

# Kazakhstan

## Overview

Certification and/or conformity assessment procedures are part of the national system of technical regulation. Kazakhstan is striving to join the World Trade Organization (WTO), thus, much work has been done to harmonize its legal base with international standards. To implement international standards, in 2007 Kazakhstan adopted a number of laws and amendments to the existing Law on Technical Regulations including such laws as Safety of Chemical Products, Safety of Food Products, Safety of Toys, and Safety of Equipment and Machinery. The national file of standards now includes 41,000 rules and norms, of which only 4,000 represent international standards and are applied in all economic sectors.

Under the current regulations, safety standards acquire the status of normative documents, mandatory for consideration, while quality standards will gradually become voluntary. The functions of governmental bodies will be limited to dealing with safety control issues. Technical regulations will acquire the status of laws and will be intended to ensure the safety of life and health of consumers. Other standards relating to quality of goods will be given a voluntary status, and manufacturers will no longer be forced to follow outdated requirements dictating a shape, or color of goods as it was under the old legislation.

## Standards Organizations

The [Committee on Technical Regulation and Metrology \(Gosstandart\)](#), under the Ministry of Industry and New Technologies, is the national agency regulating technical regulation issues in Kazakhstan. Gosstandart is subdivided into two subordinate enterprises: the Kazakh Institute for Standardization and Certification and the Kazakh Institute of Metrology.

## 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 implementation of a number of international standards in Kazakhstan represents a problem. The existing procedure of conformity assessment applied

in Kazakhstan does not allow for 100% application of international standards due to legal and technical inconsistencies. Although, Kazakhstan entered the ILAC in 2010 and plans to join the IAF in 2012.

Any goods imported into Kazakhstan and included on the mandatory list of goods are subject to the mandatory procedure of certification under national requirements. The list includes machines, cars, agricultural and telecommunication equipment, construction materials, fuel, clothes, toys, food, and drugs. Contracts for goods delivery should be accompanied by the following documents: product description, country of origin certificate, name of producer, customs declaration, expiration date, storage requirements, and user manuals printed in Kazakh and Russian. Foreign certificates, testing protocols, and compliance indicators of imported products should correspond to appropriate international treaties.

The foreign system of standardization differs entirely from Kazakhstan's procedures. In Kazakhstan, as well as in other CIS countries, mandatory requirements in respect to goods are set out in standards and legal documents regulating sanitary, environmental, veterinary and other issues, thus requiring further harmonization efforts.

The existing system of conformity assessment represents an onerous set of procedures that includes, among others: state control over conformity with mandatory standard requirements, mandatory certification and examination, obtaining a conclusion, and registration. All of these factors are considered as serious non-tariff administrative barriers to trade, and prevent competition and free market circulation of goods.

### **Product Certification**

The law on certification establishes the legal foundations of product certification and quality systems in manufacturing, operations, and services, as well as regulating relationships in the field of certification and establishing rights, commitments and responsibilities of certifying parties. The government owned [National Center of Expertise and Certification](#) manages certification. In order to increase protection against fake or falsified certificates of conformity, the government has introduced a hologram for additional protection, which has the mark of conformity and inscription "Memstandard."

### **Accreditation**

Kazakhstan is a member of the ISO and the ILAC but it does not have membership the IAF. National mechanisms for the adoption of international standards are in place. This process stipulates a gradual, but complete, transition to international standards. Kazakhstan has already adopted some of the international standards in the sphere of quality assessment including ISO/IEC 17025 General Requirements in Terms of Competence of Testing and Calibrating Laboratories, and these standards are considered to be national. In August 2008, the Law on Accreditation in Conformity Assessment and a number of appropriate legislative amendments came into force. According to the law, accreditation in conformity assessment became voluntary and the validity of

an accreditation certificate was increased to five years. The National Center for Accreditation (NCA) of the Committee on Technical Regulation and Metrology is an authorized state organization for accreditation.

### **Publication of Technical Regulations**

Firms can subscribe to [SNIP](#) which publishes monthly updates to technical regulations and standards in use in Kazakhstan.

### **Labeling and Marking**

According to Kazakhstani legislation, most products imported into the country should be labeled in both the Kazakh and Russian languages. Product labels should include names, manufacturer, country of origin, and information on date of production, period of validity, storage conditions, and usage. Product manufacturers or sellers obtaining a certificate of conformity have a right to use a mark of conformity by all means established by the state system of technical regulation.

### **Contacts**

Committee on Technical Regulation and Metrology - <http://www.mint.gov.kz/index.php?page=committee&comm=6&lang=en>  
National Center of Expertise and Certification - <http://www.naceks.kz/en/>  
National Center of Accreditation <http://www.nca.kz/>  
Russian Certification Services - [www.rcsint.com/](http://www.rcsint.com/)  
SNIP: [www.snip.com/index.php?Page=Kazakhstan](http://www.snip.com/index.php?Page=Kazakhstan)

### **Trade Agreements**

Kazakhstan signed a Free Trade Zone treaty with Commonwealth of Independent States countries in November 2011 that eliminates nearly all tariffs between the countries. Trade agreements signed by Kazakhstan with the United States include:

- The U.S. and Kazakhstan Bilateral Investment Treaty of May 1992; and
- The U.S. and Central Asian Countries Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) of June 2004. This includes Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

Kazakhstan continues to negotiate its WTO accession. At the end of 2011, Kazakhstan had completed bilateral negotiations with all of its Working Party members, including the United States and the European Union. Kazakhstan intends to complete its accession to the WTO by the end of 2012.

In 2010, the Russia-Kazakhstan-Belarus Customs Union came into force. The three countries agreed to have a common external customs tariff and common customs procedures. The Customs Code of the Customs Union came into effect on July 1, 2010. The Kazakhstani-Russian customs border was abolished on July 1, 2011. Implementation of the Customs Union is still in the nascent stages, with many details remaining to be worked out by its members. In addition to a common external tariff, the three partner countries are moving toward establishing a Common Economic Space (CES) that will harmonize economic activity and policy within the Union.

## **Web Resources**

Customs Union Commission <http://www.tsouz.ru/>

Kazakhstan Customs Control Agency [www.keden.kz](http://www.keden.kz)

Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS): [www.bis.doc.gov](http://www.bis.doc.gov)

U.S. Export Assistance: [www.export.gov/eac/](http://www.export.gov/eac/)

Export Administration Regulations: <http://www.access.gpo.gov/bis/index.html>

State Department's Directorate of Defense Trade: <http://www.pmddtc.state.gov/>