/](http://www.sirim.my/)

SIRIM QAS: [www.sirim-qas.com.my/](http://www.sirim-qas.com.my/)

State Department's Directorate of Defense Trade Controls: [www.pmdtc.org](http://www.pmdtc.org)

U.S. Trade Representative: [www.ustr.gov/](http://www.ustr.gov/)

U.S. Export Assistant Centers: [www.export.gov/comm\\_svc/eac.html](http://www.export.gov/comm_svc/eac.html)