

ASIA POLICY WEEKLY

The Expert's Resource

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APW

News & Views

May 4-10, 2003

ISSN 1543-1185

Vol. 7, No. 19

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STANDARDS

"Foreign Trade Standards Often Ignore Science, U.S. Group Says, Many standards, regulations are trade barriers," US State Dept, 5/6/03. National Foreign Trade Council (NFTC), report found "Evidence of circumstances: 1) where regulations and/or standards are not based on sound science or subject to a rational and balanced risk assessment, but are instead grounded in the 'precautionary principle', an inherently nonscientific touchstone; 2) where regulations and/or standards are not based on or adhere to internationally agreed upon standards developed by international standardization bodies (such as the Codex Alimentarius concerning food safety and the International Program on Chemical Safety concerning global chemicals management), or otherwise do not recognize equivalent U.S. standards and/or regulations (i.e., equivalent sanitary and phytosanitary measures or TBT 'conformity assessment' rules); and 3) where U.S. and other non-EU based exporters are effectively prevented from participating fully in the regulatory drafting and review processes and do not receive adequate and timely notification of regulatory changes having a material impact on market access and manufacturing processes (i.e., the regulatory processes are not fully transparent and inclusive). <http://lists.state.gov/SCRIPTS/WA-USIAINFO.EXE?A2=ind0305a&L=WF-EASIA&P=R11547>

"Looking Behind the Curtain: The Growth of Trade Barriers that Ignore Sound Science."
<http://www.nftc.org/newsflash/newsflash.asp?Mode=View&articleid=1630&Category=All>