



NIST

Global Standards Information



Standards Information Center



**“Lack of information”
was identified as one important factor
preventing U.S. companies from
entering export markets and
capitalizing on growing foreign trade
opportunities.**

(2008 National Export Strategy – The New Global Main Street)



Today's Discussion

- Standards Information Center 
- Trade Agreements' Offices
Notification Authority and Inquiry Point 
- **NotifyUS**



A Congressional Mandate

Under 19 U.S. Code, the Department of Commerce is assigned responsibility for operating:

- U.S. National Federal Standards Information Center 
- U.S. National “technical offices” to support the World Trade Organization’s Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (WTO TBT) and U.S. Free Trade Agreements 

The DOC has delegated these roles to NIST.



The Information Center – Expert research services and resources

- Standards
- Technical Regulations
- Conformity Assessment Procedures

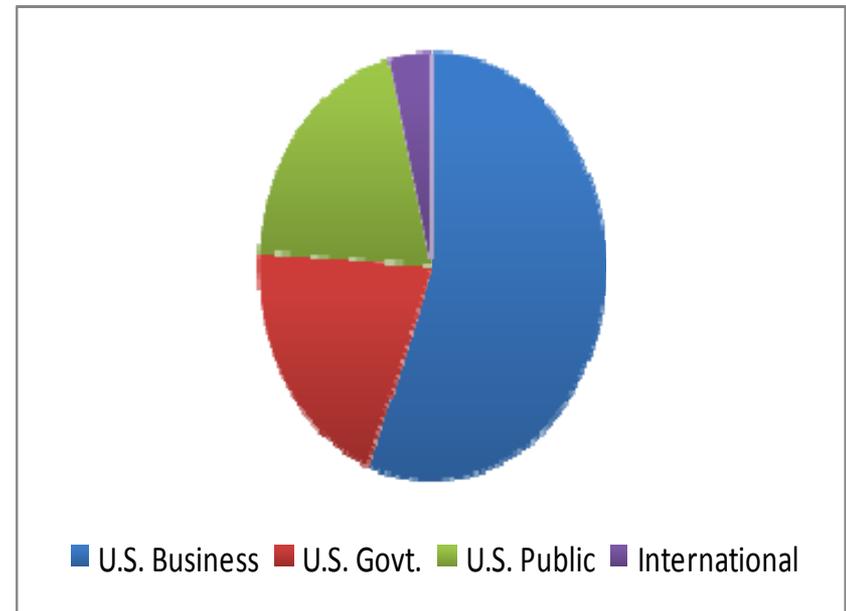
Standards information

- **NCSCI** provides free, expert, and custom answers for
 - U.S. industry, foreign, and international documentary standards
 - U.S. and global standards information needs
- **NCSCI** = more than 2 million standards



Our Customers are Diverse

- Industry and trade associations
- Standards developers
- Government regulatory and trade agencies including NIST
- U.S. public
- International governments
- WTO TBT Inquiry Points





Our customers know their information needs

- Lots and lots of it!
- Increasingly technical and complex
- Electronic
- Customized
- Fast
- Free
- Self-service
- Value for trade and export stakeholders



Do you have a standards question?

Customer = U.S. Homeowner



Question ...

What are the U.S. standards for mirrored glass sliding closet doors?

Answer . . .

ANSI Z97.1 – Safety Glazing Materials Used in Buildings and Safety Performance and Specifications and Methods for Tests 

Glass Association of North America 

Bonus

U.S. Code of Federal Regulations 

Title 16 Part 1301

NIST

Global Standards Information



Notification Authority and Inquiry Point



Notification Authority informs international community of proposed U.S. regulations

- Notification Authority
 - Must review published U.S. proposed regulations
 - **Must “notify” U.S. proposed regulations**
 - **Must provide full texts of U.S. proposed regulations to WTO Members**
 - **Must process Member comments on U.S. notifications**
 - Must process U.S. comments on Member notifications



Inquiry Point supports WTO TBT Agreement

Scope:

- Non-agricultural (manufactured) products
- Agricultural products when their labeling, marking, or packaging is regulated

Inquiry Point responds bibliographically, not technically

Projected 65,000+ information requests in 2010



Inquiry Point participates in multiple arenas





Part of WTO network of TBT Inquiry Points

Partnership and collaboration with 153 WTO Member countries

- Meetings
- Workshops
- Visits





U.S. Inquiry Point

- World Trade Organization's Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (WTO TBT), NAFTA and 13 Bilateral FTAs
- Provide relevant documents
- Answer all reasonable inquiries
 - Standards
 - Technical regulations
 - Conformity assessment procedures
 - Membership and participation of Members
 - Location of notices published by Members
 - Location of Member Inquiry Points



Inquiry Point recently worked these issues

- Energy efficiency labeling in Saudi Arabia
- Stainless steel in Korea
- Carbon footprint labeling in France
- Alcoholic beverage labeling in Thailand
- Aviation Safety Management Systems (SMS) in Japan
- Telecommunications equipment in India

Customer = Georgia Quail Farm Manufacturing



Question ...

Quail Farm's customer in Saudi Arabia requires a "Conformity Certificate of Goods" before they can ship his purchased GQF equipment to him.

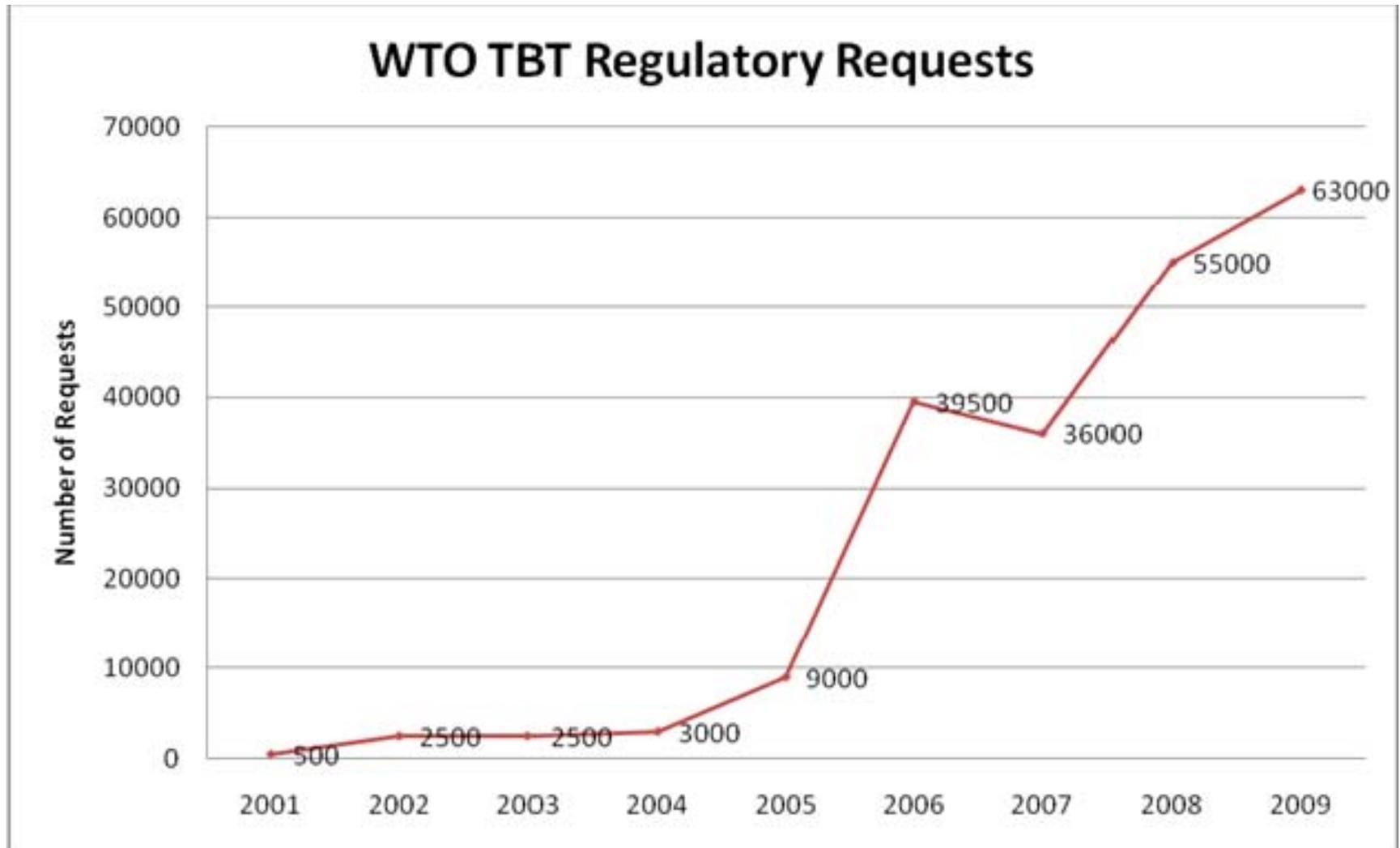
How does Quail Farm get that certificate?

Answer . . .

We found appropriate contact persons at:

- www.BuyUSA.gov
- U.S. Commercial Service in Saudi Arabia
- Local USEAC in Savannah, Georgia

Fulfillment of export/trade information requests for U.S. industry



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Wednesday September 15, 2010



Notify U.S.

****WARNING**WARNING**WARNING**WARNING**WARNING****

You are accessing a U.S. Government information system, which includes: 1) this computer, 2) this computer network, 3) all computers connected to this network, and 4) all devices and storage media attached to this network or to a computer on this network. You understand and consent to the following: you may access this information system for authorized use only; you have no reasonable expectation of privacy regarding any communication of data transiting or stored on this information system; at any time and for any lawful Government purpose, the Government may monitor, intercept, and search and seize any communication or data transiting or stored on this information system; and any communications or data transiting or stored on this information system may be disclosed or used for any lawful Government purpose.

****WARNING**WARNING**WARNING**WARNING**WARNING****

Welcome

Welcome to the **Notify U.S.** Web site. **Notify U.S.** is a free, web-based e-mail subscription service that offers U.S. entities (citizens, industries, organizations) an opportunity to review and comment on proposed foreign technical regulations that can affect their businesses and their access to international markets. This service and its associated web site is managed and operated by the [National Center for Standards and Certification Information \(NCSCI\)](#) an organization within the [National Institute of Standards and Technology \(NIST\)](#). NIST is part of the U.S. Department of Commerce's [DOC](#).

Purpose

The purpose of **Notify U.S.** is to collect and fulfill subscriber requests for information on [World Trade Organization \(WTO\)](#) Agreements relating to **Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)**. 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. The [WTO Secretariat](#) distributes this information in the form of "notifications" to all Member countries.

Subscribers

By subscribing to the **Notify U.S. Service**, U.S. entities receive, via e-mail, notifications of drafts or changes to domestic and foreign technical regulations for manufactured products. Included in the subscribers e-mail is a link to the [Notify U.S.](#) web site where they can read more information and order complete texts of the regulations for review and comment. At this time, the **Notify U.S. Service** is only available to subscribers who are U.S. citizens and individuals that are part of U.S. based organizations and industries.

Registered subscribers can access the **Notify U.S. Service** by entering an authorized Email address and password in the Sign In form. Any individual who needs access and does not have or been assigned an account and a password, can select this [Subscribe Link](#) to create an account for subscribing to this service. Subscribers that have forgotten their account and/or password or have had their account disabled, can use this [Forgot Password Link](#) to request that their account be re-enabled or their password reset.

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National Institute of Standards and Technology ([NIST](#)) is part of the U.S. Department of Commerce ([DOC](#)).



Notify U.S. is a service for U.S. exporters and for you

- You are immediately informed of proposed regulations in global markets
- You are welcome to comment on and potentially influence those proposed regulations
- You receive value and assistance in global trade issues

Notify U.S. provides actionable export information

- Read or request the full text of a proposed regulation
- See deadlines for dates to comment
- Request an extension on comment deadlines
- Learn how to submit effective comments
- Submit comments to WTO Member countries
- Access a wealth of WTO TBT-related information

Notify U.S. Value ...

- U.S. stakeholders are informed of proposed regulations in global markets immediately.
- U.S. stakeholders can comment on proposed regulations -- which increases U.S. competitiveness in global markets.

And ... 

Provides export stakeholders with

- Faster service
- Self-service
- Free service
- Unique service
- 24/7 information access
- More information electronically

Notify U.S. in Summary

Notify U.S. users can click to: 

- read the full text of a proposed regulation
- request a copy of the full text of a proposed regulation
- learn the deadline date for comments
- request an extension on comment deadline dates
- learn how to submit effective comments
- submit comments to WTO Member countries
- access a wealth of WTO TBT-related information

The Future

What's Next?

- More electronic information delivery
- Higher visibility and use of **Notify U.S.**
- Increased collaboration with WTO IPs

Continuous Improvement

- Customer service in the “Information Age”
- Value to U.S. Industry
- Value to U.S. Exporters

Useful Links

- **GSI at NIST** <http://gsi.nist.gov>
- **NIST** www.nist.gov
- **Notify U.S.** www.nist.gov/notifyus
- **Standards.Gov** www.standards.gov
- **Regulations.Gov** www.regulations.gov
- **ANSI** www.ansi.org
- **Global Standards Index** www.nssn.org
- **WTO** www.wto.org
- **WTO Documents** <http://docsonline.wto.org>

Review

- Standards Information Center
- Trade Agreements' Offices:
Notification Authority and Inquiry Point
- Register for **NotifyUS**

Widen your world of standards and regulatory information!

Thank You

Standards Information Center

Email: ncsci@nist.gov or notifyus@nist.gov

Telephone: 301-975-4040

www.nist.gov

<http://gsi.nist.gov>