

Subject: Changes to Israel's Standards Law-Standards Comparability Chart

Commerce/International Trade Administration is asking for your assistance in identifying standards developed by U.S.-domiciled standards developing organizations in specific sectors and product categories, per the attached table provided by Israel's national standards body, the Standards Institute of Israel (SII).

SII has embarked on a process of identify U.S. standards as alternatives to the European standards Israel has historically adopted, particularly for consumer products. This comes as a result of the Israeli Ministry of Economy's (MOE) recent overhaul of Israel's standards system that is aimed at decreasing Israel's cost of living by increasing competition and choice and reducing redundant testing of imports. MOE reports that approximately 92 percent of Israel's mandatory standards (about 600 in all) are-adopted international or regional (European) standards, and only 5 percent of the country's mandatory standards are adopted U.S., Australian, or other standards.

Over the past two years Israel has been amending its Standards Law to expand recognition of international standards for products imported to Israel. The newly amended law would also move from use of Israeli Government inspections and testing to a system relying on tests and test certificates from conformity assessment bodies outside of Israel. The intent of legislation amending Israel's Standards Law is to transpose about 50 percent alternative (namely, U.S. standards) into the law. The SII, which has funding to purchase the needed standards from SDOs, has started the process of identifying alternative standards for some product categories, but have had difficulty in identifying standards for the product categories in the attached chart. The list is quite varied and includes medical, electronic equipment, power transmission equipment, wood products, textiles and others.

Commerce has been in communication with MOE and SII about these changes and continues to request additional information. At this point we would appreciate your assistance in reviewing the attached chart and identifying alternative standards which may have been developed by your SDO. We would also like confirmation of whether any of the international standard (mainly ISO/IEC) identified are identical to standards used in the U.S. market.

Please let us know if you require other information in addition to the information that the SII has provided. We recognize this is a challenging task, but we would like to be responsive to SII.

Please send your input in the attached chart format to Renee Hancher, renee.hancher@trade.gov, and to Naomi Wiegler, naomi.wiegler@trade.gov, by June 15, 2014.

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