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**REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN STANDARDIZATION
AND REGULATORY COOPERATION**

Submitted by Armenia

This document provides information on the latest legal and institutional changes and developments in Armenia in standardization, conformity assessment, accreditation, metrology and related areas and it is submitted by the Ministry of Trade and Economic Development of Armenia.

This document is presented to delegates for information. Apart from some minor editorial changes, the paper is reproduced in the form in which it was received.

**REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS
IN THE STANDARDIZATION, METROLOGY AND CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT
SECTORS IN INTERNATIONAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS**

GENERAL REVIEW OF LEGISLATIVE CHANGES IN VARIOUS AREAS

Armenia

1. In Armenia, the Ministry of Trade and Economic Development is the national authority for standardization, metrology and conformity assessment (Government Decrees No 1038-N, 1032-N and 1031-N from 22 July 2004). It has developed a number of new laws and amendments, which were adopted by the National Assembly in 2004. These were developed with the aim of harmonizing them with similar European Union legislative acts.

2. The laws are as follows:

- Law on Standardization (Enforced from November 9, 1999 and amended May 26, 2004 (No. 81-N))
- Law on Conformity Assessment (Adopted by the National Assembly as No. 82-N from May 26, 2004)
- Law on Uniformity of Measurements Ensuring System (Adopted by the National Assembly as No. 83-N from May 26, 2004).

3. Based on these laws, new developments have occurred in the fields of standardization, conformity assessment (forms of assessment are: conformity assessment, accreditation and technical control over observation of requirements of technical regulations) and ensuring uniformity of measurements, as well as that new institutions that have been set up are in compliance with the similar EU structures.

4. These institutions are: the Accrediting Agency and the Quality Inspectorate, which are the structural subdivisions of the Ministry of Trade and Economic Development, including the National Institute of Standards and the National Institute of Metrology.

A. STANDARDIZATION

The National Authority for Standardization

5. The National Authority for Standardization:

- develops and within the scope of its authorities implements the State policy in the standardization area;
- based on the recommendations of the relevant interested authorities, develops and submits the annual standardization plan of Armenia, as well as the technical regulations development plan to the Government for approval;
- approves and enforces the national standards;
- adopts classification lists;
- implements the notification of draft technical regulations;
- within the scope of its competence coordinates the activities of the National Institute of Standards

The National Institute of Standards

6. The National Institute of Standards:

- (a) adopts national standards;
- (b) according to the standards of the national standardization system, establishes the organizational, methodical and general technical rules and procedures for the conduct of standardization activities, as well as the application procedure of international, regional, intergovernmental standards and the national standards of other countries;
- (c) organizes the expertise of draft international, intergovernmental and national standards;
- (d) represents Armenia in international and regional organizations for standardization;
- (e) participates in the standardization activities carried out at international, regional and intergovernmental levels;
- (f) publishes the national standards;
- (g) establishes and coordinates technical commissions for standardization;
- (h) establishes and administers the National Fund of standardization normative documents;
- (i) organizes training for staff in the field of standardization, as well as training of specialists and qualification of experts in conformity assessment, also awards and certificates in various sectors;
- (j) registers national standards, rules, norms and assignments in the field of standardization, as well as classification lists, technical terms and conditions, and amendments thereto.

7. The National Institute of Standards is a certification body for environmental management systems (EMS). The implementation of EMS certification in Armenia's organizations is conducted in accordance with International Standard ISO 14001-2004 "Environmental Management Systems. General Requirements on Implementation". The certification body has a quality management system which is in line with the requirements of ISO 9001-2000.

8. The following accredited testing laboratories equipped with necessary equipment and measuring devices operate within the National Institute of Standards:

- Food-testing laboratory
- Radio and electric equipments testing laboratory.

9. The National Institute of Standards has established three technical committees for adopting standards:

- Technical Committee on Energy
- Technical Committee on Food
- Technical Committee on Information Technologies

10. The Institute issues:

- form VI 1 for goods, including documents for vines and grape juice exported to EU Member States;
- vehicle identification number (VIN) to road vehicle manufacturers of Armenia in accordance with ISO 3779-83 and ISO 3780-83 international standards.

11. It is a member of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

12. The National Authority for Standardization is presently conducting negotiations on acceding to the European Committee for Standardization (CEN).

13. The National Institute of Standards maintains the national fund of standards of Armenia, which contains 400 AST (Armenian standards), 567 international standards (ISO) and 38 Regional (EN) standards.

14. The Institute participated in 2003, 2004 and 2005 ISO conferences. It participates in the activities of the Interstate Council of Standardization, Metrology and Certification of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

15. It has an educational centre which provides training for specialists in the field of conformity assessment.

16. Information on the National Institute of Standards can be found at <http://www.sarm.am>

B. CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT

The National Authority for Conformity Assessment

17. The National Authority for Conformity Assessment:

- (a) implements the State policy in the field of conformity assessment;
- (b) exercises State control over the requirements established by technical regulations on production or service;
- (c) signs agreements on recognition of conformity assessment results, as prescribed by legislation;
- (d) represents Armenia in the international organizations for conformity assessment;
- (e) publishes and provides information on the certification bodies, testing laboratories and conformity marks applied in Armenia to relevant international and regional certification organizations;
- (f) accepts and registers accreditation applications and submits recommendations to the Accreditation Council for granting accreditation to legal entities or private entrepreneurs, refusing accreditation, enlarging the scope of accreditation, reducing the scope, suspending, recovering or terminating the validity of the accreditation certificate;
- (g) keeps registers of accredited bodies;
- (h) implements other authority within the scope of its competence vested by the legislation of Armenia.

C. ACCREDITATION

18. Accreditation is conducted by the Accreditation Council. Membership and procedures of the Council are approved by the Government (Law on Conformity Assessment No. 82-N from May 26, 2004). The Council is composed of 15 members, representing government authorities, interested public unions and scientific organizations.

19. Its activities are as follows:

- (1) making decisions on accreditation of legal entities and private entrepreneurs, refusing accreditation, enlarging the scope of accreditation, reducing the scope, suspending, recovering or terminating the validity of the accreditation certificate;
- (2) considering and making decisions on the appeals related to the accreditation process.

20. The Accreditation Authority is an associate member of International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) since December 7, 2000.

21. The National Authority for Conformity Assessment is presently conducting negotiations on acceding to the European Network of National Accreditation (EA).

22. The Accreditation Council grants accreditation to certification bodies for testing laboratories and products, services, quality management systems (QMS), environmental management systems (EMS) and personnel.

23. The total number of accredited bodies as of 20 May 2006 was 89:

- Certification bodies for products	14
- Certification bodies for services	6
- Certification bodies for quality management systems	1
- Certification bodies for environmental management systems	1
- Testing laboratories	67

24. The certification bodies are accredited according to EN 45000 standards.

25. The testing laboratories are accredited according to ASI ISO/IEC 17025.

D. UNIFORMITY OF MEASUREMENTS INSURING SYSTEM

The National Metrology Authority

26. The National Metrology Authority:

- (a) develops and implements the State policy in the uniformity of measurements insuring sector;
- (b) submits recommendations to the Government on permissible value units of application;
- (c) coordinates the activities of the National Institute of Metrology in the uniformity of measurements insuring sector;
- (d) licenses the production and renovation activities of the means of measurements conducted by businesses;
- (e) undertakes supervision in the field of metrology;
- (f) approves the type of standard samples and units of measurement having undergone State tests, as well as administers the State registry of the approved units of measurements and standard samples;
- (g) administers the registry of the accredited legal entities and private entrepreneurs;

- (h) makes decisions on the certificates establishing the type of units of measurement, State tests, recognition (non-recognition) of the control check results, in compliance with the interstate and intergovernmental agreements;
- (i) implements other authority within the scope of its competence vested by national legislation;
- (j) grants accreditation to the legal entities and private entrepreneurs implementing metrological inspections.

The National Institute of Metrology

27. The National Institute of Metrology:

- (a) establishes, improves, maintains and applies standards of value units, establishes the transfer system of units of value;
- (b) conducts scientific research on the metrology system;
- (c) maintains and preserves the national measurement standards;
- (d) insures comparison of the national measurement standards with interstate and international measurement standards;
- (e) insures the uniformity of measurements of time and frequency in Armenia;
- (f) implements State tests of the measurement units and conformity tests of the approved type;
- (g) provides conclusions on the possibility of approving and/or refusing of the measurement unit type;
- (h) organizes and implements the accreditation activities of legal entities and private entrepreneurs implementing inspections of measurement units in sectors subject to State metrology control and certification of methods of conduct of measurements;
- (i) implements inspections of measurement means, measurement certification and measures;
- (j) participates in activities of interstate and international organizations insuring uniformity of measures;
- (k) organizes publishing of information and related materials in the field of metrology;
- (l) implements other activities prescribed by law and its Charter.

28. The National Institute of Metrology comprises the following:

- Service for maintaining measurement standards, samples of standards and scientific researches,
- Department for development of general and normative documents,
- Laboratory for measurements of gas and liquid substances,
- Laboratory for power, durability and pressure measurements,

- Laboratory for mechanical and diagonal measurements,
- Laboratory for time, frequency and radio, electro measurements.

29. Currently, the National Metrology Authority undertakes activities for the National Institute of Metrology towards becoming a full member of COOMET (Euro-Asian Cooperation of State Metrology Institute).

30. Information on the National Institute of Metrology can be found at <http://www.metrology.am>

31. Information on activities implemented in the fields of standardization, metrology and conformity assessment may be obtained at <http://www.sarm.am>