

Nemko News in Brief Sept 2020

Dear reader

Here follows the September 2020 issue of this newsletter, which is hopefully found of interest.

The colorful autumn leaves are already showing, at least here in Northern Europe.

Most of us are probably now getting more or less used to living with the unique circumstances of the Corona pandemic, and it's unpredictable development. Certainly, when an effective vaccine becomes available and hopefully can cure the whole world from this dangerous virus once and for all, much of living may go back to what it used to be, but a lot will undoubtedly will remain changed compared to the "pre-Corona age".

Some matters will most likely be reduced, especially less travelling and global trade, and other matters likely to be increased, not least the concern about spread of infection, in general. Time will show.

In the meantime, we just have to do our best to try staying healthy and safe !

Wishing ourselves luck with that!

Best regards

[Trond Sollie](#)

Editor

New versions of Mexican standards for electronic household equipment and IT equipment.



The Mexican standard for information technology (IT) equipment, NOM*-019-SCFI*-1998 was originally published in 1998; then a draft standard PROY*-NOM-019-SCFI-2016 was published in 2016 with the intention to replace the prior 1998 version, but has not yet come officially into force.

The general standard for electronic household equipment NOM-001-SCFI-1993 was replaced earlier this year as NOM-001-SCFI-2018, and came into force in Mexico on 14th August this year.

Due to lengthy time passing since the initial draft (PROY), on 24th September a new draft for NOM-019 was issued for public consultation. The draft standard is denoted "Draft Official Mexican Standard PROY-NOM-019-SE-2020, Information technology equipment and its associated equipment, as well as equipment for office use - Security requirements", and will cancel NOM-019-SCFI-1998 and cancel to PROY-NOM-019-SCFI- 2016.

According to announcement about this in the Mexican official journal (as can be seen [here](#)), interested parties can within the next 60 days submit their comments to CCONNSE (The National Advisory Committee on Standardization of the Secretariat of Economy). It may now be expected that the new NOM-019 will be published and come into force during the first quarter of 2021.

Nemko is accredited by the Mexican Accreditation Entity (EMA) and approved by the General Directorate of Standards of the Ministry of Economy (SE-DGN) to issue NOM certificates. The certification department is ready to undertake assignments for Mexican certification to the new standards as they officially come into force.

For more information, please contact luis.gonzalez@nemko.com

*) PROY=Proyecto (Draft)

NOM =Norma Oficial Mexicana (Official Mexican Standard)

SCFI =Secretaría de Comercio y Fomento Industrial (Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development, the former name for the Mexican Department of Economy)

Possible changes to the European Regulations for energy labelling and eco-design



The European Commission is considering possible amendments to their current [rules and requirements for energy labelling and ecodesign](#) requirements. Regarding energy labelling, for increase of clarity with regard to “*declared values*” and the difference between a *parameter* and a *value*, the Commission

proposes to introduce certain common amendments in a number of their current relevant Regulations.

Amongst the proposed amendments is introduction of the following two new recitals:

-“*Technical documentation should be sufficient to allow market surveillance authorities to check the values published on the label and in the product information sheet. In accordance with Article 12 of Regulation 2017/1369, values for the measured and calculated parameters of the model should be entered into the product database.*”

- “*To improve the effectiveness and credibility of the Regulation and to protect consumers, products that automatically alter their performance in test conditions with the objective of reaching a more favorable level for any of the parameters specified in the Regulation should not be allowed to be placed on the market*”

Also there is proposed new text to clarify which parameters of the product information sheet shall be entered into which parts of the product database, and proposed change of the definition for “*declared values*” to become “*the values provided by the supplier for the stated, calculated or measured technical parameters, in accordance with given articles for the verification of compliance by the Member State authorities*”.

The full proposal of changes may be seen [here](#).

For further information and/or assistance with these matters, please contact Jonlvar.Tidemann@nemko.com

Possible rules on “Made in USA” labelling



In USA the Federal Trade Commission ([FTC](#)) has for many decades pursued enforcement actions to prevent unfair and deceptive U.S.-origin claims, such as “Made in USA” labelling on products.

The FTC currently has a comprehensive program for compliance monitoring and has been granted rulemaking authority in this connection . This authority has not been exercised in the past, while they have now proposed requirements that would require manufacturers to qualify all “Made in the USA” claims on packing and marketing materials for their products.

A “Notice of Proposed Rulemaking” ([NPRM](#)) about this was recently published in the *Federal Register*, entailing that “Made in the USA” claim can only be used in cases where the final assembly or processing of the product occurs in USA, as well as all significant processing of the product, and also all or virtually all ingredients or components of the product are made and sourced in USA.

The requirement will apply to comparable claims for products using words including “*manufactured*,” “*built*,” “*produced*,” “*created*” or “*crafted*.”

If and when the proposed rules come into effect, producers who promote or offer for sale products as “Made in the USA” that do not meet all of these conditions can be found to have engaged in unfair or deceptive practices under the FTC regulations, and therefore subject to civil penalties.

The complete text of the proposal can be seen [here](#)

Electronics manufacturing in China – Quo Vadis?



In more than 20 years now, Chinese manufacturing has been dominating in the world, mostly because of a very cheap work force, but also because of ability to adapt and to have efficient logistics.

In the electronics area, entire cities like Shenzhen were constructed for the sole purpose of enabling more rapid manufacturing of consumer products.

During the recent years, however, labor rates have for various reasons slowly but surely gone up and affected the price and speed at which China is able to produce goods.

Moreover, Chinese manufacturing has this year been facing a major set-back, partly by indirect effects of the Corona situation causing bottlenecks in the supply chain, and partly due to effects of increased geopolitical tensions, much driven by the US-China trade war. So now, there are signs of a mass exit from Chinese manufacturing.

As Chinese manufacturing declines, nearby Southeast Asian countries have quickly geared up to take over some of the business, such as Vietnam, Thailand, India and Indonesia in different industrial areas, including electronics. In Vietnam, however, it seems that shortage of both skilled manpower and land make it difficult to expand production facilities. In India, due to the pandemic situation, many new plant construction projects have slowed down. So these countries may not be able to replace China as main production bases in the short term. Outside Asia, primarily Brazil and Mexico has actually managed to grab a significant share, especially in the automotive area.

In any case, China's success in manufacturing is widely appreciated, and its potential to retain its role in some portion of the world's supply chain is recognized, especially in the electronics area.

For sure, China and other countries in Southeast Asia will be in focus during the coming months and years, to see how they cope with global manufacturing in the post-Corona economy.

More information may be seen [here](#) and [here](#) .

New Telecom Certification Manager



From 1 Sept, Ms.Vina Kerai is the new manager of Nemko's TCB (Telecom Certification Body) department, reporting to the Nemko Group Certification manager. Stationed in San Diego, California, USA she will be responsible for the day to day operations of the TCB as well as supporting the strategy of Global Product Certification. Within the telecom area in general and wireless communication product area in particular, there are technical requirements market access to be satisfied for market access in most countries around the world. The role as TCB manager, includes developing competence and sharing knowledge within the Nemko Group as well as process improvement and key scope extension activities to expand Nemko's

telecom/wireless certification services.

Vina came from TUV SUD in San Diego where she most recently held the position of Wireless Certification Manager. *"With her in-depth knowledge of wireless certification in our key services of US [FCC](#), Canadian [ISED](#), EU Directives, and Japanese [MIC](#), she is a valuable addition to Nemko's product certification organization and Nemko as a whole"*, says the Nemko Group Certification manager, Stuart Beck.

For further information, please contact Stuart.Beck@nemko.com