

## Taiwan

### Overview

The Bureau of Standards, Metrology and Inspection (BSMI) under the Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA) is the authority responsible for the development, compilation, and publication of "Chinese National Standards" (CNS) as well as for conformity assessment. BSMI also implements commodity inspection measures as stipulated in Taiwan's Commodity Inspection Law.

Taiwan's national standards are based primarily on international standards such as those set up by the International Standards Organization (ISO), International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), and International Telecommunications Union (ITU). Taiwan acceded to the WTO on January 1, 2002. The preparation, adoption and application of national standards comply with the requirements of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) of the WTO.

National standards are classified under 26 categories. As of 2011, the BSMI has 14,488 national standards. Of these standards, 3,436 correspond with international standards, and the harmonization for 2,966 of them has been completed. The harmonization of Taiwan's national standards with international standards increased from 46 % in 2001 to 86.32% in 2011. The BSMI administers the CNS Market Certification System whereby products meeting standards are allowed to carry the CNS mark.

As of January 1, 2011, the Taiwan Food and Drug Administration has taken over from BSMI all necessary food safety inspection measures while the Bureau of Animal and Plant Health Inspection & Quarantine (BAPHIQ) continues to be responsible for inspection and quarantine for purpose of safeguarding animal and plant health. Taiwan's sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards are generally different from U.S. standards or those established by international regulatory bodies such as the Office of International Epizootic (OIE) or the Codex Alimentarius. In some cases, these differences – more specifically, the absence of maximum residue level (MRL) standards for many agricultural chemicals in common use internationally – have resulted in mark disruptions and created uncertainty among U.S. exporters and Taiwan importers.

### Standards Organizations

The Standards Division (First Division) of the Bureau of Standards, Metrology and Inspection (BSMI) is responsible for drafting standards policies and regulations. This division consists of four sections, with the First Section responsible for general standardization activities including the drafting of regulations, guidance, harmonization planning, administration of the CNS mark, compilation of the standards gazette, and promotion of national standards. The remaining three sections are each responsible for standards in specific industry sectors.

In addition, there are four standards-related institutions under BSMI involved in the development and promotion of Chinese National Standards. These are the National Standards Review Council, the Information & Communication National Standard Promotion Committee, the National Standards Technology Committees, and the Electronic Information Exchange Committee.

BSMI issues plans for standards development semi-annually. These plans are published in the National Gazette and filed with the WTO Secretariat in accordance with the TBT agreement.

BSMI has established an on-line system for the public to obtain Chinese National Standards information (<http://www.bsmi.gov.tw>). The website also provides access to updated standards gazettes.

### **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 Sixth Division of BSMI is in charge of testing and inspection methods. This division currently conducts testing in areas including electromagnetic compatibility (EMC), biochemistry, chemistry, polymers, materials, electrical engineering, and mechanical engineering. Nearly 600 industrial goods including chemical, mechanical and electronics products, and more than 1,800 agricultural, food and fishery products are subject to inspection. Testing of commodities can only be done by BSMI or testing laboratories recognized by the BSMI.

Taiwan's testing system is called the "Registration of Product Certification" (RPC). Under the testing system, products are subject to the appropriate conformity assessment modules as determined by the authorities. The conformity assessment modules cover both the design and production phases of product manufacture. The Declaration of Conformity (DoC) is the least trade restrictive conformity assessment procedure, and is currently applied only to low-risk products with stable manufacturing technology and few concerns of risk or danger. Under the DoC scheme, manufacturers may have testing done by BSMI designated laboratories, prepare their own technical documents, and draft the declaration of conformity themselves.

Currently, a total of 67 commodities are covered by the DoC system. These products are digital cameras, digital video cameras, typewriters, cash registers, electronic calculators, card punching machines, optical disc devices, data storage units, class B main boards of computers, add-on cards with I/O devices, and vulcanized rubber tubes. A complete list of national testing organizations or conformity assessment bodies is available on BSMI's website at <http://www.bsmi.gov.tw>

### **Product Certification**

Products specified by the Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA) must comply with inspection requirements before they are shipped from the manufacturing premises or imported and placed on the market. Manufacturers or importers of these products must apply to BSMI for inspection before shipment or importation. Beginning on January 1, 2004, BSMI adopted a dual-track approach to allow manufacturers or importers to choose the "Registration of Product Certification" (RPC) scheme or a Batch-by-Batch inspection (BBI) with Type Approval.

The RPC scheme encompasses requirements for the product design stage (type testing) and manufacturing stage (quality management system). In other words, while applying for the RPC, both the product design and manufacturing processes must still conform to

the requirements specified by BSMI. With the RPC certificate, domestic manufacturers may ship their products, and importers may proceed directly with customs clearance. Importers or firms having small numbers of products for sale in the domestic market may find the BBI with Type Approval approach easier. According to BSMI, upon approval of the sample product, the random inspection rate is about 10 percent.

Taiwan's safety regulations follow IEC and CNS standards. All safety testing for end products must be done in Taiwan by Taiwan-accredited laboratories. The UL safety certification alone is not considered sufficient to meet Taiwan requirements for end product safety certification. Home appliances, certain fire fighting products, electrical power distribution devices (including cables and switches), lighting products for in-door use and motors require safety testing or inspection in Taiwan.

To enhance the protection of consumers from hazards posed by telecommunications and electrical and electronics products, and to meet international requirements for electromagnetic compatibility (EMC), BSMI has promulgated "Regulations Governing Electromagnetic Compatibility of Commodities." Manufacturers or importers must obtain type approval of their products from BSMI and all products must apply for inspection based on the EMC type approval certificate. Currently, 266 products are subject to EMC inspection, of which 11 are mechanical products, 146 electrical items, and 109 electronic products.

There is currently an Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) between the U.S. and Taiwan covering information technology products. In accordance with the terms of this MRA, BSMI accepts EMC testing by any laboratory located in the United States and accredited by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) under the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NAVLAP). NIST accredited labs outside the U.S. are not accepted by BSMI.

As a result of discussion with NIST in 2009, BSMI now recognized 99 U.S. Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) to conduct product testing as described in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Mutual Recognition Agreement. However, except for EMC, all the other safety related testing required by BSMI must be conducted in Taiwan. U.S. industry and importers of toys, sunglasses, lighting, handbags, and other consumer products seek cooperative resolutions with Taiwan officials to reduce cost and eliminate redundant testing through an establishment of mutual recognition programs to recognize tests done overseas.

### **Accreditation**

Taiwan Accreditation Foundation (TAF) is the island's sole national body recognized by the Taiwan authorities for the accreditation of conformity assessment against international standards. Under the TAF, the Department of Certification Body Accreditation is responsible for executing and managing the assessment and accreditation of domestic certification bodies for quality management, product and personnel. As for the Department of Laboratory Accreditation, its main mission is to execute and manage the assessment and accreditation of laboratory inspection bodies and proficiency test providers.

Accreditation for labs is conducted on a voluntary basis. At present, TAF provides laboratory accreditation in four major categories -- calibration, testing, civil engineering, and medical -- with a total of 32 fields. So far, TAF has accredited over 1,300

laboratories in Taiwan. There are about 40 accredited bodies under TAF engaged in the accreditation of management systems -- which include quality, environmental, occupational health and safety, information security, food safety, and green products management systems -- and about 40 handling accreditation for commodities.

Detailed information about accreditation in Taiwan and a list of accreditation bodies are available on TAF's website: <http://www.cnla.org.tw/tafweb/indexEng.aspx>

### **Publication of Technical Regulations**

Proposed and final technical regulations are submitted to the MOEA by the BSMI for publication. This information is then published in the National Standards Gazette. In addition to the Gazette, BSMI also publishes several pamphlets to propagate information on standards. These pamphlets include the Catalogue of National Standards Categories, List of CNS Mark Product Items and Directory of CNS Mark Companies, Compilation of Laws & Regulations of Applying for CNS Mark, Q&A on Standards and CNS Mark, and Q&A on Technical Barriers to Trade. BSMI's website (<http://www.bsmi.gov.tw>) also provides updated information from standards gazettes and on standards regulations.

U.S. entities can provide their comments about local technical regulations or other related issues by contacting the BSMI directly or through the National Enquiry Point under the WTO TBT Agreement in the U.S. The BSMI Information Center performs the functions of National Enquiry Point under the WTO TBT Agreement for other countries.

### **Labeling and Marking**

Taiwan's Commodity Labeling Act, amended on June 25, 2004, stipulates that all labeling shall be made in Chinese and may be supplemented by English or other foreign languages. When an imported commodity is introduced for sale in the domestic market, labeling, instructions, and sales literature written in Chinese must be added to the commodity by the importer. The contents provided in the Chinese language must not be simpler or more condensed than those from the place of origin of the commodity. The name/title and the address of the foreign manufacturer of an imported commodity to be labeled may not be written in the Chinese language.

Where a commodity is introduced for sale in the Taiwan market, the following particulars shall be labeled:

- Name of the commodity;
- Name, telephone number and address of the producer or manufacturer, the place of origin of the commodity, and the name, telephone number, and address of the importer for imported commodity;
- Contents or composition of the commodity;
  - Major components/ingredients or materials.
  - Net weight, volume or quantity, or measurements shall be labeled in statutory measuring units and other measurements may be added when it is deemed necessary.
- Date of manufacture in the Chinese calendar or Gregorian calendar; the expiration date or the term of validity if the commodity has a limited duration of storage; and other particulars as required by the Central Taiwan authorities.

If any of the following conditions apply, the scope of application, date of expiration, methods of use and storage of the commodity, and other points requiring attention must be indicated:

- Hazardous or dangerous in nature;

- Related to health and safety; and
- Having special characteristics or requiring special handling.

### **Contacts**

For more information about standards related issues, please contact the following relevant organizations:

Bureau of Standards, Metrology and Inspection, Ministry of Economic Affairs  
No. 4 JiNan Rd., Sec. 1, Taipei 100, Taiwan  
Tel: 886-2-2343-1700  
Fax: 886-2-2356-0998  
Website: <http://www.bsmi.gov.tw>

Taiwan Accreditation Foundation  
8F, No. 20 Nan-Hai Road, Taipei 10074, Taiwan  
Tel: 886-2-2391-4626  
Fax: 886-2-2397-1744  
Website: <http://www.taftw.org.tw>

Ministry of Economic Affairs  
No. 15 Fuzhou St., Taipei 10015, Taiwan  
Tel: 886-2-2341-4986  
Fax: 886-2-2391-9973  
Website: <http://gcis.nat.gov.tw>

### **Trade Agreements**

Taiwan joined the WTO on January 1, 2002. Taiwan became a member of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in November 1991, and joined the Central American Bank for Economic Integration in 1992. Taiwan is also a member of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC), and the Pacific Basin Economic Council (PBEC). Further information about Taiwan's bilateral and multilateral trade agreements is available on the Board of Foreign Trade's (BOFT) website: <http://www.trade.gov.tw>

### **Web Resources**

Board of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA): <http://www.trade.gov.tw>  
Department of Customs Administration, Ministry of Finance  
(MOF): <http://doca.mof.gov.tw>  
Directorate General of Customs, MOF: <http://www.customs.gov.tw>  
Bureau of Standards, Metrology and Inspection, MOEA: <http://www.bsmi.gov.tw>  
Department of Commerce, MOEA: <http://gcis.nat.gov.tw>  
Taiwan Accreditation Foundation: <http://www.taftw.org.tw>