

Russia

Overview

Despite positive changes in the last several years, the standards regime in Russia still lacks transparency. Russia continues to rely on product testing as a key element of the product approval process. Other types of product safety assurance, such as plant auditing, quality systems, and post market vigilance, are still underdeveloped. Russia continues to follow redundant practices of further testing of internationally accepted certified products, which can delay entry of a variety of products into the country.

In addition, the former Soviet federal authority on standardization, Gosstandart, has been restructured twice as part of a larger government reorganization which led to some uncertainty as to exactly who in the agency performed what function, further adding to delays in discharging its responsibilities. The current government authority for standardization, metrology and certification matters is the Federal Agency for Technical Regulations and Metrology (whose abbreviated name is Rosstandart). It is an agency of the Ministry of Industry and Trade. Until June 2010, the abbreviated name was Rostekhnregulirovanie, but it was then changed to Rosstandart because of its similarity to the former abbreviation Gosstandart that was used in Soviet times. Affiliated with this new agency are 485 technical committees, comprised of research institutes, which develop standards.

Standards Organizations

The following are the key government standards organizations in Russia.

Federal Agency for Technical Regulations and Metrology (Rosstandart)

9, Leninsky Prospect
Moscow, 119991
Tel: +7 (499) 236 0300
Fax: 7 +(499) 236 6231
E-mail: stand@gost.ru
[http://www.gost.ru/wps/portal/pages.en.Main](http://www.gost.ru/wps/portal/pages.en>Main)

Federal Service for Control over Healthcare and Social Development (Roszdravnadzor)

Slavyanskaya sq. 4, building 1
Moscow, 109074
Tel.: +7 (495) 698 4538
E-mail: info@roszdravnadzor.ru 111
<http://ww+w.roszdravnadzor.ru>

Federal Service for Supervision of Consumers Protection and Welfare (Rospotrebnadzor)

Vadkovskiy pereulok, house 18, stroenie 5 and 7 Moscow, 127994 Tel.: +7 (499) 973 2690 E-mail: depart@gsen.ru <http://rospotrebnadzor.ru/en/web/en/>

Federal Service for Ecological, Technological and Nuclear Surveillance (Rostekhnadzor)

ul. Luykyanova, house 4, korpus 8
Moscow, 105066 Mr. Evgeniy Frolov, Head of the Department on Licencing Tel: +7 (499) 265 7955
Tel.: +7 (499) 657 9179 Fax: +7 (499) 261 7324
<http://www.gosnadzor.ru/>

Federal Agency of Svyaz (Rossvyaz) Ministry of Communications and Mass Media

7 Tverskaya Street
Moscow, 125375 Mr. Vitaliy Kreindelin Head of Conformity Department
Tel: +7 (495) 771 8559
Fax: +7 (495) 771 8710
E-mail: mail@minsvyaz.ru <http://eng.rossvyaz.ru/>

VNIIS (Research Institute for Certification) 3/10, Elektrichesky Pereulok, Building 1 Moscow, 123557 Phone: +7 (499) 253 7006 Fax: +7 (499) 253 3360 E-mail: vniis@vniis.ru
<http://www.vniis.org/>

Federal Service on Accreditation (Rosakkreditastia) Ministry of Economic Development
Trubnikovskiy per. House 19 (should be said on the envelope "for Rosakkreditastia") Mr. Savva Shipov, Head of the Service Moscow, 121069 Tel: +7 (495) 695 5843
E-mail: FSA@economy.gov.ru

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

In Soviet times all products sold in the country, both native and foreign, had to be certified according to the gosudarstvennyye standarty (state standards). Those standards were published and compiled under the abbreviation "GOST" and classified according to a numbering system for the different products categories. GOST standards were mandatory and covered nearly every type of product sold in the country. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Russia made changes to this old regulatory system. These newly developed standards have the abbreviation GOST-R instead of GOST. The regulatory document that the company received was called GOST-R certificate, indicating that the products confirmed to the requirement of those standards.

In recent years there has been a substantial movement toward the adoption of common international language on product standards and certification procedures, and some improvements have been made

Federal Law No. 184-FZ "On Technical Regulations" (December 27, 2002) was intended to change the existing cumbersome standardization and certification systems and harmonize Russian legislation with international standards by transitioning from a mandatory certification system to a modern system based on self-declaration. To that end, the government approved three consecutive programs aimed at developing 400 technical regulations that should be used instead of the old GOST and GOST-R standards. The regulatory approval documents were named Certificates/Declarations of Conformity. Only 24 technical regulations were developed, however, which are in operation today. One of the reasons cited for the delay of this reform is the complicated system of approval. Also, a number of government bodies resisted the creation of these technical regulations because they wanted to return to the old system where they controlled these regulations.

To move this reform process along, in December 2009 amendments to Federal Law No. 184-FZ were approved. According to these amendments, a special government body would use a much

simpler process of approving technical regulations. Many experts assumed that Rosstandart would become that government body, but on January 20, 2010, President Medvedev announced that the functions in this area will be divided between the Ministry of Industry and Trade and Rosstandart, which is, in fact, under the Ministry's jurisdiction.

Establishment of the Customs Union (CU) between Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan also affected the regulatory regime because the technical regulations developed by three countries must be consistent with each other. The information about new technical regulations, approved by the three countries can be found on the CU website (www.tsouz.ru)
Currently, the prior system of certification, GOST-R, has been replaced by Certificates and Declarations of Conformity. The process of obtaining these certificates is still time consuming and applies to virtually all products entering the Russian market. The different types of certification and the process for obtaining these certificates are reviewed in the next section.

Product Certification

As the result of the establishment of the CU, the system of obtaining certification documents has changed. Now there are two sets of documents dedicated to Technical Regulations and Sanitary Regulations. *Technical Regulations (Certificate of Conformity/Declaration of Conformity)* As of July 1, 2010, new rules for conformity assessment, established in the CU, came into effect. As the result, manufactures can now obtain unified certificates/declarations of conformity for all three countries. The full set of the documents, including the unified list of accredited bodies and laboratories that governs this process, is published on the CU website (www.tsouz.ru). A "Unified list of products" was also established and according to this list, those products included need to have certificates of conformity/declarations of conformity. If a product is not included, then it should go through the conformity process according to the national standards of Russia, Kazakhstan, or Belarus, depending on the final destination of the product. *Sanitary Regulation (Certificate of State Registration)*

After July 1, 2010 the Certificate of State Registration was established for all products that need a Sanitary Certificate. Products which need a Certificate of State Registration are listed in part II of the "Unified list" that was approved by the CU Commission on May 28, 2010, No. 299 (last edition No. 456 dated November, 11, 2010). The procedure for obtaining Certificate of State Registration is also outlined on the CU website (www.tsouz.ru).

A number of other mandatory and voluntary certification systems also exist, which are partly managed by other ministries or agencies. Below are the most widely used certificates:

Fire Safety Certificate: The Federal Law No. 123-FZ "Technical Regulations of Requirement for Fire Safety," which came into effect on May 1, 2009, now governs this process. Products requiring this certificate are listed in Government Decree No. 241 dated March 3, 2009.

Certificate of Conformity/Declaration of Conformity for Systems of Communications: The system of certification in the area of communication confirms that the equipment conforms to technical requirements. Rossvyaz is responsible for issuing those certificates. Rossvyaz obtained this function due to Government Decree No. 320 dated June 30, 2004. The list of communication devices which require a certificate of conformity can be found in Government Decree No. 532 dated June 25, 2005. Despite the fact that on November 1, 2011 the function of accreditation of bodies and laboratories was moved from Rossvyaz to the newly established organization – Rosakkreditastia, Rossvyaz still publishes an updated list of technical requirements on its website.

License (permission) from Rostekhnadzor allows the manufacture, installation and use of industrial machinery and equipment for the petrochemical, metallurgical and other industrial

facilities in Russia. The process and list of products requiring this certificate are listed in Rostekhnadzor's Order No. 112, dated February 29, 2008.

Approval for Encrypted Products is issued by the Federal Security Service (FSB), while the Ministry of Industry and Trade issue an import license.

Russia participates in the following international certification systems:

- System of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) for tests of electrical, electronic and related equipment on conformity to safety standards (<http://www.iecq.org>)
- System of certification of passenger cars, trucks, buses and other transport vehicles (<http://www.unece.org>)
- OIML Certificate System of Measuring Instruments (<http://www.oiml.org>)

Russia's complicated, cumbersome and often changing system of certification as well as cultural and language barriers are a challenge for foreign companies attempting to certify products without appropriate legal advice or assistance from experienced distributors or consultants. In order to minimize time and expenses, it is recommended that U.S. companies work with reliable partners and consulting companies on registration and certification issues. For additional information regarding product certification, please contact the U.S. Commercial Service in Moscow.

Certification Service Providers (this list is not exhaustive and is not to be construed as an endorsement of the companies listed below).

Russia Rostest Moscow (various products)

Russian Center for Tests and Certification 31 Nakhimovsky Prospect, Moscow, 117418 Phone: +7 (495) 544 0000 E-mail: spravka@rostest.ru
<http://www.rostest.ru/>

Consult Business Group (pharmaceutical products including biological active supplements, medical equipment and cosmetics)

Butyrksaya ul, 77, Business Center "Diagonal House", 8th floor
Moscow, 127015
Tel.: +7 (495) 797 4963
E-mail: info@c-b-g.ru
<http://www.c-b-g.ru/en>

Eurotest 4 Krutitskiy pereulok, house 14 Moscow, 109044

Tel. +7 (495) 660-52-28 E-mail: eurotest@eurotest.ru <http://www.eurotest.ru>

TEXCI

Contact: Maksim Ivanov, Sales Manager 10 Angarskaya street Moscow, 125635
Russia Phone: +7 (926) 358 8804
Fax: +7 (495) 921 0841 ext. 101
Email: maksim.ivanov@texci.ru
Web: <http://en.texci.ru/>

Russian Register - Baltic Inspectorate Ltd.

Contact: Vitaliy Krichevskiy, Marketing and Business Development Director 87, Maliy Prospect P.S. St. Petersburg, 197022 Russian Federation **Phone:** +7 (812) 332 9536/37 **Fax:** +7 (812) 332 9534 **Email:** rr-baltic@rusregister.ru, krichevsky@rusregister.ru **Web:** <http://www.rr-baltic.ru/>

United States

Velosi Group (Oil & gas, petrochemical and refining industries) <http://www.velosi.com>

Nemko

<http://www.nemko.com>

Russian Standard, Ltd. Certification and Regulatory Consulting Center (almost all areas, except aviation equipment and aviation instruments, military products, telecommunication equipment)

<http://www.rosstandard.com>

TUV America Inc.

<http://www.tvuamerica.com>

TUV Rheinland

<http://www.tuv.com>

Underwriters Laboratories (UL)

<http://www.ul.com>

Accreditation

In order to improve the whole certification system President Medvedev signed Presidential Decree No 86 on January 24, 2011, "On Unified National System of Accreditation", according to which a new "approval" agency, the Federal Service on Accreditation (Rosakkreditastia), was established. This Agency reports to the Ministry of Economic Development and is responsible for the establishment of the Unified National System of Accreditation. But most importantly, it controls all legal entities and entrepreneurs, who are accredited as testing laboratories, and issues certificates to organizations. It is expected that a number of new private companies and entrepreneurs will enter this market and, as a result of competition, prices in this sector will decrease, which will in turn drive down consumer prices. It is expected that the certificates will be recognized by other countries, so companies will not have to go through both a national and international certification process. Various federal executive authorities used to have responsibility for carrying out accreditation in accordance with the relevant legislation. There were 16 government agencies that were in charge of accreditation, including Rosstandart, Rostekhnadzor, Rospotrebnadzor, and Rossvyaz. Rosstandart used to run the state registry of all accredited organizations. Certification authorities and test laboratories, both Russian and foreign, were accredited in accordance with the following documents: GOST-R ISO/IEC 65-2000, GOST-R ISO/IEC 17021-2008, GOST-R ISO/IEC 17025-2006, GOST-R 51000.4-2008, GOST-R 51000.6-2008.

Bureaucratic incongruities, overlapping fields of activity and the application of different procedures and criteria in the accreditation process were common occurrences. Now this situation is expected to change for the better because they are now regulated under one entity – the Federal Service on Accreditation (Rosakkreditastia).

Publication of Technical Regulations Proposed technical regulations are published (in Russian) on the Rosstandart website (<http://www.gost.ru>) for two months. Any Russian or foreign entity may comment (in Russian) to the contact listed on the website. Draft and final documents are published in the monthly "Vestnik of Technicheskogo Regulirovania" ("Journal of Technical Regulations"). This journal is an official publication of Rosstandart for its documents, instructions, rules, and decrees. "Vestnik of Technicheskogo Regulirovania" is the country's effort to ensure transparency in the development of national standards required for WTO

compliance. WTO membership presumes that all changes in the standardization system will be transparent, thereby avoiding hidden obstacles (non-tariff barriers) in trading relations with WTO partners. Another publication that can be found on Rosstandart's website is "Mir Standartov" ("World of Standards").

Contacts

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Trade Agreements

Russia currently participates in a free trade agreement with the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Customs Union with Belarus and Kazakhstan. Russia also has an association agreement with the European Union and has historically received NTR and GSP status from the United States.

Web Resources

Bureau of Industry & Security, U.S. Department of Commerce

Main site: www.bis.doc.gov

Export Controls: www.bis.doc.gov/licensing/exportingbasics.htm

Possible Violations: www.bis.doc.gov/enforcement/redflags.htm

Russian Federal Customs Service: <http://eng.customs.ru/>

Russian Ministry for Economic Development:

<http://www.economy.gov.ru/wps/wcm/connect/economylib4/en/home>

Russian Ministry of Industry and Trade: <http://www.minprom.gov.ru/eng>