

# Netherlands

## Overview

The Netherlands uses 2,000 specifically Dutch standards, 6,000 EU standards and 9,000 international standards. As a member of the EU, the Netherlands applies the product standards and certification approval processes developed by the European Union. The Treaty of Rome requires all EU members to incorporate approved EU directives into its national laws. Delays in implementing these Directives at the national level are common. As part of the program to establish common standards for all member countries, the EU regulates key product areas to protect the health and safety of consumers, as well as the environment.

The manufacturer or a representative must place a CE mark on all regulated products before they can be sold on the Netherlands. The applicable product testing and certification requirements for individual product categories are specified in the various EU Directives. The CE mark relates only to the mandatory health, safety, and environmental requirements established by the EU; it does not indicate conformity to European product standards. National marks of conformity with product standards remain compatible with the CE mark and both may be applied to the product. The CE mark replaces all national safety marks for the regulated products.

The international quality standard ISO 9000 is widely used.

## Standards Organizations

KEMA Quality BV  
P.O. Box 9035  
NL-6800 ET  
ARNHEM  
Phone: +31 26 3562850  
Fax: +31 26 3525800  
Email: [m.h.t.winters@kema.com](mailto:m.h.t.winters@kema.com)  
URL: <http://www.kema.nl>

TNO Certification BV  
P.O. Box 541  
7300 AM Apeldoorn  
Email: [certification@certi.tno.nl](mailto:certification@certi.tno.nl)  
Phone: +31 55 549 34 68  
Fax: +31 55 549 32 88  
URL: <http://www.tno.nl>

Stoomwezen BV  
DSW  
P.O. Box 769  
3000 AT Rotterdam  
Pressure equipment

Keurmerkinstituut (SKK)  
P.O. Box 9855  
1006 AN Amsterdam

Toys

BCO Centrum voor Onderzoek BV  
Bergschot 71  
4817 PA Breda  
Toys

Hoofddirectie Telecommunicatie En Post  
P.O. Box 450  
9700 AL Groningen  
Radio communications

Nederlands Centrum voor Gast-Technologie NV (GASTEC)  
P.O. Box 137  
7300 AC Apeldoorn  
Pressure equipment

European Certification Bureau  
Nederland BV (ECB)  
Julianweg 224A  
1131 NW Volendam  
Recreational Craft  
Life-saving appliances

Lloyd's Register of Shipping  
P.O. Box 701  
3000 AS Rotterdam  
Recreational craft

ABOMA & KEBOMA BV  
P.O. Box 141  
6710 BC Ede  
Elevators

Stichting Nederlands Instituut Voor Lifttechniek (LiftInstituut)  
P.O. Box 36027  
1025 XE Amsterdam  
Elevators

Nmi Certin BV  
P.O. Box 15  
9822 ZG Niekerk  
Radio-communication equipment

KCS Certification  
P.O. Box 60004  
6800 JA Arnhem  
Navigation & radio equipment, Radio-communication equipment

Nippon Kaiji Kyokai (NK Rotterdam)  
Mauritsweg 23

3012 JR Rotterdam  
Life-saving appliances  
Stichting Keuringsbureau Hout (SKH)  
Huizermaatweg 29  
1273 NA Huizen  
Circular saws

SGS Technische Inspecties BV  
Malledijk 18  
P.O. Box 200  
3200 AE Spijkensisse  
Devices for the lifting of persons

### **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 KEMA (address details above). The conformity assessment body is:

NEN  
P.O. Box 5059  
2600 GB Delft  
Phone: +31 15 2690390  
Fax: +31 15 2690190

### **Product Certification**

To sell products in the Netherlands, U.S. exporters are required to apply CE marking whenever their product is covered by specific product legislation. CE marking product legislation offers manufacturers a number of choices and requires decisions to determine which safety/health concerns need to be addressed, which conformity assessment module is best suited to the manufacturing process, and whether or not to use EU-wide harmonized standards. There is no easy way for U.S. exporters to understand and go through the process of CE marking, but hopefully this section provides some background and clarification.

Products manufactured to standards adopted by CEN, CENELEC and ETSI, and published in the Official Journal as harmonized standards, are presumed to conform to the requirements of EU Directives. The manufacturer then applies the CE marking and issues a declaration of conformity. With these, the product will be allowed to circulate freely within the EU. A manufacturer can choose not to use the harmonized EU standards, but then must demonstrate that the product meets the essential safety and performance requirements. Trade barriers occur when design, rather than performance, standards are developed by the relevant European

standardization organization, and when U.S. companies do not have access to the standardization process through a European presence.

The CE marking addresses itself primarily to the national control authorities of the member states, and its use simplifies the task of essential market surveillance of regulated products. As market surveillance was found lacking, the EU adopted the New Legislative Framework, which went into force in 2010. As mentioned before, this framework is like a blueprint for all CE marking legislation, harmonizing definitions, responsibilities, European accreditation and market surveillance.

The CE marking is not intended to include detailed technical information on the product, but there must be enough information to enable the inspector to trace the product back to the manufacturer or the local contact established in the EU. This detailed information should not appear next to the CE marking, but rather on the declaration of conformity (which the manufacturer or authorized agent must be able to provide at any time, together with the product's technical file), or the documents accompanying the product.

## Accreditation

The Dutch accreditation body is the “Raad voor Accreditatie” (RvA). The organization implements accreditations of those organizations that directly or indirectly carry out monitoring or supervisory activities in all necessary sectors, both private and public, including: Certification bodies, Inspection bodies, Testing bodies, Calibration laboratories and Proficiency testing.

Raad voor Accreditatie (RvA)  
P.O. Box 2768  
3500 GT Utrecht  
Phone: +31 30 239 45 00  
Fax: +31 30 239 45 39  
Email: [postmaster@rva.nl](mailto:postmaster@rva.nl)  
URL: <http://www.rva.nl/home/>

## Publication of Technical Regulations

The Official Journal is the official gazette of the European Union. It is published daily on the internet and consists of two series covering draft and adopted legislation as well as case law, studies by committees, and more (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/JOIndex.do?ihmlang=en> ). It lists the standards reference numbers linked to legislation ([http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/european-standards/harmonised-standards/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/european-standards/harmonised-standards/index_en.htm) ).

National technical Regulations are published on the Commission's website [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/tris/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/tris/index_en.htm) to allow other countries and interested parties to comment.

Member countries of the World Trade Organization (WTO) are required under the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) 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 access to international markets. Register online at internet URL: <http://tsapps.nist.gov/notifyUS/data/index/index.cfm>

### **Labeling and Marking**

**Labeling:** In general, the Netherlands closely follows EU labeling requirements and regulations. Differences occur primarily in relation to the labeling of agricultural and food products. For detailed information, please go to:

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200312/146085322.doc>

**Marking:** With only minor exceptions, there are no general requirements for marking imported goods with the country of origin. Requirements for specific products should be obtained from the importer. The import, export, or transit of non-Dutch goods having markings that imply that the goods are of Dutch manufacture or origin is prohibited.

There are no regulations for the marking of shipping packages. Good shipping practice dictates that packages should bear the consignee's mark and be numbered unless the shipment is such that the content of the packages can be readily identified without numbers. Hallmarking of gold and silver articles is required before they can be offered for sale. Only small tolerances are allowable for manufacturing errors. The hallmarking may be done by a Netherlands hallmarking office after importation.

The Netherlands applies the EU product standards and certification approval process.

Manufacturers are advised to take note that all labels require metric units although dual labeling is also acceptable. The use of language on labels has been the subject of a Commission Communication, which encourages multilingual information, while preserving the right of member states to require the use of the language of the country of consumption. The EU has mandated that certain products be sold in standardized quantities. Council Directive 2007/45/EC harmonizes packaging of wine and spirits throughout the EU. Existing national sizes will be abolished with a few exceptions for domestic producers.

Key Link: [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/prepack/packsiz/packsiz\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/prepack/packsiz/packsiz_en.htm)

### *The Eco-label*

The EU eco-label is a voluntary label which U.S. exporters can display on products that meet high standards of environmental awareness. The eco-label is intended to be a marketing tool to encourage consumers to purchase environmentally-friendly products. The criteria for displaying the eco-label are strict, covering the entire lifespan of the product from its manufacture, use, and disposal. These criteria are reviewed every three to five years to take into account advances in manufacturing procedures. There are currently twenty-three different product groups, and approximately 250 licenses have been awarded for several hundred products.

Applications to display the eco-label should be directed to the competency body of the member state in which the product is sold. The application fee will be somewhere between \$415 and \$1,800 depending on the tests required to verify if the product is eligible. The eco-label also carries an annual fee equal to 0.15% of the annual volume of sales of the product range within the European community. However, the minimum annual fee is currently set at \$700 and the maximum is \$35,000.

There are plans to significantly reform the eco-label in the near future, reducing the application and annual fees and expanding the product ranges significantly. It is also possible that future eligibility criteria may take into account carbon emissions.

Key Links:

[Eco-label Home Page](#)

[Product Categories eligible for the Eco-label](#)

[Eco-Label Catalogue](#)

[List of Competent Bodies](#)

[Revision of the Eco-label](#)

[The Eco-label and Carbon Footprint](#)

## **Trade Agreements**

The Netherlands has been a member of the European Union (EU) since its inception in 1958. The European Union forms a customs union allowing free trade among the member states, but levies a common tariff on imports coming from non European Union countries such as the United States, Japan, and Canada. The European Union also has a common agricultural policy, joint transportation policy, and free movement of goods and capital within the member states. Under agreements reached between the European Union and the members of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) duty free trade for industrial products has been achieved among all 31 countries. Taxes, such as the value added tax (VAT) and excise taxes, are levied in the country of final destination. Currently, VAT rates differ among the various countries. See the "Value Added Tax" section for the Dutch rates.

In addition to the EFTA countries, the Netherlands and the other European Union nations extend preferential tariff treatment to certain other countries and territories in Central and Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean with historical ties to the European Union, and to less developed countries in Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific region. The granting of reduced tariffs to developing countries is under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP). For a list of trade agreements with the EU and its member states, as well as concise explanations, please see [http://tcc.export.gov/Trade\\_Agreements/index.asp](http://tcc.export.gov/Trade_Agreements/index.asp)

## **Web Resources**

### EU websites:

Online customs tariff database (TARIC):

[http://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/customs/customs\\_duties/tariff\\_aspects/customs\\_tariff/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/customs/customs_duties/tariff_aspects/customs_tariff/index_en.htm)

The Modernized Community Customs Code (MCCC):

[http://europa.eu/legislation\\_summaries/customs/do0001\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/customs/do0001_en.htm)

ECHA: <http://echa.europa.eu>

Taxation and Customs Union:

[http://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/customs/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/customs/index_en.htm)

Security and Safety Amendment to the Customs Code - Regulation (EC) 648/2005:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32005R0648:en:HTML>

Electronic Customs Initiative: Decision N° 70/2008/EC

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:023:0021:0026:EN:PDF>

Modernized Community Customs Code Regulation (EC) 450/2008):

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:145:0001:0064:EN:PDF>

Legislation related to the Electronic Customs Initiative:

[http://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/customs/policy\\_issues/electronic\\_customs\\_initiative/electronic\\_customs\\_legislation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/customs/policy_issues/electronic_customs_initiative/electronic_customs_legislation/index_en.htm)

### International Level:

What is Customs Valuation?

[http://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/customs/customs\\_duties/declared\\_goods/european/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/customs/customs_duties/declared_goods/european/index_en.htm)

Customs and Security: Two communications and a proposal for amending the Community Customs Code

[http://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/customs/policy\\_issues/customs\\_security/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/customs/policy_issues/customs_security/index_en.htm)

Establishing the Community Customs Code: Regulation (EC) n° 648/2005 of 13 April 2005

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32005R0648:en:HTML>

Pre Arrival/Pre Departure Declarations:

[http://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/customs/procedural\\_aspects/general/prearrival\\_predeparture/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/customs/procedural_aspects/general/prearrival_predeparture/index_en.htm)

AEO: Authorized Economic Operator

[http://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/customs/policy\\_issues/customs\\_security/aeo/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/customs/policy_issues/customs_security/aeo/index_en.htm)

Contact Information at National Customs Authorities:

[http://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/taxation/personal\\_tax/savings\\_tax/contact\\_points/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/taxation/personal_tax/savings_tax/contact_points/index_en.htm)

New Approach Legislation: [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/european-standards/documents/harmonised-standards-legislation/list-references/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/european-standards/documents/harmonised-standards-legislation/list-references/index_en.htm)

Cenelec, European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization:

<http://www.cenelec.eu/>

ETSI, European Telecommunications Standards Institute:

<http://www.etsi.org/>

CEN, European Committee for Standardization, handling all other standards:

<http://www.cen.eu/cenorm/homepage.htm>

Standardisation – Mandates:

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/european-standards/standardisation-requests/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/european-standards/standardisation-requests/index_en.htm)

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/european-standards/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/european-standards/index_en.htm)

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/standards\\_policy/mandates/database/index.cfm?fuseaction=txtSearch.main&CFID=34648468&CFTOKEN=6ef965fc96926526-52EF213E-DE68-5C5C-981D1CB14CA6CF99&jsessionid=f412d234ecac366e803c2593f323e576c666TR](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/standards_policy/mandates/database/index.cfm?fuseaction=txtSearch.main&CFID=34648468&CFTOKEN=6ef965fc96926526-52EF213E-DE68-5C5C-981D1CB14CA6CF99&jsessionid=f412d234ecac366e803c2593f323e576c666TR)

ETSI – Portal – E-Standardisation :

[http://portal.etsi.org/Portal\\_Common/home.asp](http://portal.etsi.org/Portal_Common/home.asp)

CEN – Sector Fora:

<http://www.cen.eu/cenorm/sectors/index.asp>

Nando (New Approach Notified and Designated Organizations) Information System:

<http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newapproach/nando/>

Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs):

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/single-market-goods/international-aspects/mutual-recognition-agreement/usa/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/single-market-goods/international-aspects/mutual-recognition-agreement/usa/index_en.htm)

European Co-operation for Accreditation:

<http://www.european-accreditation.org/content/home/home.htm>

Eur-Lex – Access to European Union Law:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index.htm>

Standards Reference Numbers linked to Legislation:

European Standards

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/european-standards/harmonised-standards/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/european-standards/harmonised-standards/index_en.htm)

What's New

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/european-standards/news/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/european-standards/news/index_en.htm)

National technical Regulations

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/tris/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/tris/index_en.htm)

NIST - Notify U.S.: <https://tsapps.nist.gov/notifyus/data/index/index.cfm>

Metrology, Pre-Packaging – Pack Size:

<http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/legal-metrology-and-prepack/documents/pack-sizes/>

European Union Eco-label Homepage:

[http://ec.europa.eu/comm/environment/ecolabel/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/comm/environment/ecolabel/index_en.htm)

Eco-Label Catalogue:

<http://ec.europa.eu/ecat/>

U.S. websites:

National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers:

<http://www.ustr.gov/about-us/press-office/reports-and-publications/2009/2009-national-trade-estimate-report-foreign-trad>

Agricultural Trade Barriers:

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/posthome/Useu/>

Trade Compliance Center:

<http://www.trade.gov/tcc>

U.S. Mission to the European Union:

<http://useu.usmission.gov/>

The New EU Battery Directive:

[http://www.buyusainfo.net/docs/x\\_8086174.pdf](http://www.buyusainfo.net/docs/x_8086174.pdf)

The Latest on REACH:

<http://export.gov/europeanunion/reachclp/index.asp>

WEEE and RoHS in the EU:

<http://export.gov/europeanunion/weeerohs/index.asp>

Overview of EU Certificates:

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/posthome/useu/certificates-overview.html>

Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition

<http://www.fda.gov/Food/default.htm>

EU Marking, Labeling and Packaging – An Overview

[http://www.buyusainfo.net/docs/x\\_4171929.pdf](http://www.buyusainfo.net/docs/x_4171929.pdf)

The European Union Eco-Label:

[http://buyusainfo.net/docs/x\\_4284752.pdf](http://buyusainfo.net/docs/x_4284752.pdf)

Trade Agreements

[http://tcc.export.gov/Trade\\_Agreements/index.asp](http://tcc.export.gov/Trade_Agreements/index.asp)