

Singapore

Overview

As the national standards and accreditation body, SPRING develops and promotes internationally-recognized quality and standards infrastructure to enhance competitiveness and facilitate trade. To do this, SPRING's strategies are to:

- Enhance Quality and Standards Infrastructure
- Drive Quality and Standards Implementation
- Build Quality and Standards Resources
- Facilitate Market Access

At the policy level, SPRING represents Singapore in the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Sub-Committee on Standards & Conformance (SCSC), the ASEAN Consultative Committee for Standards & Quality (ACCSQ) and the Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC).

SPRING is Singapore's representative to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). Singapore is also a member of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) through the Singapore National Committee of the IEC.

Standards Organizations

Singapore's national standardization program is administered by SPRING Singapore. It establishes and publishes Singapore Standards by publication in the Government Gazette.

SPRING brings together representatives from industries, government agencies and academic institutions to enhance enterprise competitive and facilitate trade through standards. Where applicable, Singapore Standards are aligned to international standards to help ease entry into overseas markets for Singapore exports and lower technical barriers to trade.

SPRING helps to promote industry awareness and use of Singapore Standards and relevant international standards.

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

A list of conformity assessment bodies accredited by the Singapore Accreditation Council (SAC) may be found here:

<http://www.sac-accreditation.gov.sg/directory.asp>

Product Certification

A list of the designated product certification bodies for the Consumer Protection (Safety Requirements) Registration Scheme (CPS Scheme) administered by SPRING can be found here: <http://www.spring.gov.sg/qualitystandards/cps/pages/conformity-assessment-information.aspx>

Accreditation

Besides being the national standards body in Singapore, SPRING also manages the Singapore Accreditation Council (SAC), the national accreditation body. The SAC's primary function is to accredit conformity assessment bodies based on international standards.

Accreditation is an endorsement of an organization's competence, credibility, independence and integrity in carrying out its conformity assessment activities. This endorsement is manifested in the use of the SAC accreditation marks in the issuing of endorsed test/calibration/inspection reports or accredited certificates by its accredited organizations.

The Singapore Accreditation Council currently operates accreditation programs in the following areas:

- Calibration and testing laboratories covering chemical, biological, environmental, medical, medical imaging, electrical, non-destructive testing, gaming and testing related to civil and mechanical engineering

- Inspection bodies for areas such as industrial pressure vessels and lifting equipment, motor vehicle, structural steelwork and cargo

- Quality management system (ISO 9001) certification bodies

- Environmental management system (ISO 14001) certification bodies.

- Product certification bodies

- Occupational safety and health management system (OSHMS) certification bodies

- Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) food safety management system certification bodies

- Food safety (ISO 22000) certification

- Business continuity management certification bodies

On October 2010, the SAC was formally recognised by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the ENERGY STAR Program.

More information is available on the website: <http://www.sac-accreditation.gov.sg>.

The Singapore Accreditation Council has signed a number of multilateral mutual recognition arrangements (MRAs/MLAs). These include:

- Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) MRA for testing, calibration, medical (ISO 15189) and inspection

- Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC) MLA for quality management system certification and product certification

- International Accreditation Forum (IAF) MLA for quality management system certification and product certification

- International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) MRA for testing and calibration.

In addition, SPRING is also the Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) Compliance Monitoring Authority in Singapore. In Jan 2010, Singapore became a Mutual Acceptance of Data (MAD) adherent member of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). This means that GLP studies conducted in Singapore for the health and safety assessment of chemicals will be accepted in more than 30 OECD and non-OECD member countries. Singapore became the first country in Asia, and the third in the world (after the European Union and Canada), to operate a Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) on telecom equipment certification with the U.S. The MRA provides for direct entry of telecommunications into either market without the need for additional testing and certification. Under the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Telecommunications MRA implemented between the U.S. and

Singapore, products can be tested and certified in the United States for conformance with Singapore's technical requirements. A list of the recognized U.S. testing and certification agencies can be found at:

<http://www.ida.gov.sg/Policies%20and%20Regulation/20060609145118.aspx>.

Publication of Technical Regulations

The Singapore Standards eShop offers Singapore Standards and Technical References for sale. Singapore Standards are nationally recognized documents, established by consensus. They are functional or technical requirements in the form of specifications for materials, product system or process, codes of practice, methods of test, terminologies, and guides etc.

Technical References (TR) are transition documents developed to help meet urgent industry demand for specifications or requirements on a particular product, process or service in an area where there is an absence of reference standards. Unlike Singapore Standards, TRs are not gazetted and are issued without going through the full consensus process. They are pre-standards 'tested' over two years before assessment on their suitability for approval as Singapore Standards. TRs can, therefore, become Singapore Standards after two years, continue as Technical References for further comments, or be withdrawn.

SPRING has appointed Toppan Leefung Pte Ltd to manage the sale of the Singapore Standards and Technical References, as well as international and overseas standards that SPRING is permitted to sell in Singapore. Toppan Leefung's contact details are:

Toppan Leefung Pte Ltd

1 Kim Seng Promenade #18-01

Great World City East Tower

Singapore 237994

Operating Hours:

Mon to Fri: 9.30am to 6.00pm

Closed on Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays

Customer Service Hotline: + (65) 6826 9691

Fax: + (65) 6820 3341

Email: singaporestandardseshop@toppanleefung.com

Singapore Standards eShop: <http://www.singaporestandardseshop.sg>

Labeling and Marking

The "SAFETY Mark" is given by SPRING for all registered controlled goods. The "SAFETY Mark" helps consumers and traders to identify registered controlled goods. All registered controlled goods must be individually marked with the "SAFETY Mark" either on the product or packaging. The "SAFETY Mark" comprises a "safety logo" enclosed in a square on the left and the words "SAFETY MARK" within a rectangle on the right. Below these is a unique 8-digit registration number traceable to the registrant and the registered models.

U.S. suppliers (or their local representative) of controlled products planning to expand sales into Singapore should check with SPRING or other relevant regulatory authorities before exporting.

Telecommunication equipment imported for use in Singapore is subject to "Type Approval" by the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore. More information can be obtained from the website: <http://www.ida.gov.sg>.

For the construction industry, the Building and Construction Authority uses the Construction Quality Assessment System (CONQUAS) to objectively rate building works. Details are available at the website: <http://www.bca.gov.sg>

Contacts

SPRING Singapore
1 Fusionopolis Walk #01-02 South Tower, Solaris
Singapore 138628
Tel: (65) 6278 6666
Fax: (65) 6659 0640
Website: <http://www.spring.gov.sg>

Ms. CHANG Kwei Fern, Director, Accreditation Division
Email: sac@spring.gov.sg

Mr. CHEONG Tak Leong, Deputy Director, Standards Division
Email: stn@spring.gov.sg

Standards contact at Commercial Service, Singapore:
Ms. CHIA Swee Hoon, Senior Commercial Specialist
Email: Sweehoon.chia@trade.gov

Trade Agreements

As a nation with a small domestic market that depends on imports for food, energy and industrial raw materials, Singapore places the highest priority on the multilateral trading system embodied by the World Trade Organization (WTO). As a member of the WTO, Singapore believes that the WTO can provide a stable framework for developing sound multilateral rules that ensure that goods and services can flow freely with minimum impediment. The primary objective of Singapore's trade policy is to guard its trading interest by ensuring a free and open international trading environment.

In tandem with its support of the WTO, Singapore advocates that trade efforts are undertaken in the regional context such as APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation), ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) and ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asia Nations) as well as bilateral Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) to accelerate the momentum of trade liberalization and strengthen the multilateral trading system. It has actively pursued a number of legally binding arrangements with trading partners. ASEAN is preparing a roadmap for an ASEAN Economic Community by 2020 that aims to create a single enlarged market of 550 million people.

Singapore has concluded FTAs with the United States, ASEAN, Australia, New Zealand, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, China, India, Japan, South Korea, Costa Rica, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Norway & Iceland, Gulf Cooperation Council, Panama, Peru and with Brunei, Chile and New Zealand under the Trans-Pacific SEP (Strategic Economic Partnership) Agreement. FTA negotiations are ongoing with Canada, Mexico, Pakistan and the Ukraine. For more information, please visit <http://www.iesingapore.gov.sg> or <http://www.fta.gov.sg>

Web Resources

Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA)

<http://www.acra.gov.sg>
Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA)
<http://www.ava.gov.sg>
Agency for Science, Technology & Research (A*STAR)
<http://www.a-star.edu.sg>
Building & Construction Authority of Singapore
<http://www.bca.gov.sg>
Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS)
<http://www.caas.gov.sg>
Consumer Association of Singapore (CASE)
<http://www.case.org.sg>
Economic Development Board Singapore (EDB Singapore)
<http://www.edb.gov.sg>
Energy Market Authority (EMA)
<http://www.ema.gov.sg>
Enterprise One
<http://www.enterpriseone.gov.sg/>
Hotel Licensing Board (HLB)
<http://www.hlb.gov.sg>
Health Sciences Authority
<http://www.hsa.gov.sg>
Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore (IDA Singapore)
<http://www.ida.gov.sg>
International Enterprise Singapore (IE Singapore)
<http://www.iesingapore.gov.sg>
Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS)
<http://www.ipos.gov.sg>
International Revenue Authority of Singapore (IRAS)
<http://www.iras.gov.sg>
Information Technology Standards Committee
<http://www.itsc.org.sg>
Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS)
<http://www.mas.gov.sg>
National Environment Agency (NEA)
<http://www.nea.gov.sg>
Ministry of Defence
<http://www.mindef.gov.sg>
Ministry of Education
<http://www.moe.gov.sg>
Ministry of Environment & Water Resources
<http://www.mewr.gov.sg>
Ministry of Finance
<http://www.mof.gov.sg>
Ministry of Health
<http://www.moh.gov.sg>
Ministry of Trade & Industry
<http://www.mti.gov.sg>
Singapore Customs
<http://www.customs.gov.sg>
Spring Singapore (Singapore Productivity and Innovation for Growth)
<http://www.spring.gov.sg>

Spring Singapore Accreditation Standards

<http://www.spring.gov.sg/qualitystandards/accreditation/pages/about-accreditation.aspx>

TUV SUD PSB Pte Ltd (previously PSB Corporation Pte Ltd)

<http://www.tuv-sud-psb.sg/CorporateOverview.aspx>

ASEAN Free Trade Area

<http://www.aseansec.org>