



## Engineering products in TTIP

Maintaining high standards while  
making it easier to export

In this chapter we want to help EU  
and US regulators work together to:

- align our technical requirements and testing methods
- keep the EU's high standards
- make it easier to export and import engineering goods.

### Reasons for negotiating engineering products

In 2013, trade in engineering goods - such as fridges, plugs, mobile phones, pleasure boats, tractors, pressure equipment - between the EU and the US accounted for around 25% of all trade between us.

There are almost 200, 000 companies in the electrical and mechanical engineering sector in the EU. Together, they employ almost 5 million people in the EU.

But in some cases, there are big differences on either side of the Atlantic in

- technical regulations
- standards and procedures for checking whether a product meets them.

This can make it harder to export or import products.

We want to improve EU-US co-operation on these issues.

The most effective point at which to do that would be whenever either side starts drawing up new regulations.

Ideally, we would like to make our technical requirements and checking procedures compatible with each other.

If regulators worked together, they could reduce the technical differences between EU and US whilst respecting our high standards. For example, they could decide that the colours required for wiring in machines would be identical.

The EU is looking to identify products which would most benefit from regulators working together.

### EU goals

We want to work with the US on:

- using standards widely used in the EU and other countries around the world, such as those set by the...
  - International Organization for Standardization (ISO)
  - International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)...as a way of meeting US regulations.
- cutting the cost of checking if a product conforms to US standards
- getting EU and US regulators to talk to each other early on in the process to avoid unnecessary differences between their respective regulations.

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## **Sensitive or controversial issues**

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Sensitivity/concern	EU response
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### **Safety standards**

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TTIP negotiations will result in a race to the bottom for safety standards.	The EU will not compromise on safety standards. The idea is to align technical requirements where possible while maintaining high safety standards.
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