



NEMA International Trade Policy Statement

NEMA encourages and supports government and private-sector efforts to open and maintain effective access to U.S. and foreign markets for electrical and medical imaging equipment, components and other necessary manufacturing inputs.

U.S. government efforts should focus on negotiation of, implementation of, and adherence to formal and transparent agreements with foreign counterparts that establish legally binding commitments to remove unjustified barriers to trade and/or create and maintain mechanisms for ongoing government-to-government consultations, including via coordination with the private sector, on removal and prevention of new barriers to trade. This will increase opportunities for business/trade for manufacturers. Such commitments include bilateral, regional and global free trade agreements, bilateral or plurilateral investment agreements, trade and investment framework agreements (TIFAs), sectoral, and regulatory cooperation councils.

NEMA supports U.S. institutions that provide financing and risk mitigation assistance, including the U.S. Export-Import Bank, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, and the Small Business Administration.

In summary, NEMA strongly recommends that U.S. policymakers achieve the following objectives to enhance our nation's competitiveness and national security.

Tariffs

The worldwide elimination of tariffs on electrical and medical imaging products and inputs is a fundamental NEMA goal. Consequentially, NEMA urges the U.S. to pursue global tariff elimination for electrical and medical imaging products and inputs in all negotiating forums.

Non-tariff barriers

Regulations, mandatory technical standards and conformity assessment requirements in foreign nations can inhibit market access or make it significantly more costly for U.S. products to obtain foreign market access. NEMA urges U.S. trade agencies, through all negotiating forums, to promote national treatment, science- and data-based approaches to regulation, technical Standards that meet the World Trade Organization's definition of an "international Standard", and compliance with all aspects of the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade. Reduction of barriers and prevention of future barriers can be achieved through regulatory coherence and cooperation by governments as well as harmonization of technical Standards.

NEMA supports market-driven, as opposed to regulatory-driven, development of installation codes, product Standards and conformity assessment regimes. For instance, conformity assessment methods that include the optional use of the International Electrotechnical Commission's Conformity Assessment Systems – IECEE CB, IECEx and IECQ, may be used where appropriate. Federal restrictions on business relationships, such as sanctions, must be clear and specific. Requirements that mandate product testing inside a given country's borders are a significant non-tariff barrier to trade, NEMA urges the removal of these requirement for certification purposes, and instead proposes enhanced use of reciprocity programs.

Market Access

Support for the WTO Government Procurement Agreement or other applicable free trade agreements is inherent for fair access to markets for services and government procurement. Enhanced transparency in importation processes, access to reliable and predictable clearance procedures for goods going into foreign markets, including the Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) numbers that are used to import products, are important attributes. NEMA supports protection of intellectual property rights consistent with the WTO Agreement on Trade- Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights.