

Morocco

Overview

The Moroccan Industrial Standardization Office (Service de Normalisation Industrielle Marocaine or "SNIMA") is the Moroccan organization responsible for developing standards. As the unique standardization body in Morocco, it not only provides all product norms and standards certification, but it also is the sole provider of management system certification. It is responsible for answering all questions related to the Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement. Furthermore, this office annually creates a list of consumer and industrial products for which it intends to create norms and standards for the following year. A list of products that will receive updated norms and standards and details concerning the process is available on <http://www.snima.ma/> under "Normes en enquête." The national goal is to increase the number of certified product norms by 15 to 20 percent over each of the next three years. With the total number increasing to 5,000 certified product norms in the next three years, domestic and international trade will be facilitated and product quality will be ensured for the Moroccan consumer. SNIMA's long-term strategy also focuses on gaining official recognition from the International Accreditation Forum.

Standards Organizations

Service de Normalisation Industrielle Marocaine (SNIMA)

Angle Avenue Kamal Zebdi et Rue Dadi, Secteur 21 Hay Riad, Rabat Tel: (212) 537 71 62 14 Fax: (212) 537 71 17 98

Email: snima@mcinet.gov.ma

The Ministry of Agriculture's inquiry point on standards:

The National office for food safety (Office National de Sécurité Sanitaire des Produits Alimentaires - ONSSA)

Avenue Hadj Ahmed Cherkaoui, Agdal – Rabat

Tel: (212) 537 67 65 00

Fax: (212) 5 37 68 20 49

Website: www.onssa.gov.ma

La Direction des Contrôles et de la Protection des Végétaux

Contact: Mohamed Belkacimi

E-mail: elbelkacemi.mohamed@gmail.com

La Division de la Réglementation et de la Normalisation;

Contact: Hamid Lachab

E-mail: hamid.lachhab@gmail.com

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 main national testing organization is the Laboratory for Public Tests and Studies (Laboratoire Public d'Essais et d'Etudes or LPEE). LPEE currently has laboratories in all of Morocco's major cities. Although most of its work is dedicated to building and construction testing, it also deals with electrical and calibration testing. SNIMA also created technical industrial centers that will specialize in mechanical, chemical and transportation testing.

Product Certification Return to top

The following five government commissions have the sole mandate to certify products:

1. Multi-sector Commission (Commission pluri-sectorielle), which includes services,
2. Food and Agricultural Industry Certification Commission (Commission de Certification des Industries Agro-Alimentaires),
3. Chemical and Para-Chemical Industry Certification Commission (Commission de Certificat des Industries de la Chimie et de la Parachimie),
4. Mechanic, Metallurgic, Electric and Electronic Certification Commission (Commission de Certification des Industries Mécaniques, Métallurgiques, Electriques et Electroniques),
5. Textile and Leather Industry Certification Commission (Commission de Certification des Industries du Textile et du Cuir).

SNIMA conforms to the international guide ISO/IEC 65. Once products conform to this standard, the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and New Technologies will grant the product the right to use the NM label as proof of its quality. All products must also conform to the specifications of the FTA.

http://www.moroccousafta.com/index_ang.htm

Accreditation

The only Moroccan accreditation body is the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and New Technologies. Although accreditation is still voluntary with no accreditation requirements required by technical regulations, there are almost 30 certified labs nationwide. A complete list of these labs can be found at the website <http://www.mcinet.gov.ma> by clicking on "Qualité-Métrieologie-Accréditation," then "Accréditation" and finally "Liste des laboratoires accrédités."

Trade Agreements

The U.S.-Morocco FTA went into effect in 2006. This agreement was the second FTA with an Arab nation and the first on the continent of Africa. This FTA is comprehensive and provides IPR, labor and environment provisions.

Morocco has also agreed to make its business environment far more transparent and welcoming to foreign companies by providing companies with an efficient, legal framework and secure working environment. Both governments have agreed to publish their current trade and investment laws and publish any proposed legislation in advance. Bribery of any form will be outlawed; whistle-blowers will be granted protection, and U.S. companies will enjoy the same rights as Moroccan companies when investing. Furthermore, the Moroccan government has promised to grant U.S. companies the same legal rights that they enjoy in the U.S. system such as effective, impartial legal dispute settlement, including due process protection and transparent public trials. There is also a non-discriminatory clause legally

mandating that all U.S. businesses trying to physically invest in Morocco will have equal access to infrastructure such as phone switches and submarine cable landing stations. Trademarks, copyrights, patents and trade secrets will receive the same protection they receive under U.S. law even when in digital form. Intellectual Property Rights will also be protected through the enforcement of tough laws outlawing both piracy and counterfeit products.

This agreement will also work to uphold labor and environmental standards. Neither party can reduce its current standards.

The full text of the agreement along with a main point summary, a trade guide and list of key contacts can be found at http://www.moroccousafta.com/index_ang.htm

Morocco also has FTAs with United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Tunisia, Egypt, Turkey and the EU. These agreements illustrate Morocco's drive to liberalize its business environment by adopting internationally accepted business law, accounting procedures and technical norms in order to foster internationalization and economic development.

The EU-Moroccan Association Agreement went into effect on April 1, 2000 and is equally valid for all U.S. companies located in Morocco. The agreement calls for the gradual elimination of tariffs on EU-Moroccan trade in industrial goods over 12 years and provides duty-free access for limited quantities to some agricultural products, especially seafood products, fruits and vegetables. In October 2008, Morocco gained "advanced status," which will allow both parties to consider a comprehensive free trade agreement.

Web Resources

http://www.moroccousafta.com/index_ang.htm

<http://www.export.gov/middleeast>