

Israel

Overview

The Standards Institution of Israel (SII) is the only statutory body in Israel that develops and establishes standards. Created by an act of the Knesset (Parliament), "The Standards Law of 1953" mandates SII's responsibility for the preparation, publication of technical specifications and standards for products and services, which are produced locally or imported. Today, the SII incorporates standardization, testing, conformity assessment, product certification, management system certification and training activities under one roof. It has laboratories in almost all technological areas, providing testing and inspection services to industry and commerce, as well as regulatory services to government. Overseeing the SII's policy is the Ministry of Industry, Trade & Labor's Commissioner of Standards.

The supreme body of the SII is the General Assembly, comprised of 70 members from the following sectors: manufacturing, construction, commerce, services, trades, consumers, engineering associations, universities and government. The General Assembly annually elects a Board of Directors and President. The SII's Standardization Division coordinates the preparation of standards through the work of hundreds of standardization committees that include volunteer representatives from all sectors of the Israeli economy. The adoption of Israeli standards is voluntary, however, standards may be declared mandatory by the relevant government ministry in the interest of public health and safety or protection of the environment.

As the mandated national standards body, the SII represents Israel in two international standards organizations, the International Organization for Standards (ISO) and the International Electromechanical Commission (IEC). Israeli legislation also mandates the adoption of multiple, proven international standards whenever possible to maximize benefits to the Israeli consumer of a competitive market.

However, a disturbing trend in Israeli standards policy is its clear drift towards European standards. The SII has become an affiliate of the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) and the European Committee for Electro technical Standardization (CENELEC), though it has not joined any technical committees.

Standards Organizations

The SII is the sole organization that develops standards in Israel. On a yearly basis the SII prepares its work plan that includes a list of standards they plan to develop. Members of the various technical committees, as well as government ministries, provide input.

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

The sole authority for conformity assessment in Israel is the SII.

Product Certification

SII operates product and system certification programs. Use of the Standards Mark is generally voluntary but Israeli law mandates that certain classes of products must be certified before they are sold. The Standards Mark program operates in accordance with EN 45011. To qualify for the Standards Mark, a product must conform to the requirements of the applicable standard or standards, and be manufactured in a plant with an approved quality assurance system, similar to ISO 9002. The Standards Mark Board appoints technical committees of representatives from the public and private sectors in various technological areas, which meet regularly to evaluate the findings of the test reports and quality assessment reports. These committees report their findings to the Licensing Committee, which is responsible for granting or canceling a license. Once a license is issued, follow-up inspections of the product and quality assurance review is performed. These inspections are performed by laboratory personnel and certified auditors. In addition, samples of the product are taken several times a year to insure continuous compliance of the product with the relevant standard or standards. In order to ease the process for foreign manufacturers wishing to enter the Standards Mark program, agreements have been reached with independent foreign testing and certification organizations to perform testing and inspection services on behalf of SII.

The SII has signed Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRA) with the following U.S. organizations: Dept. of Defense
[ETL](#)

[FCC](#)

[IAPMO](#)

[NSF](#)

[UL](#)

QPL AND QML for Electronic components

Standards Mark recognition - Electrical and energy products
Recognition

Hydraulic products Standards Mark

Food Safety, HACCP-9000, HACCP

Mutual recognition in fields of:
Electricity, electronics, hydraulics, mechanics, fire. Standards Mark supervision in fields of: Electricity, electronics, hydraulics, mechanics, fire

Accreditation

The [Israel Laboratory Accreditation Authority \(ISRAC\)](#) is the only body in Israel, which is internationally and legally recognized to accredit testing and calibration laboratories according to ISO/IEC 17025 and to recognize laboratories in accordance with the OECD rules of Good Laboratory Practice (GLP). The Government of Israel decided in its resolution No. 3778 from August 14, 1994 to set up a National Authority for the accreditation of testing and calibration laboratories (ISRAC) and empowered the Minister of Industry, Trade & Labor to implement this resolution as a voluntary scheme for laboratories wishing to be internationally recognized for their competence in testing. The law for the national accreditation authority (ISRAC) was passed

in the Knesset in May of 1997. ISIRAC has accredited laboratories in the areas of food, water, cosmetics, pesticide chemistry, biology, microbiology as well as many calibration, engineering, construction laboratories NDT (non destructive testing) and EMC (telecommunications).

Publication of Technical Regulations

Technical standards are published in the official Israel Government Gazette in hard copy only and can be purchased in bookstores that sell legal textbooks or by subscription. Prior to publication, the Director General of the SII officially informs the relevant industry sectors of pending additions and amendments. U.S. entities can influence the content and adoption of technical standards through active participation at the technical committee level.

Trade Agreements

Israel has adopted a liberal import policy. In addition to its Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the U.S., it has FTAs with Bulgaria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Mexico, Poland, Romania, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Turkey, the European Union (EU), and EFTA (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland). Israel also has a preferential trade arrangement with Jordan and maintains a customs union with the Palestinian Authority. In late 2002, the European Union began imposing customs duties on goods manufactured by Israeli companies located in the Palestinian territories.

In 1997, Congress amended the law governing the U.S./Israeli Free Trade Agreement to enable the creation of so-called qualifying industrial zones (QIZs) with Jordan and Egypt. Jordan took advantage of this opportunity beginning in 1997. Products manufactured in Jordan enjoy duty and quota free access to the U.S. market if, inter alia, they contain a certain minimum percentage of Israeli inputs. Jordan has established a number of QIZs. Both Israeli/Jordanian trade and Jordanian exports to the U.S. have grown significantly as a result of the QIZs. Egypt signed the QIZ agreement in December 2004. Egyptian products manufactured within a designated zone with 11.7% Israeli inputs, and a combined 35% value added, may enter into the U.S. duty free. Since signing the agreement, Egypt's imports to the U.S. have nearly doubled. A list of current Egyptian QIZ-eligible companies and zones can be obtained at <http://www.qizegypt.gov.eg>. All products manufactured in the Palestinian territories also may enter the U.S. duty free.

Web Resources

[Ministry of Finance – Israeli Department of Customs & VAT](#)

Regarding Standards Issues:

[Standards Institution of Israel](#)

[Ministry of Industry, Trade & Labor](#)

[Federation of Israeli Chambers of Commerce](#)

U.S. Certificates of Origin for Exporting to Israel:

[U.S. Commercial Service](#)

U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of Industry and Security:

[Bureau of Industry and Security](#)

Labeling/Marking Requirements:

[Ministry of Industry, Trade & Labor](#)

[Ministry of Health](#)

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