

Brazil

Overview

Brazil has strict rules regarding standards and an active group of standards organizations. The National Institute of Metrology, Standardization and Industrial Quality (INMETRO) is a government entity and is the operating arm of Brazil's standards regime, led by the National Council of Metrology, Standardization and Industrial Quality, CONMETRO. The council is formed by a group of 8 ministries and 5 governmental agencies. The council is the regulatory body of The National System of Metrology, Standardization and Industrial Quality (SINMETRO). More information about the council can be found at <http://www.inmetro.gov.br/inmetro/conmetro.asp>.

Standards Organizations

INMETRO is the main national accreditation body and is in charge of implementing the national policies regarding quality and metrology established by the CONMETRO, the council that oversees INMETRO's activities. INMETRO is responsible for certification products, services, licensing and testing labs among other duties. More information about INMETRO can be found at <http://www.inmetro.gov.br/english>. The Brazilian Association of Technical Standards (ABNT) is also a recognized standards organization.

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

Conformity Assessment

Conformity assessment includes all activities needed to demonstrate compliance with specified requirements relating to a technical regulation or voluntary standard. In Brazil, the conformity assessment system follows ISO guidelines. Conformity assessment includes test and calibration laboratories, product certification bodies, accreditation bodies, inspection and verification units, quality system registrars, and others.

Conformity assessment can be voluntary or mandatory (done through a legal instrument to protect the consumer on issues related to life, health and environment). Interested U.S. parties can be accredited by INMETRO to perform conformity assessment activities.

Product Certification

Mandatory Testing and Mandatory Product Certification

For regulated products, the relevant government agency generally requires that entities engaged in product testing and mandatory certification be accredited by INMETRO. Generally, testing must be performed in-country, unless the necessary capability does not exist in Brazil. INMETRO is a signatory to the mutual recognition arrangement (MRA) of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), which can facilitate acceptance of test results from U.S. laboratories that are accredited by U.S. organizations who are also signatories. For a

complete list of MRAs to which INMETRO belongs, visit the following website:
<http://www.inmetro.gov.br/english/international/mutual.asp>.

A complete list of products subject to mandatory certification can be found at:
<http://www.inmetro.gov.br/qualidade/prodCompulsorios.asp>

Non-Mandatory Testing and Product Certification

There is no legal mandate as of yet to retest non-regulated products that have been approved in their country of origin. For non-regulated products, some U.S. marks and product certification may be accepted. As with all voluntary standards, any certification that may be required in nonregulated sectors is a contractual matter to be decided between buyer and seller. Market forces and preferences often lead to the need for a specific certification.

To facilitate U.S. product acceptance in Brazil by recognizing existing certifications, agreements between U.S. and local certifiers/testing houses are encouraged. Also, there is no impediment for the establishment of U.S. certification organizations in Brazil.

If your product has been certified in the U.S. or Europe, it probably will not need to be recertified (see MRA above). If your product is not certified, please refer to the mandatory product certification link:

<http://www.inmetro.gov.br/qualidade/prodCompulsorios.asp>

A list of certified products (both mandatory and voluntary) in Brazil is available at the following website:

<http://www.inmetro.gov.br/prodcert/Produtos/busca.asp>.

Accreditation

The General Coordination for Accreditation (CGCRE) of INMETRO is responsible for accrediting certification bodies, quality system registrars, inspection bodies, product verification and training bodies, as well as testing and calibration laboratories. Information about accreditation requirements and currently accredited bodies is available at:

<http://www.inmetro.gov.br/credenciamento/index.asp>.

Publication of Technical Regulations

INMETRO and CONMETRO use their websites to dispense updates to technical regulations – please reference Contacts section below for site address.

Labeling and Marking

The Brazilian Consumer Protection code, in effect since September 12, 1990, requires that product labels provide consumers with correct, clear, precise, and easily readable information about the product's quality, quantity, composition, price, guarantee, shelf life, origin, and risks to the consumer's health and safety. Imported products should bear a Portuguese translation, and all products should use the official metric units or show a metric equivalent.

Contacts

Contacts of main Standards organizations can be found on the following web sites:

- National Institute of Metrology, Standardization and Industrial Quality – INMETRO
<http://www.inmetro.gov.br/>

- National Council of Metrology, Standardization and Industrial Quality – CONMETRO
<http://www.inmetro.gov.br/inmetro/conmetro.asp>

- National System of Metrology, Standardization and Industrial Quality – SINMETRO
<http://www.inmetro.gov.br/inmetro/sinmetro.asp>

Trade Agreements

Brazil is a member of the Mercosur trading bloc, which has its own regional standards organization that issues and harmonizes standards. Technical committees write and recommend standards in selected areas. Each country must ratify the standard before they are adopted in that country. A number of standards have already been adopted as Mercosur standards. Adopted and proposed Mercosur standards are listed on Mercosur's website: <http://www.amn.org.br>. The Executive Secretariat of the Mercosur Standards Organization is located in São Paulo, Brazil.

Web Resources

- Brazilian country guide with useful customs and standards information
http://www.fedex.com/us/international/irc/profiles/irc_br_profile.html?gtmcc=us
- List and description of mutual recognition agreements between Brazil and USA:
<http://www.inmetro.gov.br/english/international/mutual.asp>
- For technical regulations of international markets:
<https://tsapps.nist.gov/notifyus/data/index/index.cfm>
- Brazil's most relevant gazette, Folha de São Paulo:
<http://www.uol.com.br/fsp>
- Brazilian Foreign Trade Integrated System:
<http://www.receita.fazenda.gov.br/aduana/siscomex/siscomex.htm>
- Information about Mercosur Common Nomenclature:
<http://www.braziltradenet.gov.br/>
- Brazilian Chamber of Trade:
<http://www.mdic.gov.br/sitio/interna/interna.php?area=1&menu=434>
- USA export control information:
<http://www.bis.doc.gov/>
- Brazilian IPI and other tax rates:
<http://www.receita.fazenda.gov.br/guiacontribuinte/consclassfiscmerc.htm>
- Brazilian Common External Tariffs:
<http://www.desenvolvimento.gov.br/sitio/interna/interna.php?area=5&menu=1848>