

Thailand

Overview

Thailand's emphasis on exporting makes compliance with international standards important to companies manufacturing here. There are now 25 Thai food processors that have been certified as being in compliance with the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) system. There are a further 40 food and beverage companies who are in compliance with Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) standards. The main standards developing organization is the Thailand Industrial Standards Institute (TISI).

Standards Organizations

The Thailand Industrial Standards Institute (TISI) is the central national standards organization under the Ministry of Industry. TISI develops both mandatory and voluntary Thai Industrial Standards (TIS's). TISI publishes a work program once every two years with its plan for standards development for Thailand.

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 National Accreditation Council (NAC) of Thailand is the part of TISI that administers the accreditation system in Thailand. Through the process of the Thai accreditation system, the National Accreditation Council gives the formal recognition that a conformity assessment body is competent to carry out specific functions or tasks according to relevant international requirements.

TISI is empowered to give product certifications according to established Thai standards and is an accredited body for ISO and HACCP certifications in Thailand.

Product Certification

The government of Thailand requires a compulsory certification of sixty products in ten sectors including: agriculture, construction materials, consumer goods, electrical appliances and accessories, PVC pipe, medical, LPG gas containers, surface coatings, and vehicles. Certification of other products is on a voluntary basis. Industrial products that have TISI's certification are generally regarded as having high standards and good quality. TISI has certified more than 2,000 products on a voluntary basis.

Thailand is part of the ASEAN Economic area, and as part of it, mutual recognition agreements (MRA) become effective for compulsory standards of certain electrical products traded between Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore. Eligible products for MRA must meet the IEC or its equivalent standards.

Accreditation

The National Accreditation Council (NAC) is Thailand's accreditation body (see Conformity Assessment above). Contact information for the NAC is:

National Accreditation Council (NAC) of Thailand

Rama 6 Street, Ratchathewi, Bangkok, 10400, THAILAND

Tel: 662-202-3487

Fax: 662-202-3486

Mr. Chaiyong Krittapholchai, Director

All authorized laboratories are required to be accredited under the scope relevant to such products or product groups by the Thai Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (TLAS) or a laboratory accreditation body that has been approved by the International Product Standards Council (IPSC).

Publication of Technical Regulations

Information can be obtained at TISI; however the official documents are only available in Thai. Basic information can be obtained at <http://www.tisi.go.th>.

Labeling and Marking

For imported foods, a Thai-language label must be affixed to every single retail item of food prior to marketing. Failure to affix the label will lead to product seizure by the Thai Food and Drug Administration. The Thai FDA requires pre-approval of labels only for specifically-controlled foods. For most foods, the food manufacturers or food importers are only required to prepare a product label complying with *Ministerial Notification No. 194 B.E. 2543: Regarding Labeling*. Labels must bear the product name, description, net weight or volume and manufacturing/expiration dates. The label must also identify the manufacturer or distributor's name and address, and the product/label registration number.

For those foods that need to receive label approval from the Thai Food and Drug Administration, company representatives need to present a certificate of food analysis issued by the government of the country of origin or any accredited private laboratory.

This certificate should be issued not more than one year before the date of the label approval application. The result of the analysis must comply with the quality or standards specified in the Ministry of Public Health's ministerial notification. A copy of the ministerial notification can be obtained in English, free of charge, from the Food and Drug Administration, Ministry of Public Health, Royal Thai government.

Five copies of the original label must be attached to the application, with one attached to the products in the way that the product will be marketed. More information can be found at the Thai Food and Drug Administration website, at: <http://www.fda.moph.go.th/>

Contacts

Thai Industrial Standards Institute

Rama 6 Street, Ratchathewi,

Bangkok 10400, Thailand

Tel: (662) 202-3301-4

Fax: (662) 202-3415

E-mail: thaistan@tisi.go.th

Website: <http://www.tisi.go.th>

Mr. Pairoj Sanyadechakul

Secretary-General

Tel: (662) 202-3400
Fax: (662) 245-7802
E-mail: pairoj@tisi.go.th

Commercial Service Bangkok Contact:
Ms. Wanwemol Charukulthavatch – Commercial Specialist
U.S. Commercial Service
American Embassy
E-mail: wcharuku@trade.gov
Website: <http://www.export.gov/thailand>

Trade Agreements

Thailand is a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). In 1992, leaders of ASEAN governments approved a Thai proposal to establish the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA), which aimed to reduce tariffs on most processed agricultural and industrial products traded among ASEAN countries. The scheduled tariff reductions have continued to be pushed forward; currently, most reductions will be in place by 2015. ASEAN is examining the possibility of expanding this special trade relationship with Australia, New Zealand, China, South Korea, India and Japan.

Thailand has signed a limited bilateral free trade agreement with China and has a partial agreement with India. Thailand implemented an FTA with Australia on January 1, 2005. Thailand has completed FTA negotiations with Japan and the agreement was signed in 2007.

Web Resources

- Thai Customs Department web site: <http://www.customs.go.th>
- U.S. export and re-export regulations: <http://www.bis.doc.gov/>
- Ministry of Finance: <http://www.mof.go.th/>