

Costa Rica

## Overview

Costa Rican law requires the exclusive use of the metric system but, in practice, accepts U.S. and European commercial and product standards. A system of standards has not been implemented in Costa Rica due to the lack of adequate laboratory equipment and funding. In some cases, U.S. and domestic companies doing business in Costa Rica use the International Standards Organization (ISO) designation in their promotional campaigns

As of January 2012, INTECO, the Costa Rican standards certification organization, reported that 43 companies had been granted ISO 14001 certification for environmental responsibility. Certified companies currently include banana producers, hotel operators in ecologically sensitive areas and other agribusinesses. INTECO also reported that 97 companies had met ISO 9001 requirements, 9 were certified with ISO 18001 and 2 were certified with ISO 22000. Certification of ISO standards is voluntary. The Government of Costa Rica does not require that foreign companies be certified with ISO (9000 and 14000) standards in order to export to Costa Rica. Likewise, Costa Rican companies are not required to be certified under ISO standards to sell their products to local and foreign markets.

The Costa Rican Ministry of Economy, Industry and Commerce (MEIC) is responsible for the formulation and implementation of the requirements and standards that local and foreign companies must follow in order to sell their products in the local market. However, these regulations are mostly related to labeling and usage instructions.

## Standards Organizations

Beside MEIC, there are no organizations in Costa Rica that develop standards. For more information, please contact:

Ministerio de Economía, Industria y Comercio de Costa Rica  
Dirección de Mejora Reguladora y Reglamentación Técnica  
San José, Costa Rica  
Tel.: (506) 2291-2164, Ext. 221, 247, or 264  
Fax: (506) 2291-2015  
Email: [reglatec@meic.go.cr](mailto:reglatec@meic.go.cr)  
Webpage: <http://www.meic.go.cr/>, or <http://www.reglatec.go.cr/>

## 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.org/news.php>

## Conformity Assessment

The Instituto de Normas Tecnicas (INTECO) is the only entity accredited in Costa Rica at the present time that provides standards certification services to local companies:

Instituto de Normas Técnicas de Costa Rica (INTECO)

San Pedro, Montes de Oca, Barrio Gonzalez Flores, de Muñoz y Nanne 400 Mts. Norte, contiguo al Laboratorio de Materiales de la Universidad de Costa Rica.

P.O. Box 10004-1000

San Jose, Costa Rica

Tel.: (506) 2283-4522

Fax: (506) 2283-4831

E-Mail: [info@inteco.or.cr](mailto:info@inteco.or.cr)

Webpage: <http://www.inteco.or.cr/esp/index.html>

The Costa Rican organization in charge of accreditation of entities is the [Ente Costarricense de Acreditacion](#) – (ECA). The following link will show the full list of Costa Rican testing organizations accredited by ECA: [http://www.eca.or.cr/acr\\_lab.php](http://www.eca.or.cr/acr_lab.php)

### **Product Certification**

The Costa Rican Ministry of Health is responsible for the registration and authorization of import permits for food products, chemical products, cosmetics, drugs and other pharmaceutical products imported into Costa Rica. The Costa Rican Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) is responsible for the registration and authorization of import permits for fertilizers and agricultural products imported into the country.

The addresses of these ministries follow:

#### **Ministerio de Salud de Costa Rica**

Dpto. de Drogas y Estupefacientes  
Registros y Controles

P.O. Box 10123-1000

San José, Costa Rica

Tel.: (506) 2223-0333, Ext. 224

Fax: (506) 2257-7827 or 2222-1420

Webpage: <http://www.ministeriodesalud.go.cr/>

#### **Ministerio de Agricultura de Costa Rica**

Servicio Fitosanitario del Estado

P.O. Box 10094-1000

San José, Costa Rica

Tel. 506-2549-3400

Fax. 506-2260-8301

Webpages: <http://www.sfe.go.cr/>

<http://www.mag.go.cr/>

Email: [sunii@mag.go.cr](mailto:sunii@mag.go.cr)

### **Accreditation**

The Costa Rican [Ministry of Science and Technology \(MICIT\)](#) is the government agency that provides accreditation services thru [ECA](#) (Ente Costarricense de Acreditacion), the standards certifying organization in Costa Rica. The Ministry and ECA may be contacted as follows:  
Ministerio de Ciencia y Tecnología (MICIT)

P.O. Box 5589-1000  
San José, Costa Rica  
Tel. 506-2248-1515, ext. 137 and 124  
Fax. 506-2257-8765  
Webpage: [www.micit.go.cr](http://www.micit.go.cr)  
Email: [micit@micit.go.cr](mailto:micit@micit.go.cr)

Ente Costarricense de Acreditación (ECA)  
150 Norte de Edificio Torre La Sabana, Sabana Norte  
Tel. 506-2258-2529, or 2258-0878, or 2258-0644  
Fax. 506-2258-2529 ext.113  
Webpage: [www.eca.or.cr](http://www.eca.or.cr)  
E-Mail: [gerencia@eca.or.cr](mailto:gerencia@eca.or.cr)

### **Publication of Technical Regulations**

Official technical regulations are published in the Government of Costa Rica journal, La Gaceta. Both proposed and final regulations are announced in this publication. U.S. companies interested in commenting on proposed regulations should have a representative in the country that has the ability to keep the U.S. company informed of any new regulations proposed by the government. La Gaceta is part of the National Printing Office (Imprenta Nacional). La Gaceta may be accessed online at

[www.imprenal.go.cr](http://www.imprenal.go.cr), or at <http://www.lagaceta.go.cr/>

The Imprenta Nacional may be contacted as follows:

Imprenta Nacional  
Direccion General  
La Uruca  
San José, Costa Rica  
Tel. (506) 2296-9570, Ext.: 113 or 130  
Email: [direccion@imprensa.go.cr](mailto:direccion@imprensa.go.cr)

Webpage: <http://www.impresnacional.go.cr/content/contactenos.html>

## **Labeling and Marking**

See the topic “Labeling and Marking Requirements” in Chapter 5: Trade Regulations and Standards.

### **Contacts** [Return to top](#)

Senior Commercial Specialist: [Victor.Cambronero@trade.gov](mailto:Victor.Cambronero@trade.gov)

Senior Agricultural Specialist: [Victor.Gonzalez@fas.usda.gov](mailto:Victor.Gonzalez@fas.usda.gov)

### **Trade Agreements** [Return to top](#)

See the topic “Openness to Foreign Investment” in Chapter 6: Investment Climate.

### **Web Resources** [Return to top](#)

#### **Government of Costa Rica**

[www.micit.go.cr](http://www.micit.go.cr)

[www.imprenal.go.cr](http://www.imprenal.go.cr)

<http://www.mag.go.cr/>

<http://www.ministeriodesalud.go.cr/>

#### **Costa Rican Standards Organizations**

<http://www.eca.or.cr/>

[www.inteco.or.cr](http://www.inteco.or.cr)

#### **United States Government**

[www.ansi.org](http://www.ansi.org)

<http://www.usda.com/>