

# SGS GOST BULLETIN

BENELUX NEWSLETTER FOR EXPORTERS AND INVESTORS TO RUSSIA/CIS

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## EDITORIAL

Dear Reader,

In 1989, when the Berlin Wall fell, one of the results was the dissolution of the Soviet Union into separate countries. Among them was the Russian Federation, or Russia for short. During the first years following this evolution, the budding free market was flooded with imported goods, often of inferior quality. As early as 1992, Russia reacted by passing the Consumer Protection Act, which aimed, among other things, to ensure the conformity of imports with the well-established Soviet GOST standards. In 1993, this materialized in the implementation of the GOST R certification system, and that same year SGS seized the opportunity to become an accredited GOST R Certification Body. From that moment on, exporters in the major exporting countries could obtain the required GOST R Certificate of Conformity from their local SGS office before shipping their goods.

SGS Finland was the first entity within SGS to issue GOST R certificates, and in October 1993 it was the Belgian and Netherlands branches' turn.

An amusing anecdote about those early days is that, for lack of a Cyrillic typewriter, the very first certificates we issued were drawn manually. This was such a thorn in the side of formalistic Russia that SGS was granted permission to issue certificates in English during the run-in phase.

Meanwhile 20 years have passed, from the pioneering heyday of the nineties that ended abruptly in August 1998, over the increasingly booming period of 2001-2008 to the very strong decline in 2009. Our service has followed the ups and downs of our clients, but managed to survive.

To cut a long story short, 2013 heralds the 20th anniversary of SGS' Russian Certification Services.

Sincerely Yours,

**JOZEF SOMERS**

*Business Unit Manager*  
Russian Certification Services  
Benelux

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The logo for SGS, consisting of the letters 'SGS' in a bold, sans-serif font. The letters are dark grey and are positioned above a horizontal orange line. A vertical orange line intersects the horizontal line at the right end of the 'S'.

## TECHNICAL REGULATIONS AND THE CUSTOMS UNION

# NEW TECHNICAL REGULATIONS IN FORCE. MORE TO COME

In the first issue of our local newsletter (January 2013), we explained what the Technical Regulations of the Customs Union are, and what they aim to achieve.



Now, a few months later, six more of the so-called TR CUs – some of them very significant - have come into force (15 February 2013):

- TR CU 004/2011 “On Safety of Low-Voltage Equipment”
- TR CU 010/2011 “On Safety of Machinery and Equipment”
- TR CU 011/2011 “On Safety of Lifts”
- TR CU 012/2011 “On Safety of Equipment for Use in Explosion-hazardous Environments”
- TR CU 016/2011 “On Safety of Apparatuses working on Gaseous Fuel”
- R CU 020/2011 “Electromagnetic Compatibility of Technical Devices”

This has brought the total of effective technical regulations to 14 out of the 31 published on the [Customs Union website](#) (Only available in Russian). We expect a few new ones to be published in the foreseeable future.

In the meantime, SGS Certification Body has not been resting on its laurels: we have successfully passed an arduous audit by Rosakkreditatsiya, which resulted in accreditation for most of the effective TR CUs. On 17 April, 2013, SGS was included in the official list of accredited certification bodies for the Customs Union.

The next notable date in Customs Union history is 1 July 2013, when a batch of seven TR CUs, all food related, will come into force.

If you are an exporter to any or all of the member states of the Customs Union, and would like to know more about the exciting new developments and challenges, we suggest you contact SGS to find out how this will affect your business and how SGS can assist you in this matter.

## TECHNICAL REGULATIONS AND THE CUSTOMS UNION 3-DAY WORKSHOP AT SGS VOSTOK HEADQUARTERS IN MOSCOW



From 11 till 14 March 2013, the GOST department at SGS headquarters in Moscow organized a three-day workshop for SGS employees on the topic of certification in the framework of the Customs Union between Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan.

The program included a two-day training session and an extensive management meeting. Certification experts from all major SGS offices that deal with Russian certification – the UK, Germany, France, Italy, Finland, Belgium, the US, Spain, Hungary and others – gathered to discuss the challenges posed by the new Technical Regulations of the Customs Union and possible answers to these challenges. The topics discussed, some of which generated animated discussion, included new stipulations in the Technical Regulations, their increased stringency, the painstaking and slow process of Certification Body accreditation, and the way forward in these changed and changing times.

Not only was this an extremely enlightening event, it also proved an excellent occasion for most to meet with old friends and catch up with the latest news. Some of the attendees, on the other hand, met many of their colleagues for the first time and were warmly welcomed into the SGS family.

## TESTIMONIAL

# FIB BELGIUM



FIB Belgium SA (previously Le Four Industriel Belge) is a Wallonia based company specializing in the design and manufacture of industrial furnaces and equipment used to process steel wires. Their product range includes heat treatment installations and continuous lines for austenizing, quenching, annealing, galvanizing, steel wires. These wires are the basis for tire cords, lift and crane cables, dry clean hangers, nails, piano wires, staples, to mention just a few end products.

FIB is a major equipment supplier to companies such as Bekaert, Pirelli, Gerdau, Kiswire and Sumitomo. As one of the world leaders in its field, FIB Belgium is present in 56 countries.

The company employs 110 people in Belgium, Germany and the Czech Republic. Its sales team, stationed in Tubize, works with 23 agents located in countries across the world, including Russia.

SGS has been a long-time partner of FIB, assisting them with certification and permitting of their equipment for export to and commissioning in Russia and other CIS countries. In particular, SGS has assisted FIB in obtaining such documents as GOST R certificates of conformity, technical passports and RTN Permits to Use.

In 2011 and 2012, for example, SGS provided FIB with an RTN industrial safety expertise in the framework of its Severstal Metiz project in Volgograd, obtaining the necessary Permits to Use and generating the required technical passports for FIB patenting line 38/1000 and FIB patenting, phosphating and galvanizing line 28/1000.

For further information, please visit the [FIB website](#).

## TEAM MEMBER IN THE SPOTLIGHT

# MISS DESISLAVA DAVIDKOVA PROJECT ENGINEER, INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS

I was born in Bulgaria, in a small town 90 km southeast of the capital Sofia. My first encounter with Russia dates from my very early years, when Bulgaria was a satellite state of the Soviet Union. Consequently, I was raised in the collectivist society of that time, with the images and thoughts of the communist leaders Lenin, Stalin, Marx and Engels. Needless to say, the school systems and education were borrowed from Russia, and western languages such as English, French and German, remained out of reach. The only obligatory modern language taught at school was Russian.

In 1997, I graduated from the technical high school in my home town, majoring in Design and Manufacturing of Clothing. Determined to acquire further technical knowledge, I moved to Sofia and enrolled in the Technical University. Five years later, I graduated as an Engineer, majoring in Industrial Management.

As my graduation neared, I felt a growing urge to explore new horizons. So, in 2002 with my diploma in hand, I moved to The Netherlands. As soon as I got there, I started to learn Dutch and enrolled in The Hague University of Applied Sciences. After four years, I obtained a bachelor in Business Management and took my first job at a Dutch technological company.

In 2010, I came across SGS Netherlands and its Russian Certification Services, where I am currently employed as a project engineer. My position allows me to be involved in major investment projects for the Oil & Gas and Metallurgical Industries. In such projects, the machinery and equipment needs to comply with Russian statutory requirements on industrial safety. Hence, I assist our clients with custom made solutions, helping them obtain the required statutory documents and ensure on-time delivery of the project equipment. Working at SGS provides me with a first seat in the area of industrial technological developments and innovations, while allowing me to practice my Russian at the same time.



Other GOST Team Members:

### IR. JOZEF SOMERS

Business Unit Manager, Russian Certification Services Benelux

### IR. ALEXANDER NIKOLAEV

Project Manager Certification & Permitting Industrial Projects

### MRS. NATALIYA MITROFANOVA

Project Coordinator, Industrial Projects

### MR. TOM VERLINDEN

Certification Expert, Consumer and Machinery

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### CONTACT US

SGS House  
Noorderlaan 87  
2030 Antwerpen  
Belgium

w: [www.gost.sgs.com](http://www.gost.sgs.com)

e: [be.gost@sgs.com](mailto:be.gost@sgs.com)

t: +32 3 545 44 23 or +31 181 69 39 62

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WHEN YOU NEED TO BE SURE

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