

Pakistan

Overview

The technology department of the Ministry of Science and Technology sponsors and encourages public and private organizations in the standardization of products and services according to ISO standards. In this regard, the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Commerce have jointly launched an incentive program for entrepreneurs to facilitate their ISO certification. This program provides an incentive grant for achieving ISO 9000/14000 certification.

Further information is available on:

www.pakistan.gov.pk

Standards Organizations

The Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) is the national standards body. The functions of PSQCA include the establishment and enforcement of national standards, registration of inspection agencies, and assessment of industrial raw materials and finished products for compliance with international standards. As of June 30, 2009 PSQCA had adopted over 3913 standards (including 3335 International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standards and 378 IEC standards) for agriculture, processed food, chemicals, civil and mechanical engineering, electronics, weights and measures and textile products. 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 Pakistan Standards & Quality Control Authority is responsible for the conformity assessment. This organization may be reached as follows:

Pakistan Standards & Quality Control Authority
Ministry of Science and Technology
Block 77, Pak Secretariat
Karachi, Pakistan
Tel: 92-21-9206260
Fax: 92-21-9206263

Product Certification

The Pakistan Standards & Quality Control Authority is responsible for the conformity assessment. This organization may be reached as follows:

Pakistan Standards & Quality Control Authority
Ministry of Science and Technology
Block 77, Pak Secretariat
Karachi, Pakistan
Tel: 92-21-9206260
Fax: 92-21-9206263

Accreditation

The Pakistan National Accreditation Council (PNAC), Ministry of Science and Technology, Islamabad handles accreditation matters. Pakistan National Accreditation Council signed the Mutual Recognition Arrangement with International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC), which has put Pakistan at par with the members of these organizations including U.S.A and E.U in terms of accreditation of testing and calibration laboratories. The contact for PNAC is as follows:

Pakistan National Accreditation Council

Evacuee Property Complex

Aga Khan Road, F-5/1

Islamabad, Pakistan

Tel: 92-51-9209509

Fax: 92-51-9209510

E-mail: pnac@isb.paknet.com.pk

Publication of Technical Regulations

The Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (PCSIR) and the Ministry of Science and Technology regularly publish technical regulations governing industry standards.

Labeling and Marking

Pakistan has no uniform or universal system of imposing labeling and marking requirements on products. However, individual industries or sectors are subject to the regulations of specific bodies. For example, the Ministry of Health sets requirements for the pharmaceutical industry, whereas the Ministry of Agriculture sets requirements for pesticides and edible products.

Contacts

All government ministries and departments may be accessed through the following website:

www.pakistan.gov.pk

Trade Agreements

In late 2004, the United States and Pakistan launched negotiations on a Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT), which would provide U.S. investors in Pakistan with significant legal protections. Negotiations have stalled, but are expected to be renewed in 2011. Pakistan has bilateral investment treaties with Australia, Malaysia, Azerbaijan, Mauritius, Bangladesh, Morocco, Belarus, Netherlands, Belgium, Oman, Belgo-Luxemburg, Philippines, Bosnia, Portugal, Bulgaria, Qatar, Cambodia, Oman, China, Singapore, Czech Republic, South Korea, Denmark, Spain, Egypt, Sri Lanka, France, Sweden, Germany, Switzerland, Indonesia, Syria, Iran, Tajikistan, Italy, Tunisia, Japan, Turkey, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Kuwait, U.A.E., Kyrgyz Republic, United Kingdom, Lebanon, Uzbekistan, Laos and Yemen. These investment treaties generally include dispute settlement provisions. If a dispute cannot be settled through mutual consultation, investors can generally take cases to arbitration under rules of the U.N Commission on International Trade Law, the World Bank's International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes, or to the Court of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce. Pakistan is a member of the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), an arm of the World Bank.

The United States and Pakistan have had a bilateral tax treaty in force since 1959. Pakistan also has double taxation agreements with Austria, Canada, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Lebanon, Mauritius, Poland, Switzerland, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, the United Arab Emirates, Belgium, China, France, Greece, Iran, Japan, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Romania, Sweden, Belarus, Hungary, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Malaysia, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Philippines, Qatar,

South Africa, Syria, Tunisia, Uzbekistan, the United Kingdom, Bangladesh, Denmark, Finland, India, Ireland, South Korea, Malta, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Azerbaijan and Turkey.

Web Resources

www.pakistan.gov

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/3453.html>