

Docket Number: 94-153. *Applicant:* University of Washington, Department of Zoology, NJ-15, Seattle, WA 98195. *Instrument:* Electron Microscope, Model CM 100. *Manufacturer:* Philips, The Netherlands. *Intended Use:* The instrument will be used by three departments to conduct various studies of biological and other organisms. These studies will include by are not limited to the following: (1) analysis of membrane biogenesis induced by increased HMG-CoA reductase levels, (2) analysis of embryonic and regenerative neural development in insects, (3) several studies of 5S RNA-TFIIIA and 42S RNP particles in the oocyte, (4) research of extracts from purified germ cells and mouse mutants, (5) assessment of mechanisms that coordinate cell cycle functions, (6) questions concerning the morphogenesis of glial cells and neurons, (7) determination of whether strain non-uniformities arise in muscle cells subject to rapid length perturbations, and (8) tracking of cells in mitotic specific domains. *Application Accepted by Commissioner of Customs:* January 10, 1995.

Docket Number: 95-002. *Applicant:* Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Water Quality Lab, 700 Moreno Avenue, La Verne, CA 91750. *Instrument:* Mass Spectrometer, Model Autospec. *Manufacturer:* Fisons, United Kingdom. *Intended Use:* The instrument will be used to identify unknown organic compounds that are formed at very low concentrations in drinking water during disinfection processes and to study the precursors that when disinfected form the disinfection by-products. While the main use of the instrument will be in research applications, it will be used periodically for the education and training of postdoctoral assistants and undergraduate cooperative-education students who are working on disinfection by-product studies. *Application Accepted by Commissioner of Customs:* January 6, 1995.

Pamela Woods,

Acting Director, Statutory Import Programs Staff.

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National Institute of Standards and Technology

[Docket No. 941244-4344]

International Standards and Trade Support Program

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) plans to set up a service to help U.S. industry avoid or overcome non-tariff, technical barriers to trade in many foreign markets. Such barriers to trade are caused by normative standards, measurement standards, conformity testing, and related practices. NIST has operated such a program with great success in Saudi Arabia for the past four years. NIST plans to (1) support ITA, USTR and voluntary standards organizations such as ISO, IEC, ANSI, and to cooperate with regulatory agencies, certifiers, etc.; (2) place NIST standards experts in critical markets; (3) train and place local-hire NIST standards representatives in developing markets; (4) develop close contacts with key authorities in foreign markets through training, etc.; and (5) align its program with the International Trade Administration's, where the Foreign Commercial Counselors at U.S. Embassies assist U.S. companies to overcome specific standards-related non-tariff trade barriers. NIST is interested in industry cooperation and invites responses about countries and types of technical barriers to trade to be addressed.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Please address all communications to Dr. Peter L.M. Heydemann, Director, Technology Services, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899; phone (301) 975-4500; FAX (301) 975-2183.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NIST plans to address problems in the European Union, the ten "big emerging markets" (BEMs) defined by Under Secretary Jeffrey Garten, Russia and certain of the Newly Independent States (NIS). The ten BEMs are Mexico, China, Indonesia, India, South Korea, Argentina, Brazil, South Africa, Turkey, and Poland.

The strategy of the program will be to develop close, personal contacts between NIST staff and key officials in foreign markets who can influence standards-related non-tariff trade barriers. These contacts will help NIST to negotiate changes from a basis of mutual trust and confidence. One means

to develop these contacts are training/information courses that NIST will present in the United States and in foreign markets. NIST will involve a variety of federal authorities, ANSI and other voluntary standards organizations, State Weights and Measures offices, and selected private enterprises in these efforts. NIST standards experts and standards representatives placed in the foreign markets will follow up and help to further develop and maintain these contacts. Their range of contacts will be different but complementary to that of the Foreign Commercial Counselors. They will be able to collect additional information on these markets, on planned standards and test methods, and on newly appointed officials.

The purpose of the program is to enhance U.S. exports by assisting U.S. manufacturers to overcome or avoid standards-related, non-tariff trade barriers (NTBs), especially technical barriers to trade (TBTs), and by facilitating negotiation of mutual recognition agreements for conformance testing. TBTs, whether or not established intentionally by our trading partners, limit U.S. manufacturers' access to export markets and often cause large expenses to exporters when testing of conformance to the standards of one or more receiving countries is required, when tests need to be performed in the buyer's country, or, more generally, through the inevitable delay connected with conformance testing and certification. TBTs result from disparities between standards and conformity assessment practices in the United States and in its trading partners:

Foreign national, regional, or international standards may not reflect the latest U.S. technology and technical practice. In some cases, this is due to lack of U.S. influence in the development of international standards, where European practice prevails in certain technical areas due to the extensive participation of European Authorities and, in some cases, due to bloc voting by European national standards bodies. In many cases, the United States has had limited opportunity to influence standards development of importing countries or regions.

Differences in testing and certification requirements in other countries frequently pose obstacles to U.S. exports. If Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRA) for conformance testing are not in place and test data generated in the United States are not accepted in a foreign country, U.S. exporters must duplicate costly and time-consuming approval and certification procedures in the foreign country to meet regulatory requirements for product acceptance. Agreements on the mutual recognition of conformance testing are often difficult to obtain and even more difficult to enforce. Foreign standards and conformity assessment rules are often complex and detailed, and

many exporters are unable to obtain sufficient, timely information on them. This problem compounds the difficulties created by disparities among national or regional standards and conformity assessment rules.

The major goals of the Technology Services (TS) Standards in Trade program are:

1. Reduce differences between U.S. standards on specific products and those of our NAFTA and other major trading partners, especially in primary and development export areas.
2. Promote the incorporation of U.S. standards and technology into international standards.
3. Maximize adoption by developing countries of U.S. standards and technology.
4. Provide the technical underpinning and develop the contacts necessary for recognition of U.S.-based conformity assessment practices by foreign regulatory authorities and support U.S. negotiators in developing and implementing mutual recognition agreements.
5. Raise awareness by industry and the federal government of the importance of standards, testing and certification practices, especially in international arenas.
6. Develop an automated standards data network relying on all available sources of information to support the information needs of industry and government.

These goals will be achieved through strong support to the Departments of State and Commerce, and the U.S. Trade Representative in international negotiations to secure foreign acceptance of U.S. tests, certificates, quality systems, and registrations, and through the following seven complementary programs and initiatives:

Standards in Trade Programs and Initiatives

I. Support for ISO/IEC and other International Standards Committees and Subcommittees

Assign NIST technical staff to provide technical support to specific committees and subcommittees, whose deliberations may result in standards, guides or recommendations that will affect U.S. trade. Provide coordination and contribute to the necessary resources.

Work with U.S. industry and standards writing organizations to achieve consistent, professional representation on all important international committees and subcommittees.

II. Implementation of NAFTA: Trilateral Committee

Plan the harmonization of measurement services (calibrations, Standard Reference Material, and Standard Reference Data); provide extensive training to participants; compare national measurement standards. Draft test protocols; define areas for mutual recognition of calibration and conformance testing services; define information needs.

III. Implementation of NAFTA: Standards Information

Organize the continuous acquisition of the broad range of information required by NAFTA: federal, state, local and private standards, rules and regulations—both current and planned—that affect trade. Make that information available to U.S. industry and disseminate it automatically to predetermined target groups.

IV. Overcoming Technical Trade Barriers in the European Union

Establish permanent representation at the USEC Mission by resident, professional NIST staff who will (1) work with national and international standards committees to facilitate recognition of U.S. technology and test methods in new standards; (2) review existing foreign or international standards in key U.S. export sectors and, based on private sector input, advocate modifications to remove or reduce technical barriers to trade; (3) support negotiations of mutual recognition agreements for conformance testing; (4) facilitate U.S. input to the development of standards, test methods, and certification procedures supporting regulatory requirements; and (5) provide technical advice and support to commercial and economic staffs in U.S. embassies in Europe for the identification and resolution of trade issues involving technical barriers.

V. Overcoming Technical Barriers to Trade in Major Emerging Markets

Place NIST standards experts with the same tasks described in Section IV in three or four major (BEM) markets (e.g., Argentina, Brazil, Mexico), and in Russia, Saudi Arabia, and the European Union. Establish U.S. standards support offices with local administrative staff in six or seven major (BEM) markets (E.g., Turkey, South Africa, Chile, India, Indonesia, South Korea). Develop programs for metrology and testing laboratories with Russia and the BEMs to provide for recognition of U.S. test results by foreign regulatory authorities. This is an efficient means to remove measurement-related trade barriers

where warranted in specific situations. Arrange and support consistent representation of U.S. industry on international standards writing committees.

VI. Training

Provide training and familiarization for metrologists and standards writers from Canada and Mexico as part of the implementation of NAFTA.

Provide training in metrology, conformance testing, and standards writing to representatives of Russia and the BEM governments. The purpose is to familiarize them with U.S. Technology and to lay the groundwork for helping the host country to re-write standards to reflect the use of U.S. technology and of performance versus design standards.

VII. Acquisition and Dissemination of Information

Design, create, and install an on-line database system for standards-related information.

Establish a central NIST inquiry point as part of the database but with access to human experts. Technology Services currently answers about 170,000 inquiries on standards per year mostly by letter, phone, or personal contact. Database access will be able to answer the bulk of these inquiries more efficiently.

(15 U.S.C. 272)

Dated: January 31, 1995.

Samuel Kramer,
Associate Director.

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COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Kansas City Board of Trade Application for Designation as a Contract Market in Western Natural Gas Futures and Option Contracts

AGENCY: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

ACTION: Notice of availability of the terms and conditions of proposed commodity futures and option contracts.

SUMMARY: The Kansas City Board of Trade (KCBT or Exchange) has applied for designation as a contract market in western natural gas futures and option contracts. The Director of the Division of Economic Analysis (Division) of the Commission, acting pursuant to the authority delegated by Commission Regulation 140.96, has determined that publication of the proposals for comment is in the public interest, will