



NEMA International Trade Policy Statement October 2015

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 1) establish legally binding commitments to remove unjustified barriers to trade at the earliest possible date and/or 2) create and maintain mechanisms for ongoing government-to-government consultations and coordination with the private sector on removal and prevention of new barriers to trade. Such commitments include bilateral, regional and global free trade agreements, bilateral or plurilateral investment agreements, trade and investment framework agreements (TIFAs), and regulatory cooperation councils.

NEMA also 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 in order to enhance our nation's competitiveness and national security.

- **Tariff elimination:** The worldwide elimination of tariffs on electrical and medical imaging products is a fundamental NEMA goal. NEMA urges the U.S. to pursue tariff elimination for electrical and medical imaging products in all negotiating forums.
- **Reduction/elimination of 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 requirements for governments' regulatory coherence and cooperation as well as collaboration on technical standards. NEMA opposes Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) for products that are not federally regulated in the U.S.
- **Market-driven development of installation codes, product standards and conformity assessment regimes**

- Conformity attestation methods that include the optional use of the International Electrotechnical Commission's Conformity Assessment Systems – IECCEB, IECEx and IECQ, where appropriate
- Access to markets for services and government procurement
- Protection of intellectual property rights consistent with the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
- Safe conduct of products and persons
- Parties should have adequate legal and administrative infrastructure in place for implementation, transparency and enforcement of agreements