

New Zealand

Overview

New Zealand Standards cover a wide variety of subjects, including design, safety, specifications, performance, and quality of products. Adoption of these standards is generally voluntary, but can be made compulsory through a statutory reference. Compliance with these Standards may be an important factor in sales promotion and production certification ("S" Mark). New Zealand operates under the metric system of weights and measures. New Zealand Standards use the identifier NZS. Joint Australian and New Zealand Standards use the identifier AS/NZS.

New Zealand cooperates with several of its major trading partners on reciprocal recognition and acceptance of standards.

The Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Arrangement (TTMRA) between New Zealand and Australia integrates both countries' standards. Products sold in one economy may legally be sold in the other, regardless of differences in standards or other sale-related regulatory requirements.

New Zealand has an agreement with the European Union known as the Mutual Recognition of Conformity Assessment (NZ/EU MRA) - for Conformité Européenne (CE) Marking. The NZ/EU MRA enables exporters to assess conformity (testing, inspection, and certification) with standards in their own country before the goods are shipped. This agreement does not consider the two sides' standards as equivalent, but has designated certification bodies in each country as competent to assess against the other party's standards. The NZ/EU MRA currently covers a limited number of product sectors.

Standards Organizations

The New Zealand Standards Council oversees the development and adoption of standards. Standards New Zealand is the national standards body and represents New Zealand in the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC).

Recognizing the close ties between the two economies, Standards New Zealand cooperates closely with Standards Australia to develop joint Australian-New Zealand standards (ASNZS) that are based, to a large extent, on international standards. The Active Co-operation Agreement with Standards Australia is also intended to meet both nations' obligations under the World Trade Organization (WTO) Standards.

Assurance of compliance with standards is provided through product, service, quality, and environmental certification services, for example:

The Quality Assured Supplier (QAS) Mark demonstrates that a company is committed to quality, assuring customers that an effective quality assurance system is in place. QAS is verified by independent assessors for meeting NZSASISO 9000 Quality Standards.

Within New Zealand's agricultural sector, at least two organizations offer organic certification services to food producers.

AsureQuality provides an organic certification service to organic producers and processors through its certification business Certenz. The company provides independent testing, analysis, and quality assurance systems for farm, food, forestry, and plant products. Certenz markets its business processes as meeting ISO 65, enabling it to ensure market access to the European Union. The AsureQuality Organic Standard is based on the international Codex Alinorm 99/22,

EU Regulations and the Australian National Standard. BIO-GRO New Zealand is the business arm of the non-profit New Zealand Biological Producers and Consumers Council Inc. BIO-GRO itself is a registered trademark, and has developed its own set of organic agriculture production standards. The organization is accredited as a member of the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), based in Germany.

Another set of safety standards applies to gas and electrical appliances for the consumer market. The Energy Safety Service (ESS) is a division of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs and develops and applies internationally accepted standards to New Zealand's systems of electricity and gas safety. The Regulatory Compliance Mark, or RCM, indicates an appliance complies with the relevant safety Standard.

The New Zealand Council on Healthcare Standards operates through Quality Health New Zealand to provide national accreditation for hospitals and other health and disability services. Quality Health also audits health services to determine compliance with its own standards in order to establish Ministry of Health certification. Quality of Health audits the following services: hospitals, rest homes, mental health services, community and home care services, hospices, disability services, primary care services, and health non-profit organizations.

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

Standards New Zealand assesses products and systems and certifies conformance to particular standards.

Product Certification

New Zealand is recognized internationally as a certifying body.

Accreditation

The accreditation authority for ISO 9000 certifying bodies in New Zealand is the Joint Accreditation System - Australia and New Zealand (JAS-ANZ), established in 1991. International Accreditation New Zealand (IANZ) is the national authority for accrediting technical professional services. Its primary role is the accreditation of testing and calibration laboratories and inspection bodies. IANZ accredits laboratories against the international standard ISO/IEC 17025: "General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories." It also accredits specific professional activities, including radiology services and pharmacies. Website for International Accreditation New Zealand: <http://www.ianz.govt.nz/>

Publication of Technical Regulations

Standards New Zealand publishes and distributes standards.

Labeling and Marking

New Zealand's "S" Mark is granted by Standards New Zealand and provides independent, third-party assurance that a product or service complies with a standard or a recognized requirement.

Use of the Regulatory Compliance Mark (RCM) on a product for sale in New Zealand requires a company or organization to be registered as a RCM user. Registration can be made through the Energy Safety Service, Standards New Zealand, or Standards Australia.

Contacts

Standards New Zealand
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New Zealand

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Fax: 64 (4) 498-5994

Email: enquiries@standards.co.nz

Website: <http://www.standards.co.nz/>

Standards Point-of-contact at the U.S. Commercial Service – New Zealand:

Janet.Coulthart@trade.gov

Trade Agreements

New Zealand and Australia trade through a Closer Economic Relationship (CER), which is a free trade agreement eliminating all tariffs between the two countries. The rules of origin under the CER do not, however, permit products to enter Australia duty free from New Zealand unless the products are of at least 50 percent New Zealand origin. Additionally, the last manufacturing process must be carried out in New Zealand. The enactment of the Free Trade Agreement between Australia and the United States on January 1, 2005 removes any tariff disadvantage to U.S. firms that choose re-export products from New Zealand to Australia. Website:

<http://www.mfat.govt.nz/Trade-and-Economic-Relations/Trade-Relationships-and-Agreements/Australia/index.php>

New Zealand concluded a Closer Economic Partnership (CEP) agreement with Singapore that entered into force on January 1, 2001. Details on MFAT website at:

<http://www.mfat.govt.nz/Trade-and-Economic-Relations/Trade-Relationships-and-Agreements/Singapore/index.php>

New Zealand concluded a concluded a CEP agreement with Thailand that entered into force on July 1, 2005. Details on MFAT website at: <http://www.mfat.govt.nz/Trade-and-Economic-Relations/Trade-Relationships-and-Agreements/Thailand/index.php>

New Zealand concluded an FTA with China that entered into force on October 1, 2008. Details on MFAT website at: <http://www.mfat.govt.nz/Trade-and-Economic-Relations/Trade-Relationships-and-Agreements/China/index.php>

New Zealand and Malaysia signed an FTA October 26, 2009, but is yet to enter into force.

Details on MFAT website at: <http://www.mfat.govt.nz/Trade-and-Economic-Relations/Trade-Relationships-and-Agreements/Malaysia/index.php>

New Zealand concluded work on an FTA with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) on October 31, 2009, but the agreement has not yet been signed. Details on MFAT website at:

<http://www.mfat.govt.nz/Trade-and-Economic-Relations/Trade-Relationships-and-Agreements/Gulf-Cooperation-Council/index.php>

New Zealand concluded a CEP with Hong Kong, which entered into force on January 1, 2011: <http://www.mfat.govt.nz/Trade-and-Economic-Relations/Trade-Relationships-and-Agreements/Hong-Kong/index.php>.

A Free Trade Agreement between New Zealand, Australia and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) was signed on February 27, 2009. Details on MFAT website at: <http://www.mfat.govt.nz/Trade-and-Economic-Relations/Trade-Relationships-and-Agreements/Asean/index.php>

The Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership Agreement (TPP, previously known as the "P4") between Brunei Darussalam, Chile, New Zealand and Singapore was signed in 2005. In 2010, the United States, Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam began negotiating a regional Asia-Pacific trade agreement called the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), with the objective of shaping a high-standard, broad-based regional agreement. This agreement will create a potential platform for economic integration across the Asia-Pacific region, and a means to advance U.S. economic interests with the fastest-growing economies in the world. Details about the original "P4" TPP Agreement can be found on MFAT website: <http://www.mfat.govt.nz/Trade-and-Economic-Relations/Trade-Relationships-and-Agreements/Trans-Pacific/index.php>

New Zealand is also currently negotiating separate FTAs with India, Indonesia and Korea, as well as a block trade agreement with Russia, Belarus, and Kazakhstan.

Web Resources

AsureQuality: <http://www.asurequality.com>

Bio-Gro New Zealand: <http://www.bio-gro.co.nz>

Energy Safety Service: <http://www.energysafety.govt.nz>

Free Trade Agreements (NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade): <http://www.mfat.govt.nz>

International Accreditation New Zealand: <http://www.ianz.govt.nz>

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry: <http://brkb.biosecurity.govt.nz>

Ministry of Economic Development Tariff Policy and Administration Unit:

http://www.med.govt.nz/templates/StandardSummary____29.aspx

New Zealand Customs: <http://www.customs.govt.nz>

Quality Health New Zealand: <http://www.telarcqualityhealth.co.nz>

Standards New Zealand: <http://www.standards.co.nz/default.htm>