



Certification for the Eurasian Economic Union

Mirèse Heijting, owner of CIS Certification, outlines the documentation needed for Russia and neighbouring states

Doing business in Russia is a challenge and despite all the current political developments, it remains an interesting market with good future prospects. Getting the correct certification is certainly one of the main challenges.

When Russia joined the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in August 2012, one of the agreements was to simplify its international trade regulations and procedures. This agreement also applies to certification.

There is now less certification required than before 2012, when it was called GOST certification. However, the downside is that it has become a more complicated process.

The Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) is a customs and economic union comprising the Russian Federation, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Armenia where an area of free trade between these member states exists. In this area a common customs tariff, unified trade rules and uniform technical standards apply.

Why is certification required?

There are several reasons for this. Certification is needed for customs clearance, for use in member states of the Eurasian customs and economic union, to complete sales, for when more advanced certification is needed and for marketing purposes.

Certification is needed for products like mechanical equipment, electric equipment, measuring instruments and for equipment for potentially explosive atmospheres (ATEX). CIS's clients include companies dealing with pressure vessels, pipelines, pumps and valves.

The CUTR (customs union technical regulations) certificate is the official confirmation that the products meet the national Russian quality and safety requirements. CUTR is valid for the Eurasian Customs Union comprising Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus (although in the latter two countries, their own system is still partly applicable). Now

there is the Economic Union Technical Regulation (EUTR) certification after Armenia and Kyrgyzstan joined as member states. However, CUTR is still commonly used instead of the EUTR.

Applications

With the help of technical information and the customs code, also named the commodity code, or the harmonised system (HS) code, certification bodies can determine which certificate is needed.

For the successful implementation of the assessment process, certain technical documentation must be provided to the relevant bodies. Some technical regulations of the union, like the CUTR 010 covering safety of machinery and equipment or the CUTR 032 covering pressure equipment require certain technical documentation proving the conformity of the product. The CUTRs provide mandatory safety requirements and prescriptions for conformity assessment.

Other certification

There are one-off certificates as well as type-certificates. If companies supply the same product to several Russian customers, for example, the latter is recommended, and the validity can be for up to five years. Once the now digital CUTR is obtained, firms have to use the Eurasian Conformity (EAC) logo on their products.

There are two further types of documents. A CUTR DoC (Declaration of Conformity) and a CUTR CoC (Certificate of Conformity).

A CoC is combined with a factory visit

or test-witnessing, and if valid for five years – two interim inspections during the validity period are carried out. It is more expensive to obtain than a DoC.

A DoC is issued by the customs union applicant and registered by the certification body. The CU applicant has the overall responsibility.

Bottlenecks

All CUTR certificates or declarations must be officially applied for and signed by a Eurasian country representative. This can be the customer or a representative company (agent for example) in the Eurasian Union. Customers, therefore, must guarantee that their purchased products meet all the relevant requirements.

Most third parties are bona fide and will ask for an agreement with the seller to cover their risk. They must be able to rely on the good quality of products for the CUTR to be granted.

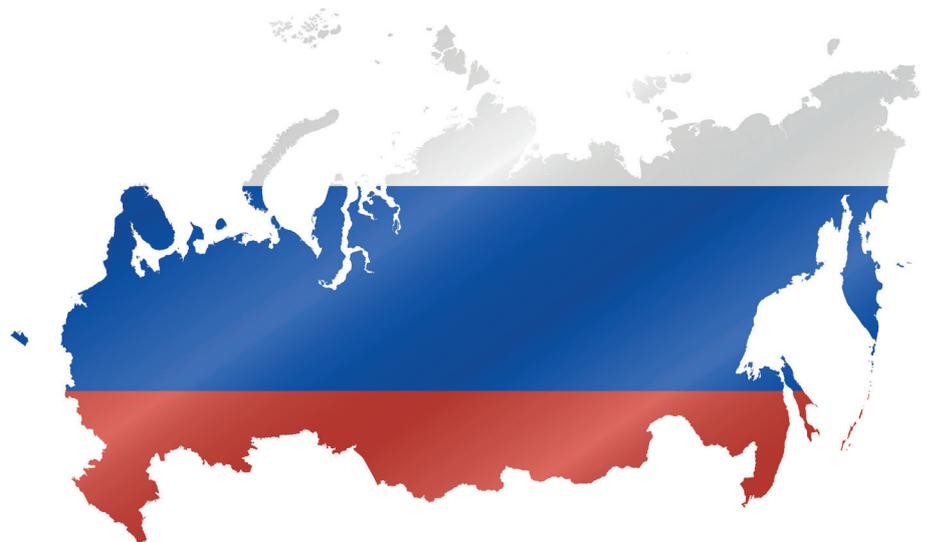
Beware, there are also rogue third party representatives in operation, but CIS Certification only works with specific and trustworthy third parties in the region.

Plan of action

CIS recommends that good preparation is half the battle in getting the correct certification sorted out.

Mirèse Heijting, the owner of CIS Certification, said: "During the negotiation phase with your Eurasian customer, it is important to know which certification to take into account, what costs are involved, and how much time it will take. If you like challenges, adjustments, surprises, negotiations and creative thinking, the Eurasian Economic Union, with countries like Russia, is definitely worth it." ■

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A map of Russia

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