

## **LATIN AMERICAN LAWS AND REGULATIONS**

**Caribbean** – Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guadeloupe (Fr.), Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique, Montserrat, Netherland Antilles, Puerto Rico, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago, and the Turks and Caicos Islands, and the US Virgin Islands.

**Central America** – Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama

**Latin America** – Countries of North America, Central America, South America and the Caribbean where Spanish or Portuguese are the primary languages.

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

Excludes many of the territories and dependencies of non- Spanish or non-Portuguese decent, i.e., Belize, Guyana, French Guiana, and Suriname and others.

**South America** - Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Falkland Islands, French Guiana, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname Uruguay, and Venezuela.

### **Regulatory Structure**

#### **Caribbean**

Countries have individual laws and regulations for consumer products; several of the island nations are associated with the European Union or US and follow their regulatory structure.

#### **Central America**

Countries have individual laws and regulations for products. In some cases little information is available.

#### **South America**

Most countries have individual laws and regulations for products, however, 5 have entered into a common market arrangement, similar to the European Union, known as MERCOSUR.

Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, the Falkand Islands, French Guiana, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname while having existing trade agreements maintain their own

individual laws and standards for products. Chile, for instance, has specific laws for toluene limits in children's products and lead in paint.

## **Associations**

### **The Andean Community (Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, and Bolivia)**

South American organization founded to encourage industrial, agricultural, social, and trade cooperation. Recently, with the new cooperation agreement with [Mercosur](#), the Andean Community gained four new associate members: Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. These four Mercosur members were granted associate membership by the Andean Council of Foreign Ministers meeting in an enlarged session with the Commission (of the Andean Community) on July 7, 2005. This move reciprocates the actions of Mercosur which granted associate membership to all the Andean Community nations by virtue of the Economic Complementarity Agreements (Free Trade agreements) signed between the CAN and individual Mercosur members.

#### Objectives

- Step-up their growth and job creation
- Facilitate their participation in the regional integration process, with a view to the gradual formation of a Latin American common market
- Reduce the Member Countries' external vulnerability and improve their position in the international economy
- Reinforce subregional solidarity and reduce differences in development among the Member Countries; and
- Seek the continuing improvement of the living standards of the subregion's inhabitant

## **CANENA**

Council for Harmonization of Electrotechnical Standards of the Nations of the Americas. CANENA's purpose is the harmonization of the electrotechnical codes and standards and conformity assessment test methods utilized in North America. Further, CANENA Standardization Activities are not limited to the harmonization or development of standards -- conformity assessment, compliance issues, compatibility, interchangeability, interoperability, installation codes, intellectual property and other issues in the broadest definition of standardization may be part of CANENA's Standardization Activities. However, CANENA is not a standards developer.

CANENA Secretariat, National Electrical Manufacturers Association, 1300 North 17th Street, Suite 1847, Rosslyn, VA 22209 (phone: 703/841-3258)

## **CARICOM, Caribbean Common Market**

CARICOM aims at the eventual integration of its members and economies, and the creation of a common market. From its inception, the Community has concentrated on the promotion of the integration of the economies of Member States, coordinating the foreign policies of the independent Member States and in Functional Cooperation, especially in relation to various areas of social and human endeavor.

Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Turks and Caicos Islands, The Bahamas, British Virgin Islands, Guyana, St. Kitts and Nevis, Suriname, Barbados, Dominica, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago

## **Central American Common Market (CACM)**

Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

## **COPANT**

The Pan American Standards Commission, known as COPANT (Spanish: Comisión Panamericana de Normas Técnicas), is a civil, non-profit association. It has complete operational autonomy and is of unlimited duration. The basic objectives of COPANT are to promote the development of technical standardization and related activities in its member countries with the aim of promoting their industrial, scientific and technological development in benefit of an exchange of goods and the provision of services, while facilitating cooperation in intellectual, scientific and social fields.

## **MERCOSUR**

Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay created MERCOSUR in March 1991 with the signing of the Treaty of Asuncion. It originally was set up with the ambitious goal of creating a common market/customs union, similar to the European Union. The basis of MERCOSUR was the various forms of economic co-operation that had been taking place between Argentina and Brazil since 1986. Venezuela became a full member in 2006.

MERCOSUR is similar to the EU, it has different legislative and technical organizations that create legislation and standards that are voted on and if passed are supposed to be adopted into national law. Over 600 standards have currently been created and adopted by MERCOSU however country adoption has lagged severely. One of the best examples, to date, is the adoption of the NM 300 series of standards for toy safety.

## **Regulations**

### **Product Categories**

Examples:

#### **Toys**

Mexico  
SCFI-1994 (labeling)                      **NOM-015/1-SCFI/SSA-1994( Heavy Metals) , NOM-050-**

Belize,    None  
Costa Rica,                                      None, Lead in paint  
El Salvador,                                    None  
Guatemala,                                    None  
Honduras,                                      None  
Nicaragua,                                      None  
Panama    ISO 8124 series

Argentina,                                      NM300 Series (Based on ISO 8124 and EU stds.)  
Bolivia,                                        NB 56001 series (Based on COPANT)  
Brazil,    NM300 Series (Based on ISO 8124 and EU stds.)  
Chile,    Nch 1773, 1775, 1936 (Based on ISO 8124), Lead in Paint,  
Toluene,

Colombia,                                      NTC EN 71 series, also ISO 8124 part 1  
Ecuador,                                        NTE EN 71 series  
Falkland Islands,                            EN 71 series  
French Guiana,                                EN 71 series  
Guyana,                                        None  
Paraguay,                                      NM300 Series ( Based on ISO 8124 and EU stds.)  
Peru,    None, prohibitions on yo-yo balls, toxic materials in  
writing instruments

Suriname,                                      None  
Uruguay,                                        NM300 Series ( Based on ISO 8124 and EU stds.)  
Venezuela,                                    NM300 Series ( Based on ISO 8124 and EU stds.)

## **COUNTRY INFORMATION**

Note: Much of the following information has been obtained from the US Country Commercial Guides, available online.

### **CENTRAL AMERICA**

#### **Belize**

##### **Labeling and Marking**

The Belize Bureau of Standards has standard requirements for labeling and marking of locally manufactured and imported products sold in Belize.

The standard requires that the label affixed to a product shall give detailed information on the good, such as the ingredients used and nutritional facts.

#### **Costa Rica**

There are no general requirements in Costa Rica for marking the origin of general merchandise. However, Costa Rican food labeling regulations follow the Codex Alimentarius and require that all domestic and imported food products contain labeling in Spanish with the following specifications: product name, list of ingredients in quantitative order, nutritional content, name, and address of importer, expiration or best-used-by date, and metric weight. Although expiration dates are required to be on all food product labels, Costa Rican importers are of mixed opinion regarding their utility, and the Government of Costa Rica is inconsistent in enforcing this requirement.

Special labeling requirements apply to pharmaceuticals, fertilizers, pesticides, hormones, veterinary preparations, vaccines, poisonous substances, and mouthwashes.

#### **El Salvador**

In general standards and labeling do not pose a major hurdle for U.S. exporters to El Salvador. This is because El Salvador is a standards taker and not a standards maker. Many products made in the U.S. already meet El Salvador's standards. The main area of difference is items for human consumption such as pharmaceuticals and food. Here registration and labeling requirements require U.S. exporters to follow strict local guidelines.

Regional labeling standards are being developed by Central American countries for pharmaceuticals and other products. Detailed labeling requirements are available at [http://www.infoq.org/sv/u\\_aduanera.htm](http://www.infoq.org/sv/u_aduanera.htm).

Also, the following requirements are included in the Consumer Protection Law: retailers must have the price of the product either on the packaging or in a visible place; Products

that are sold by weight or volume or any other measure must have the weight, volume, or an exact measure of its content on the label;

For pharmaceuticals, the list of ingredients, expiration date, dosage, contraindications, risks involved when used, residual toxic effects, etc. as established by the Ministry of Public Health must be printed on the label. Labels on frozen and canned foods must include an expiration date.

## **Guatemala**

COGUANOR is empowered to direct and coordinate national policy regarding the setting of standards. Through the Ministry of Economy, it proposes the modification of current standards and adoption of new standards to the government's executive branch, oversees the application of adopted standards and its technical committees are responsible for reviewing standards when necessary. COGUANOR also maintains communication with regional and international standards organizations.

Upon the creation of COGUANOR, under Decree # 1523, the Commission describes two forms of national standards: a) NGR – Recommended Guatemalan Standards; and b) NGO – Required Guatemalan Standards. NGR standards refer to quality standards relating to the production and sale of goods; these, however, are obligatory for government entities.

## **Labeling and Marking**

Guatemala has labeling standards for food products, pharmaceuticals, pesticides, footwear and distilled alcoholic beverages. While Guatemala's labeling standards for domestic food products are very strict, COGUANOR allows importers to use a stick-on label, with the following information written in Spanish:

- Product definition/description
- Name of the product (the official name as noted on the U.S. Certificate of Free Sale)
- Physical characteristics, including ingredients (must be qualitative composition, translated literally from English)
- Net weight/volume
- List of ingredients and additives and the percentage total for each
- Name, address and telephone number of Guatemalan distributor
- Food Control registration number (D.G.S.S.-D.R.C.A. \_\_\_\_\_ --Sanitary License; obtained from Center of Sanitation)
- Expiration date
- If applicable: "Keep Frozen"
- If applicable: "Form of Preparation"

Imported sample-size products must comply with labeling laws. Bulk-packed food products do not require labeling, unless they will be sold at the retail level as an individual unit. Nutritional labeling is not required. The declared net content must be expressed in SI (System International) units; additional net content declaration in other units is optional. Small variations in net content are permitted, but must not be excessive. Guatemala does not require a specific container size for any products.

## **Honduras**

In general, standards issues and related technical obstacles do not pose a major hurdle for U.S. exporters. At present, work is being done in connection to defining the limits of the procedures described on Executive Decree 130-2005, particularly on voluntary and mandatory compliance terms, in order to allow a practical development of the national standardization program. Honduras currently has only nine (9) national standards.

### **Standards Organizations**

COHCIT has identified the following four main productive areas for the potential development of standards in Honduras:

- Agricultural production
- Tourism
- Forestry and Wood Production
- Industrial Production

### **Labeling and Marking Requirements**

Labeling requirements for merchandise in general are established under Article 9 of the Consumer Protection Law, Decree 41-89 of 1990. Enforcement of marking and labeling regulations is conducted by the General Directorate of Production and Consumption of the Ministry of Industry & Trade. Special regulations also apply to medicines and agricultural products under the Health Code and the Phyto Zoo Sanitary Law, respectively.

- In general, labels of all consumer-oriented products are required to include the following
  - basic information:
  - name of the product;
  - name of the manufacturer;
  - country of origin;
  - sales price;
  - elaboration and expiration dates;
  - net content;
  - list of ingredients and
  - any applicable health warnings.

Labeling information for products manufactured outside of Honduras should be standardized according to the requirements of their country of origin.

Labeling requirements for food products are very specific. Honduran law requires that all processed food products be labeled in Spanish and registered with the Division of Food Control (DFC) of the Ministry of Public Health. For detailed information contact FAS Tegucigalpa at <http://www.fas.usda.gov>

## **Nicaragua**

Nicaragua's standards system is not well developed due to lack of adequate laboratory equipment and funding. The Ministry of Development, Industry and Commerce (MIFIC) 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. The National Standards and Quality Commission, composed of public and private sector members, is responsible for proposing and reviewing new standards and regulation

### **Labeling and Marking Requirements**

Foods and pharmaceutical labels must be in Spanish and must indicate product origin, contents, price, weight, production date and expiration date. Information on risk and proper use is also required

## **Panama**

### **Labeling and Marking Requirements**

Local regulations require labels to be in the Spanish language, although this is not enforced at present, except for medicines, agricultural chemicals, toxic products, and food products that require specific instructions or warnings due to human health risks. The Ministry of Commerce and Industries is currently reviewing a decree that would require all labels to be in Spanish. Labels are required to have basic information regarding the name and address of manufacturer, expiration date, list of ingredients, lot number, and the product form, e.g. powder, liquid, etc.

In general, products which comply with U.S. labeling and marking requirements are accepted for sale in Panama. Food products labeling and marking must comply with CODEX Alimentarius guidelines.

All goods arriving in Panama intended for re-exportation immediately must be marked "PANAMA IN TRANSIT" on each box or outside container.

## **SOUTH AMERICA**

### **Argentina**

In 1998, the Argentine government embarked on a new path of issuing regulations mandating that certain products meet safety requirements. The trend has slowed down considerably and, generally, implementation schedules have been postponed. Low voltage electrical equipment was the first product category subjected to safety regulations and mandatory certification (Resolution 92/98). Regulations have also been issued for **toys, shoes, gas appliances and products, construction steel, elevators, energy consumption and noise labeling of appliances, closures for dangerous products, and personal protective equipment**. Since the end of 1999, efforts have been concentrated in implementation rather than in adding new categories of product to safety regulations. Full-phased implementation of most regulations is not following original schedules.

Resolution 92/98 originally covered all low voltage electrical equipment, but subsequent modifications have excluded various categories of products. However, the vast majority of electrical and electronic products in the consumer marketplace are still subject to this regulation. Evidence of compliance with the regulation is mandatory through product certification. Resolution 92/98 provided for a phased three-stage implementation, with different dates depending on the product. Phase 1 calls for a sworn declaration of conformity, phase 2 provides for a type-certification, and phase 3 requires full third-party certification with mark of conformity. Safety regulations for other products are at different stages of implementation.

### **Bolivia**

The Government has no specific standards required for imports. The National Certification and Standardization Organization (IBNORCA) is in charge of developing Bolivian product standards. In the near future, products for the use of the oil and gas industry will have to comply with certain standard requirements.

### **Brazil**

Brazil is a member of the Mercosul trading block, which has its own regional standards organization that issues and harmonizes standards. Technical committees write and recommend standards in selected areas. Each country must ratify the standard before they are adopted in that country. A number of standards have already been adopted as Mercosul standards. Adopted and proposed Mercosul standards are listed on Mercosul's website: [www.amn.org.br](http://www.amn.org.br). The Executive Secretariat of the Mercosul Standards Organization is located in São Paulo, Brazil.

## **Mandatory Testing and Mandatory Product Certification**

For regulated products, the relevant government agency generally requires that entities engaged in product testing and mandatory certification be accredited by INMETRO. Generally, testing must be performed in-country, unless the necessary capability does not exist in Brazil.

INMETRO is a signatory to the mutual recognition arrangement (MRA) of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), which can facilitate acceptance of test results from US laboratories that are accredited by US organizations who are also signatories. For a complete list of MRAs to which INMETRO belongs, visit the following website: <http://www.inmetro.gov.br/english/international/mutual.asp>.

A complete list of products subject to mandatory certification:  
[www.inmetro.gov.br/qualidade/prodCompulsorios.asp](http://www.inmetro.gov.br/qualidade/prodCompulsorios.asp).

## **Non-Mandatory Testing and Product Certification**

There is no legal mandate to date to retest non-regulated products that have been approved in their country of origin. For non-regulated products, some US marks and product certification may be accepted. As with all voluntary standards, any certification that may be required in non-regulated sectors is a contractual matter to be decided between buyer and seller. Market forces and preferences often lead to the need for a specific certification.

To facilitate US product acceptance in Brazil by recognizing existing certifications, agreements between US and local certifiers/testing houses are encouraged. Also, there is no impediment for the establishment of US certification organizations in Brazil.

If your product has been certified in the US or Europe, it probably will not need to be re-certified (see MRA above). If your product is not certified, please refer to the mandatory product certification link.

A list of certified products (both mandatory and voluntary) in Brazil is available at the following website: [www.inmetro.gov.br/prodcert/Produtos/busca.asp](http://www.inmetro.gov.br/prodcert/Produtos/busca.asp)

## **Labeling/Marking Requirements**

The Brazilian Customer Protection code, in effect since September 12, 1990, requires that product labels provide consumers with correct, clear, precise, and easily readable information about the product's quality, quantity, composition, price, guarantee, shelf life, origin, and risks to the consumer's health and safety. Imported products should bear a Portuguese translation, and all products should use the official metric units or show a metric equivalent.

## Chile

### Product Certification

In most sectors, standards are not mandatory in Chile, but companies can voluntarily comply with them, especially in industries where such compliance constitutes a kind of “seal of approval.” However, certain imported products, such as those related to industrial safety, building and construction materials, and the gas and electricity industries, must comply with the specific requirements of the supervising entity. For example, there are specific regulations pertaining to the seismic resistance of new construction. The INN is also promoting ISO 9000 standards among local manufacturers. The chemical industry is an example of one industry that has incorporated the ISO 9000 standards in its industrial processes.

For agricultural products, the FTA included an agreement on red meat grading standards, which now allows U.S. red meat products to be sold in the Chilean market according to U.S. standards.

The importation of used passenger and cargo transportation vehicles is prohibited. Exceptions include the importation of used ambulances, armored cars, mobile homes, prison vans, street and highway cleaning vehicles, cement-making vehicles, hearses, and fire-fighting vehicles.

Firearms can be imported, but they require a special permit from a military authority in Chile.

The import of pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and most biological and bio-chemical preparations requires prior registration with the Institute of Public Health (Instituto de Salud Publica; see web site at [www.ispch.cl](http://www.ispch.cl)) and may be subject to special labeling and other requirements, depending on the nature of the product.

Imported goods that are considered inconsistent with Chilean "morals, public health, national security, or environment" require special authorization to enter into Chile. These include certain chemicals/processes and some media products that face review and possible censorship. All films, videos and TV programs, imported or locally produced, are currently reviewed for suitability.

Chile continues to have animal health, phytosanitary and sanitary requirements that impede imports, although great progress has been made on a number of fresh fruits, dairy and red meat. All food products entering Chile are subject to sampling and analysis by health authorities.

### Labeling and Marking Requirements

Imported products customarily consumed by the public must display the country of origin before being sold in Chile. Packaged goods must be marked to show the quality, purity,

ingredients or mixtures, and the net weight or measure of the contents. Labeling must be in Spanish and measurements must be metric.

Canned or packaged foodstuffs imported into Chile must bear labels in Spanish for all ingredients, including additives, manufacturing and expiration dates of the products, and the name of the producer or importer. All sizes and weights of the net contents also must be converted to the metric system. Goods not complying with these requirements may be imported but not sold to consumers until conversion is made. Thus, foodstuffs labeled in English have to be re-labeled in Chile before they can be sold. For information on Chile's labeling requirements for food, see the Foreign Agricultural Service's Food and Agricultural Import Regulations at [www.usembassy.cl](http://www.usembassy.cl), Food & Agriculture, Food Regulations.

## **Colombia**

### Product Certification

Manufacturers and importers of products regulated by official mandatory technical standards or technical regulations need to inscribe themselves in SIC's Mandatory Registry prior to the sale of such product. Products can be tested in accredited laboratories to obtain the certificate of conformity and SIC would also accept certificates issued by an accredited certification entity, such as members of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) multilateral agreement.

MINCOMEX eliminated the mandatory status of the majority of products previously covered, since most refer to outdated technical standards. SIC is working with other government agencies in the development of technical regulations for products that present threats to health, safety, environment or national security. Development of technical regulations should adhere to internationally accepted practices, and the Colombian Government needs to notify the World Trade Organization, and other relevant organizations, for comments, prior to the new regulation's entry into force. You can find more information about technical regulations under development (awaiting public comment), valid technical regulations, and on Colombian technical standards referenced in technical regulations. You can find them in the following web page: [www.mincomercio.gov.co](http://www.mincomercio.gov.co) and select "Vice Ministerio de Desarrollo Empresarial – Regulación".

The importation of the following products has been specifically prohibited: dieldrin, aldrin, chlordane, endosulfan, heptachlor, lindane and any preparations containing these products; gasoline containing lead tetraethylene; and weapon-type toys.

An import license is required for 101 sub-classifications of the Colombian Tariff Schedule. No import licenses are being approved for the following: used vehicles and parts, used tires, used or irregular clothing, clothing closeouts, used bags and sacks,

### Labeling and Marking Requirements

Specific marks or labels are not required, except for food, pharmaceutical products and textiles. Labels on processed food products must indicate: the specific name of the product, ingredients in order of predominance, name and address of manufacturer and importer, number of units, instructions for storage and usage (when required), expiration date, and other instructions as required by the Ministry of Health or the Industry and Commerce Superintendent. Labels and illustrations cannot be inaccurate or misleading. Labels on pharmaceutical products must indicate in Spanish: "for sale under medical, dental or veterinary prescription," with the generic name, commercial name, net weight or volume, weight or quantity of active ingredients, license number and the lot control number. For those products having limited shelf life, the date of expiration should be included.

Insecticides and other toxic products should display the skull and crossbones, the word "poison" in Spanish, and information regarding usage and antidotes. Products for which there are no antidotes cannot be licensed and can only be used in programs under the direct control of public health authorities

### **Ecuador**

National standards are set by the Ecuadorian Standards Institute (INEN) of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and generally follow international standards. SESA (an agency of the Ministry of Agriculture) is responsible for administering Ecuador's sanitary and phytosanitary controls. According to Ecuadorian importers, bureaucratic procedures required to obtain clearance still appear to discriminate against foreign products. Ecuador must comply with the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures, yet denials of SPS certification often appear to lack a scientific basis and to have been used in a discriminatory fashion to block the import of U.S. products that compete with Ecuadorian production.

### Labeling and Marking Requirements

The Ecuadorian Standards Institute sets all requirements. Labeling must be done in Spanish and should include the name of the company, address and phone number, tax registration number, country of origin, unit, net weight, and sanitary registration number if required.

### **Falkland Islands**

No Guide information

### **French Guiana**

No Guide information

## Guyana

The Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) is the lead agency charged with development and compliance and product certification. Under the Standards Compliance Program launched in November 2005, Bureau of Standards officials, in addition to customs officers, examine the quality of certain products at the port of entry, including: all electrical appliances for domestic use, textiles, garments, footwear, safety matches, tires, gas stoves, PVC pipes, paint and paint products, cell phones, jewelry, water and electrical meters, furniture, seat belts, fertilizers, safety helmets, toys and playthings, Christmas trees and decorative lighting.

The GNBS Engineering/Metrology and Standards Compliance Department monitors 19 categories of goods imported into Guyana. Monitoring applies to: domestic electrical appliances, tires, textiles, garments, footwear, PVC pipes, scales, weights and measures, paints and paint products, animal feeds, furniture, gas stoves, cigarettes, safety matches, seat belts, fluorescent lamp ballasts, measuring tapes and rules, fertilizers, electricity and water meters, and safety helmets. This has resulted in the issuance of 14 technical regulations.

### Labeling and Marking

A commodity imported should comply with the appropriate Guyana National Bureau of Standards and also the **Standard Specification for Labeling of Commodities, GYS 10: 1994** and **GYS 9:2 1994**. Standards are available at the GNBS.

Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) is responsible of the development of standards and regulations that would ensure an improvement in quality of life of the people of Guyana. The labeling and marking requirements are being monitored, based on mandatory standards for goods (food, consumer products, agriculture, among others) falling under the purview of the GNBS.

U.S. Exporters and potential exporters are encouraged to contact the GNBS before exporting (goods) to Guyana about the labeling and marking requirements for specific classes of goods.

## Paraguay

The standards regime in Paraguay includes obligatory and voluntary standards, and there are public and private conformity assessment bodies operating in the country. The INTN--Instituto Nacional de Tecnologia, Normalizacion y Metrologia, <http://www.intn.gov.py>, is the government organization in charge of developing the country's standards regime in general.

## Labeling and Marking Requirements

Paraguayan regulations require that the country of origin be labeled on domestic and imported products. Expiration dates are required on medical products and some consumer goods. Health warnings on hazardous products, such as cigarettes, must be labeled in a visible place. As of January 1998 imported beer is required to display detailed manufacture and content information in Spanish, labeled at the point of packaging. A similar regulation applies for textile products and shoes. Negotiations for Mercosur-wide labeling requirements are underway.

For more information please consult the following Ministry of Industry and Commerce web sites:

<http://www.mic.gov.py/etiquetado/index.html>

[http://www.mic.gov.py/defensa\\_consumidor/compendio\\_etiquetado\\_n1.pdf](http://www.mic.gov.py/defensa_consumidor/compendio_etiquetado_n1.pdf)

## **Peru**

### Product Certification

Products coming from the U.S. will not have problems if suppliers receive in advance all information regarding the products composition and components. The Peruvian standards body (CTR) works according to a regulatory framework similar to that of the U.S. It is common to have seminars sponsored by: ANSI, ASTM, NEMA and others

### Labeling and Marking Requirements

In November 2004 Peru issued a new regulation to facilitate trade regarding labeling and marking referred to as (Ley del Rotulado) Law 28405. This new law establishes that products exported to Peru should have a label with the following information: name of product, country of origin, address of exporter or importer or distributor, expiration date, conservation method, weight in metric system and risks if any to use it. International quality marks should be visible and easy to identify. If imported products do not comply with these requirements for customs clearance, importers are allowed to properly label them in private warehouses.

For food products, labeling requirements are relatively simple. Products normally retain their original labels and the name and tax payer's identification (RUC) of the manufacturer, importer or distributor must be added to the packaging. The Ministry of Health is in charge of issuing the sanitary registration numbers for food products (DIGESA). The Consumer Protection Office within INDECOPI is responsible for food and beverage labeling inspection and advertising.

## **Suriname**

### Labeling and Marking Requirements

Products must be clearly labeled, with the content, weight, brand, and production date and expiration date of the product clearly visible. This may be done in English.

## **Uruguay**

### Labeling and Marking

Labeling and marking requirements for all imported products are controlled by LATU (Technical Laboratory), Ministry of Public Health, and municipal offices.

## **Venezuela**

The Venezuelan Commission for Industrial Standards, known for many years as COVENIN, no longer exists. COVENIN has been replaced by the “Fondo para la Normalizacion y Certificacion de Calidad” (FONDONORMA). However, Venezuelan standards developed by FONDONORMA still are called COVENIN norms. FONDONORMA, a non-profit foundation, is owned by the private sector through trade and industry associations, large private companies, and individuals. It also has a few government organizations, mainly ministries, among its council members. FONDONORMA is a member of the International Organization of Standardization (ISO) and awards ISO certificates to local companies. It is also a member of the Pan-American Standards Commission (COPANT) and of the International Certification Network (I Q Net).

Apart from the product registrations that might be required for certain types of products, there are no overall requirements for product certification in Venezuela. Certain products, however -- medical devices, pharmaceuticals, and cosmetics among them -- are subject to a certification and/or registration process. In those cases, the applicant might be required to submit samples for laboratory testing and certification of their safety. ISO, NORVEN or IQNet certification is frequently helpful in gaining approval that a product or service adheres to existing norms or standards.

### Labeling and Marking Requirements

Labeling or markings of products are ordered by resolutions issued by the responsible ministry and not by the standard making body. Labeling regulations vary by product, but the basic rule is that all labels must be in the Spanish language and all measurements must be in the metric system.

For products that require registration and authorization for sale to the public, the labeling requirements typically include a list of contents; the name of the manufacturer, importer or distributor; the name of a sponsoring and responsible pharmacist in the case of drugs; and any warnings or other data required as part of the product’s registration requirements.

Foreign language labels are allowed in some instances, as long as a separate glued-on or self-adhesive label affixes the Spanish text.

Operating instructions and owners manuals must be in Spanish. Labels must list all ingredients, the contents of the package in the metric system or in units, and the registration number of the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Light Industries and Commerce in the case of animal feed or veterinary medicines.

## **WEBSITES**

Please note many of these sites are Spanish only, INMETRO is Portuguese.

ANDEAN PACT

<http://www.comunidadandina.org/endex.htm>

CACM

[http://www.sice.oas.org/SICA/bkgrd\\_e.asp](http://www.sice.oas.org/SICA/bkgrd_e.asp)

CANENA

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

CARICOM

[http://www.caricom.org/jsp/community/community\\_index.jsp?menu=community](http://www.caricom.org/jsp/community/community_index.jsp?menu=community)

COPANT

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

Country Commercial Guides

<http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/site/imr-ri2.nsf/en/gr00001e.html>

Foreign Trade Information

<http://www.sice.oas.org/>

IMETRO (Brazil)

<http://www.inmetro.gov.br>

MERCOSUR

<http://www.mercosur.int/msweb/portal%20intermediario/es/index.htm>