

Iraq

Overview

Iraq is a member of the International Organization for Standardization. The Central Organization of Standardization and Quality Control (COSQC), housed within the Ministry of Planning, is responsible for monitoring product standards in Iraq. COSQC inspects local goods according to health and safety parameters.

The [National Center for Standards and Certification Information \(NCSCI\) at the National Institute of Standards and Technology \(NIST\)](#) in the U.S. Department of Commerce provides information on U.S. and foreign standards, technical regulations, and conformity assessment procedures for non-agricultural products. NCSCI staff responds to requests for information by identifying relevant standards and regulations, and by referral to the appropriate standards-developers or private-sector organizations. Under copyright restrictions, NCSCI cannot provide copies of standards, but NCSCI does provide sources for accessing standards.

U.S. companies can register for the [Notify U.S.](#) service to learn about and comment on proposed changes to foreign standards, technical regulations, and conformity assessment procedures that may affect U.S. access to global markets.

Standards Organizations

Iraq is a member of the International Organization for Standardization. The Central Organization of Standardization and Quality Control (COSQC) is responsible for monitoring product standards in Iraq. COSQC inspects local goods according to health and safety parameters. COSQC's contact information:

Tel: +964 1-776-1980 Fax: +964 1-776-1981 E-mail: cosqc@yahoo.com

Conformity Assessment

COSQC Law No. 54 of 1979 (Article 3/Clause 8) lists the following products under COSQC's charge.

Bureau Veritas is currently operating in Iraq, and the GOI currently is reviewing the applications of other firms to determine which one(s) will be permitted to assist with inspections.

Product Certification

Iraq applies product certification according to Iraqi standards. Iraq references other internationally recognized standards (i.e., ASTM, ISO, ANSI) for their national standards. However, officially the Iraqi government requires strict adherence to Iraq standards in the import inspection regime.

Product certification takes place through ICIIGI. There is a Pre-Importation Inspection, Testing, and Certification of Goods into Iraq (ICIIGI), relative to the COSQC Law No. 54 of 1979 (Article 3/Clause 8). Under this program, COSQC requires that regulated imported products whose

standard specifications were declared compulsory under the provisions of COSQC Act 1983 are to be inspected for conformity to the relevant Iraqi standards and technical requirements." Please contact Bureau of Veritas for more details regarding verification procedures and documentary requirements at iraq.conformity@bureauveritas.com or consult the process at www.bureauveritas.com/iraq-conformity.

Accreditation

The Ministry of Planning is seeking to build five national laboratories and capacity within the COSQC for accreditation. A national labs accreditation body was established in 2003. Aside from that, there are no other accreditation bodies in Iraq.

Publication of Technical Regulations

The Official Gazette of the Republic of Iraq is named "Alwaqai Aliraqiya," but COSQC does not publish reports of their technical committees in the national gazette with regularity. The COSQC sends letters to domestic industry members notifying them of proposed standards, but does not notify foreign firms or association bodies. In discussions, they are open to the idea of sending notification to international bodies.

The COSQC intends to publish its current standards requirements, laws and regulations, but they are in the process of revising most of them. The page on their website for "laws and regulations" is currently under construction.

Labeling and Marking

Cargo moving to Iraq should be well stabilized, secured and preferably have the contents fully concealed. Marking on boxes or crates should be directly on the box or crates in ink or paint rather than on removable tags or labels. Country of origin should be clearly marked and indicated. The date of manufacture and expiration of canned and preserved food items has to be embossed or printed on the packaging. The contents of pharmaceutical products must be clearly printed on the packaging. Pesticide labeling must be in Arabic and English. Local business people may only import products that comply with the labeling and marking requirements issued by the Department of Standards and Specifications or the responsible government ministry.

Contacts

COSQC's contact information:

Tel: +964 1-776-1980 Fax: +964 1-776-1981 E-mail: cosqc@yahoo.com

Trade Agreements [Return to top](#)

Iraq signed a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) with the United States on August 11, 2008, designed to improve trade and investment flows between the two countries. However, Iraq has not yet ratified the treaty, something the Council of Representatives insists must happen before the TIFA enters into effect.	Egypt
--	-------

Iraq is a party to the Multi Investment Guarantee Agreement (MIGA), and has observer status in the World Trade Organization (WTO) but is not yet a full member. . In addition, Iraq is currently party to nine separate multiparty agreements within the Arab League, as well as 32 other bilateral agreements worldwide. Iraq has also concluded Free Trade Agreements with the following countries: Algeria	
Jordan	Lebanon