

CHAPTER 5

Mandatory and voluntary product standards, and sanitary and phytosanitary regulations

Summary

Countries often require imported products to conform to the mandatory standards they have adopted for the protection of the health and safety of their people or for the preservation of their environment.

The Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) provides that such mandatory product standards should not be so applied by countries as to cause unnecessary obstacles to international trade. Furthermore, they should be based on scientific information and evidence.

From the viewpoint of the Agreement, mandatory product standards do not create unnecessary barriers to trade if they are based on internationally agreed standards. Where for geographical, climatic and other reasons, it is not possible for member countries to base their mandatory regulations on international regulations, they are obliged to publish these regulations in draft form to give producers in other countries an opportunity to comment on them. The Agreement also obliges member countries to take such comments into consideration when the standards are finalized, thus ensuring that the characteristics of products produced in, and exported by, other countries are taken into adequate account.

Voluntary standards, with which compliance is not mandatory, may also pose problems in international trade if they differ widely from country to country. The Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards, an integral part of the Agreement on TBT, therefore urges countries to use their best endeavours to require national standardizing bodies to use the same principles and rules in preparing and applying voluntary standards as are laid down for mandatory standards.

Countries also require the compliance of imported agricultural products with their national sanitary and phytosanitary regulations. The primary aim of these regulations is to protect human, animal or plant life or health from pests and diseases that may be brought in by imported agricultural products. The rules which the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) lay down are similar to those applicable to mandatory product standards. There are, however, some important differences.

The Agreement on TBT requires mandatory product standards to be applied on a non-discriminatory basis to imported products. Sanitary and phytosanitary regulations, particularly those which aim at preventing animal- or plant-borne diseases from entering a country, can, however, be related to “the level of prevalence of specific diseases or pests” and can be more rigorously applied to imports from countries where such diseases or pests are prevalent. The Agreement on SPS further permits countries to take measures to restrict imports on a provisional basis, as a precautionary step, where there is imminent risk of the spread of diseases but the “scientific evidence is insufficient”.

The role of standards

In general

Standards permeate all business activities and even the day-to-day life of the man on the street. They play an important role in the manufacturing and service industries and in the sale of their products in national and international markets.

One of the characteristics of modern manufacturing is that manufacturing enterprises do not themselves produce all the parts and components they need, but buy these from ancillary industries, often situated in far-off countries. The standardization of parts and components gives enterprises a wider choice of lower-cost supplies. It also enables them to maintain inventories at comparatively low levels and gives them the flexibility to use substitute components on the assembly line. Standards thus help industries to cut costs and improve productive efficiency.

Standards are indispensable for the international marketing of products as they convey consistent and understandable information to the buyer. A foreign buyer who knows the standard to which a product is produced has an insight into its specifications and is able to assess its quality. Standards thus help reduce disputes over specifications and the quality of goods (and services) exported and imported.

Standards are also used by governments to promote its social goals. Government agencies at the national, State and local levels lay down thousands of regulatory standards to protect the health and ensure the safety of the population, and to conserve the environment. Such regulations cover both product characteristics and the materials and processes used in producing them. Compliance with standards imposed by government regulations is obligatory.

In practice, the distinction between voluntary and mandatory standards may often become blurred. For instance, from the perspective of suppliers, procurement specifications set by major manufacturers are mandatory for doing business, as are government procurement standards.

In promoting trade

While standards facilitate international trade transactions by enabling foreign buyers to assess the specifications and the quality of products offered for sale, they can become barriers to trade if they differ widely from country to country. Buyers are generally reluctant to purchase goods that are based on standards that differ from those of their own countries. Manufacturers wishing to carry out manufacturing operations in other countries may therefore have to adjust their production processes to those countries' specifications. This increases tooling costs and prevents producers from taking advantage of economies of scale. Likewise, where regulatory authorities require product testing in the importing country in order to ascertain compliance with that country's health or safety regulations, foreign suppliers may find themselves at a disadvantage if their products are subjected to stricter tests or higher fees than those required for domestic products.

The solution to these problems lies in harmonizing standards at the international level and in developing guidelines for determining conformity to standards. Work in these two areas in all sectors of industry and technology is being carried out by international standardization organizations.

International rules governing standards

In addition to collecting customs duties on imported goods, countries require that such goods should conform to the mandatory quality, health and safety standards applicable to like products produced domestically. Imported agricultural products have to conform, in addition, to the sanitary and phytosanitary regulations adopted to prevent them from bringing into the importing country pests and diseases not prevalent in that country.

The number of technical regulations laying down mandatory standards is steadily increasing in most countries. The trend is the response of governmental regulatory authorities to growing public demand that products marketed should meet minimum quality and safety standards, and not have any adverse impact on the health of the consuming public and on the environment. The same considerations often impel regulatory authorities to set and apply stricter sanitary and phytosanitary regulations. Box 16 contains an illustrative list of products to which countries apply mandatory safety or health regulations and the agricultural products subject to sanitary and phytosanitary regulations in most countries.

Box 16

Illustrative list of import products subject to technical, sanitary and phytosanitary regulations

Products subject to technical regulations

- *Machinery and equipment*
 - Boilers*
 - Electricity-driven construction and assembly tools*
 - Metal and wood-working equipment*
 - Medical equipment*
 - Food-processing equipment*
- *Consumer articles*
 - Pharmaceuticals*
 - Cosmetics*
 - Synthetic detergents*
 - Household electric appliances*
 - Video and TV sets*
 - Cinematographic and photographic equipment*

Automobiles
Toys
Certain food products

- *Raw materials and agricultural inputs*
 - Fertilizers*
 - Insecticides*
 - Hazardous chemicals*

Products subject to sanitary and phytosanitary measures

Fresh fruits and vegetables
Fruit juices and other food preparations
Meat and meat products
Dairy products
Processed food products

Though such regulations are adopted by countries to attain legitimate policy objectives, they could in practice be used to provide disguised protection to domestic products.

International rules on the application of mandatory standards (which are also called technical regulations) are contained in the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT). The Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) lays down rules for applying SPS measures. The basic aim of the detailed rules and guidelines of the two Agreements is to ensure that technical, sanitary and phytosanitary regulations are not formulated and applied by countries so as to create unnecessary obstacles to trade.

Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade

Definitions

Technical regulations and standards

International rules applicable to product standards used in the trade in goods and the procedures used for assessing conformity with such standards are contained in the Agreement on TBT. The Agreement uses the term 'technical regulation' to cover standards with which compliance is mandatory. The term 'standard' is used to cover standards used on a voluntary basis.

Agreement on TBT,
Annex 1

Both terms cover:

- Product characteristics including those relating to quality;
- Process and production methods (PPMs) that have an effect on product characteristics;
- Terminology and symbols; and
- Packaging and labelling requirements as they apply to the product.

Agreement on TBT,
Annex 1

The rules of the Agreement apply to process and production methods only if these methods have an effect on the quality or other characteristics of the product. Other processes and production methods are not covered by the provisions of the Agreement on TBT. (See box 17.)

Box 17

Distinction between product standards and PPM standards

Product standards define product characteristics, or the product's quality, design or performance. They need to be distinguished from standards for process and production methods (PPMs, as they are commonly called) which specify norms relating to how goods should be produced. PPM standards apply before and during the production stage, i.e. before the product is placed on the market.

The provisions of the Agreement on TBT apply primarily to product standards. They do not cover PPM standards, except when the production process or method used has an effect on product quality.

Assume that country A prohibits imports of pharmaceuticals from country B. Its grounds are that country B has failed to meet its requirements for proper manufacturing practices and plant cleanliness, thereby affecting product quality. In this case the PPM standard is covered by the TBT Agreement and country A can justify its action if it can establish that its production and processing requirements have an impact on product quality.

Now assume that country A prohibits imports of steel on the grounds that pollution standards at the steel plant in country B are much lower than those enforced by country A. In this case, no environmental damage is done to the importing country; country A's process standard would therefore not be covered by the Agreement and its prohibition on imports would not be justifiable.

Conformity assessment

The usefulness of standards in facilitating international trade depends greatly on how far the buyer has confidence in the manufacturer's statement that the product meets a particular standard. For most of the products entering international trade, buyers generally rely on the manufacturer's declaration

that the product meets the standard. There are, however, two circumstances in which such declarations by themselves are not adequate. First, in certain cases manufacturers purchasing parts, components and materials may choose to get a neutral third party to certify that they meet the specifications of standards. Second, in relation to products that are regulated, the regulators often require that, before the domestically produced or imported products are offered for sale, there is positive assurance from a recognized institution or a laboratory that the products meet the safety, health or environmental requirements which the regulations prescribe.

Agreement on TBT,
Annex 1:3

The Agreement on TBT defines conformity assessment procedures as “any procedure used, directly or indirectly, to determine that relevant requirements in technical regulations or standards are fulfilled.” The assessment of conformity to standards by using a neutral third party takes the following forms:

- ❑ Testing of products;
- ❑ Certification of products after inspection;
- ❑ Assessment of quality management systems; and
- ❑ Accreditation procedures.

Testing of products

The first form of conformity assessment is product testing, generally carried out by independent testing laboratories. The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) defines a test, in the context of conformity assessment, as “a technical operation that consists of the determination of one or more characteristics of a given product, process or service according to a specified procedure”.¹⁰ Testing services thus include a broad spectrum of technical activities. Materials, parts and completed products may be tested for their physical properties, such as strength and durability; physical dimensions, electrical characteristics, including interference with other devices, acoustic properties; chemical composition; presence of toxic contaminants; and a multitude of other features.

Certification of products after inspection

The second form of conformity assessment is certification. Again, ISO defines certification as a “procedure by which a third party gives written assurance that a product, process or service conforms to specified requirements”.¹¹

Certification is distinguished from testing by two key features:

- ❑ First, certification always measures a product (or process or service) against one or more specific standards, whether voluntary or mandatory. Testing, by contrast, does not necessarily measure against a particular standard.
- ❑ Second, certification results in a formal statement of conformity – a certificate – that can be used by the manufacturer to show compliance with regulations and purchasing specifications, and to enhance the product’s marketability.

Most certification bodies are private, profit-making testing laboratories. In addition to providing testing services, many of these laboratories take the additional step of certifying the product as meeting a particular standard and license the manufacturer to use their certification mark on the product or its packaging. The mark, however, is the property of the certifier and is covered by the national trade mark act.

¹⁰ ISO/IEC, *Conformity Assessment*, 3rd ed. (Geneva, 1995).

¹¹ *Ibid.*

Quality management systems

The third form of conformity assurance is assessment by a third party of the producer's quality management system. While testing and certification aim at evaluating the quality of the products themselves, the assessment of the quality assurance system by a third party aims at assuring the purchaser that the manufacturer has in place a viable and effective system that is capable of producing products of consistent quality with little or no variation. It is a production management tool for controlling and monitoring variables in the manufacturing process that lead to product defects.

The best known quality assurance system is the ISO 9000 series of standards. Developed by ISO, the system emphasizes that the maintenance of consistent product quality is possible only if it is acknowledged as an important management responsibility. It further lays down the documentation procedures and records that a company should maintain in order to demonstrate to, and assure, its clients and purchasers that adequate attention is being paid to the maintenance of the quality system. ISO 9000 also provides guidelines for training, the statistical monitoring of results and continuous improvement.

Registration or certification of an enterprise to ISO 9000 is granted after an assessment is made by an independent third party that the system in place meets all the requirements. Subsequent periodic audits are made to ensure that the company continues to operate in accordance with the system.

Purchasing companies all over the world are increasingly giving preference to suppliers registered to ISO 9000 for their raw materials, parts and components. Regulations in many countries oblige government purchasing agencies to obtain their requirements from such companies.

Accreditation procedures

Supplying industries as well as their clients are likely to have confidence in conformity assurance systems if the competence of the testing laboratory, product certifier or quality assurance registrar is accredited by an independent technical body. The procedure by which such independent technical entities evaluate and formally acknowledge the competence of the above-mentioned first-layer conformity assessment bodies is known as 'accreditation'. Accreditors are generally professional bodies or associations of industries in the private sector. In a number of countries, however, the right to accredit is granted through legislation to a national standardization body or to a separate body acting jointly with it.

General principles and rules of the Agreement on TBT

Encouragement of the use of international standards, guidelines and recommendations

The basic aim of the Agreement is to ensure that:

- Technical regulations and standards including packaging, marking and labelling requirements, and
- Procedures used for assessing conformity with such regulations, requirements and standards

are not formulated and applied so as to create unnecessary barriers to trade. The Agreement assumes that this aim can be attained if countries use, wherever appropriate and possible, international standards in formulating their technical regulations or in developing voluntary national standards. Likewise, it calls on

member countries to use guidelines and recommendations developed by international standardization organizations as a basis for their conformity assessment procedures.

Agreement on TBT,
Article 2:5

To provide an incentive to countries to use international standards, the Agreement provides that where international standards or guidelines or a conformity assessment system has been used as a basis for a technical regulation, it shall be presumed that they do not create unnecessary obstacles to trade. It further urges member countries to participate in the work of international standardization organizations, so that international standards are available for products for which they wish to adopt technical regulations or develop voluntary standards. Countries are also urged to participate in the activities of such organizations in order to develop international guides and recommendations that can be used in developing national conformity assessment procedures.

Agreement on TBT,
Article 2:6

The Agreement, however, does not specify the international organizations whose standards may be used in adopting technical regulations. The main organizations developing international standards applicable to industrial products are the following:

- International Organization for Standardization (ISO);
- International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC);
- International Telecommunication Union (ITU); and
- Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Circumstances permitting deviations from international standards and guidelines

Agreement on TBT,
Article 2:4

Where international standards or guidelines are considered ineffective or inappropriate for the achievement of national objectives (for instance, because of fundamental climatic or geographical factors, or fundamental technological problems) or where international standards do not exist, countries are free to develop their own national standards. Likewise, a country may adopt a conformity assessment system which is not based on internationally accepted guidelines or recommendations if it considers that the technical content of these guidelines is not suitable for the achievement of the specific objective of the proposed national system. However, in all cases where such proposed measures are expected to have a significant effect on trade, the Agreement imposes an obligation on the countries, *inter alia*, to:

Agreement on TBT,
Article 2:9

- Publish in draft form the proposed technical regulations, standards and the conformity assessment systems;
- Give reasonable opportunity to other interested parties to comment on these drafts; and
- Take into account these comments in finalizing the drafts.

Specific rules

Technical regulations and standards

In order to ensure that technical regulations which impose mandatory standards as well as voluntary standards do not create unnecessary barriers to trade, the Agreement further lays down certain principles and rules. These call on regulatory agencies to ensure that technical regulations and standards:

Agreement on TBT,
Article 2:1

- Are applied so as not to discriminate among imported products by origin (MFN principle);

Agreement on TBT,
Article 2:1

Do not extend to imported products treatment that is less favourable than that extended to domestically produced products (national treatment principle);

Are, where relevant, based on scientific and technical information; and

Agreement on TBT,
Article 2:2

Are not formulated or applied in a manner as to cause “unnecessary obstacles to international trade”.

The Agreement lays down specific guidelines for regulatory authorities in formulating technical regulations, in order to ensure that these regulations do not create unnecessary obstacles to trade (*see* box 18).

Box 18

Guidelines for determining whether technical regulations have the effect of creating unnecessary obstacles to trade

The Agreement on TBT provides that technical regulations which lay down product standards as well as packaging, marking and labelling requirements should not ordinarily be considered as causing unnecessary obstacles to trade if:

- They are adopted to achieve legitimate objectives;*
- They are based on international standards; and*
- Where international standards are considered inappropriate or do not exist, the technical regulations are applied so that they*
 - are not more restrictive than necessary to fulfill the above legitimate objectives, and*
 - take into account the risks non-fulfilment (of these objectives) would create.*

The legitimate objectives for which countries can adopt technical regulations include:

- National security requirements;*
- The prevention of deceptive practices;*
- Protection of human, animal or plant life or health, or the environment.*

In the light of these provisions, whether a technical regulation that is not based on international standards can be considered an unnecessary obstacle to trade would depend firstly on the objectives for which it has been adopted. If it has been adopted to attain one of the above-mentioned legitimate objectives, the next questions to be examined are whether the regulation is more trade restrictive than is necessary for the achievement of the objective, and whether, if a less trade restrictive measure were adopted, there were risks of non-fulfilment of the objective. In assessing the risks of non-fulfilment, the elements to be considered are:

- Available scientific and technical regulations;*
- Related processing technology; or*
- The intended end use of a product.*

Conformity assessment procedures

Agreement on TBT,
Article 5

The Agreement provides that systems adopted for assessing conformity to technical regulations should not be formulated or applied so as to create barriers to trade. Towards this end, it stipulates that:

- Conformity assessment procedures should not be prepared, adopted and applied to imported products under conditions that are less favourable than those applied to products of national origin;
- Foreign suppliers should be provided, on request, information on the processing period and the documentation required for assessing the conformity of the products they want to export;

- ❑ Any fees charged to foreign suppliers should be equitable in relation to fees charged to products of national origin;
- ❑ The siting of facilities and the selection of samples for testing should not cause inconvenience to foreign suppliers; and
- ❑ The conformity assessment procedures should provide for a review of complaints on the operation of the procedures.

Agreement on TBT,
Article 6

Arrangements for the mutual recognition of conformity assessment procedures

Product testing and inspection by regulatory authorities in importing countries in order to establish conformity with regulations could cause practical problems to foreign suppliers, even if the authorities follow the principles and rules described above. Foreign suppliers shoulder the costs of sending samples to importing countries and often need to employ agents who can expedite testing and inspection. Moreover, where the technical regulations require manufacturing facilities to be inspected by authorized inspectors of the importing country, in order to obtain confirmation, for instance, that good manufacturing standards are being followed, the foreign suppliers have to shoulder the inspectors' travel expenses.

To reduce such disadvantages for foreign suppliers, the Agreement urges member countries to accept, where possible, the results of conformity assessment tests carried out in exporting countries. It further suggests that countries should show willingness to accept the certificates issued by regulatory authorities in exporting countries, even when the procedures "differ from their own" provided they are satisfied that these are "equivalent" to their own procedures. The Agreement, however, recognizes that it will be possible for an importing country to accept the procedures of the exporting country as equivalent only where it has confidence in the "adequate and enduring technical competence" of the regulatory authority of the exporting country and therefore in the "continued reliability of their conformity assessment results". To facilitate acceptance by importing countries of conformity assessment certificates, the Agreement further encourages arrangements for the "mutual recognition" of member countries' conformity assessment procedures.

Code of Good Practice for voluntary standardization

Agreement on TBT,
Article 4; Annex 3

As noted earlier, many of the standards used by industries are voluntary standards. These are often formulated by national standardizing bodies in the various member countries. Voluntary standards can create problems in international trade if they vary widely from country to country. The Agreement has therefore developed a *Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards* with which national standardizing bodies are expected to abide in preparing, adopting and applying standards. The Code requires national standardizing bodies to follow principles and rules that are similar to those specified for mandatory standards. Thus the Code urges member countries:

- ❑ To use international standards as a basis for their national standards,
- ❑ To participate fully, within the limits of their resources, in the preparation of international standards for products for which they propose to adopt national standards.

Furthermore, in order to acquaint foreign producers with the work on standardization being undertaken by national bodies in different countries, it requires these bodies to publish their work programme "at least once every six

Code of Good Practice, J

months”, giving information on the standards they are preparing and the standards they have adopted in the preceding period. At the time of publication, the national bodies are also required to notify the ISO/IEC Information Centre of the name of the publication and how and where it can be obtained.

The Code requires standardizing bodies to allow a period of at least 60 days for the submission of comments on draft standards by interested parties in outside countries. The comments are usually forwarded through national standardizing bodies. The Code calls on the standardizing body formulating the standards to take these comments into account when finalizing the standard.

Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

So far, the discussion has focused on technical regulations, standards and systems adopted for conformity assessment. The international rules in these areas, which are contained in the Agreement on TBT, apply to both industrial and agricultural products. Imported agricultural products may in certain cases have to conform not only to technical regulations but also to the importing country’s sanitary and phytosanitary measures.

Definition of sanitary and phytosanitary regulations

What are sanitary and phytosanitary measures? And how do they differ from technical regulations? These measures are adopted by countries to protect:

- Human or animal life from food-borne risks which arise from the use of additives, contaminants, toxins or disease-causing organisms (and thus ensure food safety);
- Human health from animal or plant-carried diseases; and
- Animals and plants from pests and diseases.

The term ‘sanitary regulations’ is used to cover types of regulations whose basic objective is to ensure food safety, or to prevent animal-borne diseases from entering a country. Where the objective of the regulations is to ensure that imported plant varieties do not bring into a country plant-borne diseases, they are referred to as ‘phytosanitary regulations’.

Difference between technical regulations and SPS measures

The basic difference between technical regulations and sanitary and phytosanitary measures arises from the objectives for which they are adopted. In the case of SPS measures, the aim is limited and specific – to protect human, animal and plant life or health by ensuring food safety and preventing animal and plant-borne diseases from entering a country. Technical regulations, on the other hand, are imposed for a variety of policy objectives. They include, as noted earlier, national security requirements, prevention of deceptive practices and protection of the environment. They may be adopted to protect human health or safety, or animal or plant life for objectives other than those for which health and sanitary measures are implemented (*see* box 19 for illustrations).

Approach of the SPS Agreement

The rules governing the use of sanitary and phytosanitary measures are contained in the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures. Like the TBT Agreement, the SPS Agreement requires countries:

Box 19**Distinction between technical regulations and sanitary and phytosanitary measures: Some examples**

Whether a particular regulation to protect the health and life of a country's human and animal population or of its plants and fauna is a technical regulation or a sanitary or phytosanitary measure depends on the objectives for which it has been adopted. The distinction is important, as the rules of the Agreement on TBT would apply if the regulation is treated as a technical regulation, and those of the Agreement on SPS, if it is treated as a sanitary and phytosanitary measure. While the provisions of the two Agreements are similar in most respects, they have some significant differences.

Broadly speaking, a measure would be considered a sanitary and phytosanitary measure where its objective is to protect:

- ❑ Human life from the risks arising from additives, toxins, and plant- and animal-borne diseases;
- ❑ Animal life from the risks arising from additives, toxins, pests, diseases, disease-causing organisms;
- ❑ Plant life from the risks arising from pests, diseases, disease-causing organisms; and
- ❑ A country from the risks arising from damages caused by the entry, establishment or spread of pests.

Regulations adopted for other purposes, in order to protect human, animal and plant life, would be treated as technical regulations.

The examples that follow illustrate how the objective of a measure determines whether it is a technical regulation (TR), or a sanitary and phytosanitary measure (SPS) and whether it therefore falls under the Agreement on TBT or the Agreement on SPS.

Controlling Agreement	Description of measure
<i>Regulation on pesticides</i>	
SPS	If the measure relates to residues in food or in animal feed, and the objective is to protect human or animal health.
TBT	If the measure relates to the quality or efficacy of the product, or to a health risk to handlers.
<i>Establishment of labelling requirements for foods</i>	
SPS	If the measure is related to food safety.
TBT	If the regulation concerns such matters as the size of the typeface used on the label, the presentation of information on contents, grade, etc.
<i>Regulation on containers for the shipment of grains</i>	
SPS	If the regulation is on fumigation or other treatment of these containers, i.e. disinfection in order to prevent the spread of disease.
TBT	If the regulation relates to the size or structure of the containers.

Source: WTO documents.

Agreement on SPS,
Preamble

- ❑ To base their SPS measures on international standards, guidelines or recommendations developed by the:
 - Codex Alimentarius Commission;
 - International Office of Epizootics;

- Relevant international and regional organizations operating within the framework of the International Plant Protection Convention; or
 - Any other international organization that may be designated by the WTO Committee on SPS.
- Agreement on SPS, Article 3:4 To play a full part in the activities of above-mentioned international organizations, in order to promote the harmonization of SPS measures on an international basis.
- Agreement on SPS, Annex B: 5 To provide an opportunity to interested parties in other countries to comment on draft standards when they are not based on international standards, or where they deviate from such standards, or where there are no international standards.
- Agreement on SPS, Article 4 To accept the SPS measures of exporting countries as equivalent if they achieve the same level of SPS protection and to enter into, where possible, arrangements for the mutual recognition of the equivalence of specified sanitary or phytosanitary measures.

Main differences between the SPS and the TBT Agreements

The rules of the SPS Agreement differ from those of the TBT Agreement in four important respects.

Agreement on SPS, Article 2:2 The first relates to the importance attached to scientific evidence in formulating regulations. In the case of sanitary and phytosanitary measures, the obligation to base them on scientific evidence is unequivocal. The Agreement prescribes that such measures must be “based on scientific principles” and must not be “maintained without sufficient scientific evidence”. The TBT Agreement on the other hand recognizes that the use of scientific evidence would depend on the objectives for which the technical regulations are adopted. Regulations adopted for the purposes of protecting health and safety would have to be based on scientific evidence; these considerations may not be relevant where the objective of the regulation is protection against deceptive practices or where it is adopted for national security reasons.

Second, the TBT Agreement requires that technical regulations which prescribe product standards should be applied on an MFN basis to imports from all sources. Sanitary and phytosanitary regulations, particularly those which aim at preventing animal- or plant-borne diseases from entering a country, may be more or less demanding depending on “the level of prevalence of specific diseases or pests” in the country or in a region of that country.

Against this background, the Agreement on SPS requires countries:

- Agreement on SPS, Article 6:1 To “ensure that their sanitary and phytosanitary measures are adapted to the sanitary and phytosanitary characteristics of the area – whether all of a country, part of a country, or all or parts of several countries – from which the product originated and to which the product is destined.” Such characteristics should be determined, *inter alia*, on the basis of the level of prevalence of specific diseases or pests; and
- Agreement on SPS, Article 2:3 Not to apply them as to cause arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination among countries or regions where similar conditions prevail or as to constitute a disguised restriction on international trade.

It should be noted, however, that flexibility to deviate from the MFN principle is permitted only for SPS measures that aim at preventing the entry of plant- or animal-borne pests and diseases into a country. SPS measures aiming at ensuring food safety (e.g. regulations on additives, contamination, or permitted residue levels) would ordinarily have to be applied on an MFN basis.

Third, the Agreements differ in regard to the conditions under which it may be possible for countries to deviate from international standards. Many of these differences arise because of the varying objectives for which technical regulations and SPS measures are adopted.

Agreement on TBT,
Article 2.4

The TBT Agreement, for instance, specifies the conditions under which countries may deviate from international standards. The Agreement states that, where an international standard exists, a country may adopt a national standard which is different or higher than the international standard if it is considered necessary, for “fundamental climatic or geographical factors or fundamental technological problems”. The SPS Agreement, on the other hand, gives countries the unrestrained right to introduce sanitary and phytosanitary measures which result in a higher level of “protection than would be achieved by measures based on the relevant international standards, guidelines or recommendations” if:

Agreement on SPS,
Article 3:3; Article 5

- There is a scientific justification, or
- Where a country determines on the basis of an assessment of risks that a higher level of sanitary and phytosanitary protection would be appropriate.

In order to ensure that decisions to adopt higher standards than those stipulated by international standards are taken objectively, the Agreement provides guidelines for assessing risks to human, animal or plant life or health. These are listed in box 20.

Box 20

Guidelines for assessing risks and determining an appropriate level of sanitary and phytosanitary protection

(Agreement on SPS, Article 5)

The Agreement calls on countries to ensure that the level of sanitary and phytosanitary protection which they consider appropriate should be determined on the basis of an assessment of risks to human, animal or plant life or health arising from the entry of the imported product. In assessing such risks, the following elements should be taken into account:

- *Scientific evidence;*
- *Methods of production, processing (and control) used in the exporting country;*
- *Prevalence of specific diseases or pests, and the existence of pest- or disease-free areas in the exporting country;*
- *Ecological and environmental conditions (in both the exporting and the importing country adopting the SPS measure);*
- *Facilities for sanitary, quarantine and other treatment (in the country adopting the measures).*

Where the sanitary and phytosanitary measures are intended to protect animal or plant life or health, the assessment of risks should take into account, in addition to the above elements, the following economic factors:

- *The potential damage in terms of loss of production or sales in the event of the entry, establishment or spread of a pest or disease;*
- *The likely costs of controlling or eradicating the pests or diseases if they were to spread; and*
- *The relative cost effectiveness of alternative approaches to limiting risks.*

The Agreement emphasizes that, in adopting sanitary and phytosanitary measures, countries should keep in mind the need to ensure that these measures are not more trade restrictive than is required to achieve the desired level of protection, taking into account both the technical and economic factors mentioned above.

In carrying out such risk assessments, countries are urged to use the risk assessment techniques developed by the relevant international organizations. In a dispute brought to WTO for settlement (on European Community measures concerning meat and meat products – hormones, WT/DS26), the Appellate Body observed that the Agreement's provisions on risk assessment should not be interpreted to imply that a country planning to ban or restrict imports on the basis of sanitary and phytosanitary measures must itself carry out a risk assessment. The country could rely on the risk assessment carried out by other countries or by international organizations.

Agreement on SPS,
Article 5.7

Fourth, the SPS Agreement permits countries to adopt SPS measures on a provisional basis as a precautionary measure when there is immediate risk of the spread of diseases but the scientific evidence is insufficient. The TBT Agreement does not contain any such provision.

Other provisions common to the SPS and TBT Agreements

Level of obligations

Technical regulations, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, standards and conformity assessment systems are prepared not only by bodies controlled by central governments but also at local government level. In countries with federal governments, an increasing number of measures are being promulgated by State governments. In most countries, voluntary standards are prepared and adopted by professional bodies or by autonomous national standardizing bodies.

The Agreements on TBT and SPS impose binding obligations on member countries to require the bodies controlled by them to abide by the discipline of the Agreements. However, as central governments are not allowed by their national constitutions to assume binding obligations on behalf of local or State governments or autonomous standardization bodies, the Agreements call on central governments to take such reasonable measures as may be available to them to ensure that State governments and local bodies follow the discipline of the Agreements.

Special and differential treatment of developing countries

The two Agreements contain provisions for the extension of special and differential treatment to developing countries. Under these provisions, developing countries could have delayed the application of the SPS Agreement, with the exception of its transparency provisions, by two years. This period has already expired. The transitional period for the application of the Agreement by least developed countries is five years, which expires on 1 January 2001. Both Agreements further provide that in order to facilitate compliance with their provisions, the relevant Agreement Committees could, at the request of a developing or a least developed country, grant time-limited exceptions from all or some of the obligations which they impose. No member country has, however, requested such an exception to be made.

The two Agreements also contain provisions calling on the WTO Secretariat and member countries to provide technical assistance to developing and least developed countries to assist them, *inter alia*, in developing the legal and institutional framework required for the application of technical regulations and SPS measures.

Enquiry points

Agreement on TBT, Article 10:3; Agreement on SPS, Annex B:3

One of the main problems enterprises from developing countries face in promoting exports is the lack of information on the standards and health and sanitary measures applicable to their products in target markets. To help enterprises obtain such information, the two Agreements require each member country to establish *enquiry points* from which information can be obtained by the governments of other countries and by interested business firms on:

- Technical regulations and voluntary standards adopted or proposed to be adopted;
- Conformity assessment procedures adopted or proposed to be adopted;
- Sanitary and phytosanitary measures adopted or proposed to be adopted;
- Control and inspection procedures, production and quarantine treatment, pesticide tolerance treatment and food additive approval procedures;
- Risk assessment procedures developed for the determination of the appropriate level of sanitary and phytosanitary protection.

The services provided by these enquiry points are being increasingly used by business firms as well as by civil society (consumer associations and other interest groups) to obtain information on the technical regulations and sanitary and phytosanitary measures of other countries.

The annex to this chapter lists the enquiry points established in accordance with the Agreements on TBT and SPS.

Business implications and experience of the operation of the Agreements

Reviews of the Agreements

The two Agreements provide for periodic reviews of their operation. A triennial review of the Agreement on TBT was conducted by the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade in 1997; the review of the Agreement on SPS was carried out by the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures in 1998. The Committees considered that on the whole the Agreements had worked well and no major changes in their provisions were necessary.

Participation in international standardization activities

Both Agreements encourage countries to participate in the work of international organizations developing international standards for the products for which they propose to adopt standards or regulations.

The participation of developing countries in international standardization activities is on the whole marginal. Apart from a few of the more advanced countries, developing countries are not able to participate actively in the meetings of the technical committees because of financial constraints. And even if they are able to attend meetings, their participation is often not effective, as it is not supported by the background research needed for the submission of technical papers.

In this context, it is relevant to note that, because of the budgetary difficulties through which even governments of developed countries are going through, the

responsibility for undertaking and financing research for participating in international standardization activities is falling on industries. Against this background, the business community in all countries must take an active interest in promoting research and technical work to improve the participation of their countries in international standardization activities covering their main export products.

Making full use of rights to comment on draft standards and regulations

The two Agreements visualize that one way of ensuring that the standards and the technical and SPS measures introduced by member countries do not become barriers to trade is to give both domestic and foreign producers an opportunity to comment on their drafts. The obligation to take such comments into account goes a long way towards guaranteeing that the concerns of foreign producers and suppliers about the possible adverse effects of proposed measures are taken into consideration when these measures are finalized.

In practice, however, the right to comment may not be of any real value to foreign producers if they do not know in time that work on preparing and adopting a standard or regulation is underway. The two Agreements have therefore adopted procedures for ensuring greater transparency in the work being done in the areas covered.

In particular the Agreements stipulate that in addition to publishing notices in the relevant technical journals, member countries should notify the WTO Secretariat of the products that are covered by technical or SPS regulations and the objectives and rationale for these regulations. Under the existing procedures, these notifications are immediately sent by the Secretariat to the national governments. It is the responsibility of the governments to pass on the notifications to the industry associations and professional technical bodies concerned, so that, if they judge it necessary, they can obtain copies of the draft regulations and comment on them.

The procedure for voluntary standards, prepared by national standardizing bodies, is, though somewhat different, based on similar principles. In order to acquaint foreign producers with the standardization work of these bodies, the Code of Good Practice embodied in the TBT Agreement requires these bodies to publish their work programme “at least once every six months”, giving information on standards that are under preparation and those that have been adopted in the preceding period. The national bodies are also required to notify the ISO/IEC Information Centre of the name of the publication containing this information and where it can be obtained. Foreign industries and their associations can take advantage of the right to comment on draft standards which the TBT Agreement has created in their favour only by exercising continuous vigilance on the work being carried out by national standardizing bodies in their target export markets and examining the information they publish on draft standards.

Agreement on TBT: Code
of Good Practice, J

Quality management systems: ISO 9000

A related issue that is becoming of increasing importance in international trade relations is the insistence of manufacturing industries on buying components, parts and other intermediate products from enterprises which operate viable quality management systems. As noted earlier, the Agreement on TBT encourages countries to adopt for this purpose internationally agreed quality management systems like ISO 9000.

The increasing preference for suppliers implementing quality management systems has resulted in a spectacular rise in the number of companies registered

to ISO 9000 worldwide. Many of these companies are in Europe. However, the trend is also noticeable in the United States among companies which want to retain their European markets.

There is growing awareness among manufacturing and service companies in the developing world of the important role which quality management systems play in marketing their products. Practical difficulties however prevent companies in a large number of developing countries from taking advantage of ISO 9000. Many countries have no local certifying firms which can provide guidance on introducing the system, assess and register companies to ISO 9000 and carry out the periodic audits needed. Most countries have yet to develop the legal framework and the institutions required for the accreditation of certifying firms. As mentioned earlier, accreditation establishes and attests to the technical competence of institutions to register (certify) companies to ISO 9000. From the point of view of purchasing companies, a certificate of ISO registration is of no better value than a manufacturer's own declaration unless it is issued by an accredited registration or certification body.

Registration to ISO 9000 involves expenditure on fees to the registering firm and the costs of administering the system. Costs are higher when the services of foreign certifying bodies acceptable to buyers abroad have to be used in the absence of accredited local institutions. The system also calls for documentation of actions taken on essential elements of the ISO 9000 system.

For small and medium-sized enterprises, the adoption of the ISO 9000 system, even though necessary from the point of view of improving confidence in their products, therefore presents a dilemma. In SMEs where staff literacy levels are low the paper work required is particularly burdensome. However, many SMEs may find themselves compelled to seek ISO 9000 registration, especially if they intend to produce intermediate products for further processing or to undertake final processing under subcontracts from foreign companies.

It is important to note that quality management systems like ISO 9000 are not intended to evaluate the quality of the products themselves. Registration only supports the manufacturer's claim that it has a system capable of delivering a product of consistent quality. The quality consciousness which the introduction of the system creates, however, results in greater attention to enhancing product quality, for instance by improving its design and performance.

Opportunities provided by the Agreements for settling differences through bilateral consultations

The opportunity for bilateral consultations, which the Agreements on TBT and SPS Agreements provide prior to the invocation of dispute settlement procedures, has created new possibilities for settling problems which exporters encounter as a result of the application of technical, sanitary and phytosanitary regulations. Experience has shown that many of these problems are of a practical nature, relating to the administration of inspection, quarantine or other regulations, and do not raise questions of scientific justification or of acceptable levels of risk.

As box 21 shows, it has been possible for exporting countries to find satisfactory solutions to some of these problems by holding discussions on a bilateral basis. Solutions to other disputes were found by raising the disputed issues under the WTO dispute settlement procedures.

It is necessary for the business community to take advantage of this opportunity by bringing to the notice of their government the practical problems they may be encountering as a result of the application of technical, sanitary and phytosanitary regulations in their target markets.

Box 21**Examples of disputes settled under the WTO mechanism****Disputes settled through bilateral consultations**

- *European Communities – Maximum level for certain contaminants (aflatoxins) in foodstuffs*

A number of countries (United States, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, the Gambia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Senegal and Thailand) had in their submissions to the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures expressed concern at the possible restrictive effects which the proposed EU regulations providing for maximum levels of aflatoxins could have on their exports of groundnuts, other nuts, milk and other products. They pointed out that the proposal to set more stringent levels for aflatoxins than the standards currently fixed internationally was not founded on a proper risk assessment undertaken on the basis of scientific evidence. Consequently, while the adoption of the measures would not result in a significant reduction in health risks for EU consumers, it provided a potential threat to their exports.

Even though the European Community maintained that there was no consensus at the international level on maximum levels of aflatoxins in food products and that, in proposing the new levels, it had taken into account the recommendations of scientific committees, it agreed to revise the levels proposed in the draft regulations for most of the food products concerned in the light of the views expressed in the country submissions.

- *Republic of Korea – restrictions on imports of poultry*

Thailand had pointed out that the “criteria of zero tolerance for listeria” which might be included in the proposed amendments to the Korean Food Code would adversely affect its exports of frozen chicken. Taking into account the points made and the concerns expressed by Thailand, the authorities of the Republic of Korea decided to insist on zero tolerance criteria for listeria only for meat for direct consumption and excluded meat for further processing and cooking from the application of the criteria.

- *United Republic of Tanzania – European Community ban on imports of fish from the United Republic of Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Mozambique*

The United Republic Tanzania complained that the European Community had banned imports of fresh, frozen and processed fish products from the country as well as from Kenya, Uganda and Mozambique, alleging health concerns. The European Community maintained that the ban was considered necessary as there was a risk of the transmission of cholera through foodstuffs containing fresh water. It however agreed to withdraw the ban, following the consultations which were held with competent authorities in the exporting countries, as it was satisfied that the necessary guarantees were in place.

Disputes settled on the basis of findings of Panels and the Appellate Body

- *European Communities - Measures concerning meat and meat products (hormones)*

The Appellate Body, which endorsed the findings of the Panel established to consider a complaint by the United States against the EC’s ban on imports of hormone-treated meat, held that the ban was not justifiable, as the international standard relating to such meat recognized that consumption of the meat was not harmful to health. In the situation, it would have been possible for EC to adopt measures which were more stringent than the international standard, only if it was able to justify its need on scientific grounds on the basis of a risk assessment undertaken by it. However, EC had not carried out such a risk assessment.

After the announcement of the decision, EC decided to carry out a risk assessment to justify the ban on scientific grounds. There was, however, disagreement between the parties to the dispute on the “reasonable period of time” for the implementation of the rulings on the case which included the obligation to carry out a risk assessment. An arbitrator was then appointed in accordance with the procedures. The arbitrator determined that the “reasonable period of time for the European Communities to implement the recommendations and rulings of the Dispute Settlement Body ... is 15 months ... from 13 February 1998.”

As EC was not able to take implementation measures within the 15-month period, the General Council has authorized the United States to impose sanctions. These take the form of increased customs duties on imports of selected products from EC member countries totalling US\$ 116.8 million annually – equal to the trade which the United States is assessed to have lost as a result of the ban. The measures taken by the United States will be reviewed after EC has been able to complete the risk assessment.

- Australia – Measures affecting the importation of salmon

The Appellate Body agreed with the findings of the Panel established to consider the complaint of Canada against Australian measures prohibiting the importation of fresh, chilled and frozen salmon from Canada that the prohibition was not based on scientific evidence and was maintained without risk assessment.

Mutual recognition agreements

The other issue of some concern to traders in developing countries is the increasing resort being made by developed countries to negotiations on agreements for the mutual recognition of:

- Testing methods, and
- Conformity assessment certificates.

The bilateral agreements stipulating that an importing country should allow imports of products which conform to its technical regulation or SPS measures may take two forms.

An importing country may under a bilateral agreement agree to allow imports of products such as meat, fruits, vegetables and other horticultural products on the basis of certificates issued by regulatory authorities in the exporting country. A number of developing countries have entered into such bilateral agreements with their main trading partners, both developed and developing countries.

The above one-way agreements, under which an importing country in effect agrees to treat as equivalent the conformity assessment procedures of the exporting country, need to be distinguished from mutual recognition agreements or MRAs. Under the latter agreements, the parties agree to treat as equivalent one another’s testing methods and conformity assessment procedures. These agreements are negotiated on a bilateral or plurilateral basis.

Negotiations on MRAs are difficult and take a long time to complete as parties want to ensure through visits and consultations that the procedures adopted for testing and inspection by the participating countries are indeed equivalent and that the officers responsible for ascertaining conformity have the necessary technical competence.

Most MRAs have been negotiated among developed countries. The United States and the European Union have, for instance, recently concluded negotiations on two such agreements. The first covers industrial products and

areas like telecommunications equipment, electromagnetic compatibility, electrical safety, recreational crafts, pharmaceutical and manufacturing practices, and medical devices. The second covers agricultural products like red meat, dairy products, eggs, fish products and pet food. Under the agreements, both parties have agreed to rely on the certificates issued in the country of export and not to inspect the products again on importation. The agreements are expected considerably to reduce the importers' delivery time and save exporters billions of dollars in inspection fees in the importing country.

While MRAs facilitate trade among participating countries, they put exports (of the products covered) from other countries at a disadvantage. This is because their products continue to be subjected to inspection and other requirements in the countries that are parties to the agreements. If MRAs result in the establishment of exclusive arrangements among a few countries, they may impede the development of multilateral trade instead of expanding it.

ANNEX

National enquiry points

AGREEMENT ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

ARGENTINA

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E-mail: speist@secind.mecon.ar

AUSTRALIA

The Director
WTO Enquiry Point
WTO Industrials & Market Access Unit
Trade Negotiations and Organisations Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Canberra
A.C.T. 2600
Tel: +(61 2) 6261 24 00
Fax: +(61 2) 6261 35 14
E-mail: TBT.Enquiry@DFAT.gov.au

AUSTRIA

(a) *Technical regulations:*
Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Angelegenheiten
(Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs)
Abteilung II/11 (Unit II/11)
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Tel: +(43 1) 711 00/Ext. 5452
Fax: +(43 1) 715 96 51/718 05 08
Telex: (047) 111780 regeb a, (047) 111145 regeb a
E-mail/Internet: Gabriela.Habermayer@bmwa.bmwa.ada.at

(b) *Non-governmental standards:*

Österreichisches Normungsinstitut - ON
(Austrian Standards Institute)
Heinestrasse 38
P.O. Box 130
A-1021- Wien
Tel: +(43 1) 213 00/Ext. 613
Fax: +(43 1) 213 00 650
Telex: (047) 115 960 norm a
E-mail/Internet: IRO@TBXA.telecom.at
E-mail/Geonet: TBXA:IRO

BAHRAIN

Directorate of Standards and Metrology
Ministry of Commerce
P.O. Box 5479
Manama

BARBADOS

Barbados National Standards Institution

"Flodden"

Culloden Road
St Michael
Tel: +(246) 426 38 70
Fax: +(246) 436 14 95

BELGIUM

CIBELNOR
Centre d'information belge sur les normes et les règlements techniques
(Belgian Information Centre on Standards and Technical Regulations)
Secrétariat: Institut Belge de Normalisation (IBN)
(Belgian Standards Institute)
Avenue de la Brabançonne, 29
B-1000 Bruxelles
Tel: +(32 2) 738 01 11
Fax: +(32 2) 733 42 64
Telex: 23877 BENOR B

BELIZE

The Financial Secretary
Ministry of Finance
Belmopan

BENIN

Ministry of Trade and Tourism
P.O.B 2037 Cotonou
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Fax: +(229) 31 52 58

BOLIVIA

(a) *Technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures:*
Viceministerio de Industria y Comercio Interno
Av. Camacho 1488
Casilla No. 4430
La Paz
Tel: +(591 2) 37 20 46
Fax: +(591 2) 31 72 62

(b) *Technical standards:*

Instituto Boliviano de Normalización y Calidad
(IBNORCA)
Av. Camacho 1488
Casilla No. 5034
La Paz
Tel: +(591 2) 31 72 62, +(591 2) 31 01 85
Fax: +(591 2) 31 72 62

BOTSWANA

Botswana Bureau of Standards
Private Bag BO 48
Gaborone

Tel: +(267) 351 420
 Fax: +(267) 308 194
 E-mail: bobs.standard@info.bw

BRAZIL

Centro de Informação e Difusão Tecnológica (CIDIT)
 Instituto Nacional de Metrologia, Normalização e
 Qualidade Industrial - INMETRO
 Rua Santa Alexandrina, 416 - Rio Comprido
 20261-232 Rio de Janeiro (RJ)
 Tel: +(55 21) 293 06 16
 Fax: +(55 21) 502 04 15
 E-mail: asbtcponto@inmetro.gov.br

BULGARIA

Committee for Standardization and Metrology
 21, 6th September Street
 1000 Sofia
 Tel: +(359 2) 803 513
 Fax: +(359 2) 801 402
 Telex: 22 570 dks bg
 Contact person: Violetta Veleva

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Standards Information Service
 Standards Council of Canada
 45 O'Connor Street
 Suite 1200
 Ottawa
 Ontario K1P 6N7
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 Fax: +(1 613) 995 45 64
 E-mail: info@scc.ca

CHILE

Dirección de Relaciones Económicas Internacionales
 Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
 (Directorate-General for International Economic Relations,
 Ministry of External Relations)
 Alameda Bernardo O'Higgins 1315, 2º piso
 Santiago
 Tel: +(56 2) 696 00 43
 Fax: +(56 2) 696 06 39
 Telex: 240836 PROCH CL, 340120 PROCH CK

COLOMBIA

Ministerio de Desarrollo Económico
 División de Normalización y Calidad
 Dirección: Carrera 13 No. 28-01. Piso 8
 Santafé de Bogotá
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 Fax: +(57 1) 245 72 56

COSTA RICA

Dirección General de Normas y Unidades de Medida
 Ministerio de Economía, Industria y Comercio
 Apartado Postal 1736-2050
 San Pedro de Montes de Oca
 Tel/Fax: +(506) 283 51 33

CUBA

Oficina Nacional de Normalización
 Director de Relaciones Internacionales
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 La Habana
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 Telex: +(53 7) 51 22 45
 Contact person: Sr. Javier Acosta Alemany

CYPRUS

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 Telex: 22 83 Mincomind CY

CZECH REPUBLIC

Czech Office for Standards, Metrology and Testing
 (COSMT)
 WTO Enquiry Point
 Biskupský dvůr 5
 110 02 Praha 1
 Tel: +(42 2) 218 02 170
 Fax: +(42 2) 232 45 64
 Contact person: Ms. Klara Dvorackova

DENMARK

Dansk Standard
 (Danish Standards Association)
 Kollegievej 6
 DK-2920 Charlottenland
 Tel: +(45) 39 96 61 01
 Fax: +(45) 39 96 61 02
 E-mail: Dansk.Standard@ds.dk

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

(a) *Agricultural products:*
 Ministry of Agriculture (Secretaría de Estado de
 Agricultura)
 Km. 6½ Autopista Duarte
 Urbanización Los Jardines del Norte
 Santo Domingo, D.N.
 Tel: +(1 809) 547 38 88
 Fax: +(1 809) 227 12 68
 Contact person: Mr. Luis Toral C. (Secretario de Estado de
 Agricultura)

(b) Industrial products:

Dirección General de Normas y Sistemas
 (DIGENOR)
 Secretaría de Estado de Industria y Comercio
 Edif. de Oficinas Gubernamentales Juan Pablo Duarte,
 piso 11
 Ave. México, esq. Leopoldo Navarro
 Santo Domingo, D.N.
 Tel: +(1 809) 686 22 05
 Fax: +(1 809) 688 38 43
 Contact person: Mr. Luis Mejía

(c) Pharmaceutical products and food additives:

Secretaría de Estado de Salud Pública y Asistencia Social
 (SESPAS)
 Av. San Cristóbal, Esq. Tiradentes
 Santo Domingo, D.N.
 Tel: +(1 898) 541 84 03, +(1 898) 541 31 21
 Fax: +(1 809) 547 28 43
 Contact person: Mr. Victoriano García Santos (Secretario
 de Estado de Salud Pública y Asistencia Social)

ECUADOR

Ingeniero Felipe Urresta
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 Normalización, INEN
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 E-mail: inen1@inen.gov.ec
 Internet: http://www.ecua.net.ec/inen/

EGYPT

Egyptian Organization for Standardization
 2 Latin America Street
 Garden City
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 Tel: + (20 2) 354 07 71, + (20 2) 354 97 20
 Fax: + (20 2) 355 78 41
 Telex: 93296 EOS UN
 E-mail: moi@idso.gov.eg

EL SALVADOR

Ministerio de Economía
 Dirección de Política Comercial
 División de Normas Técnicas
 Centro de Gobierno, Plan Maestro Edificio c-2
 Alameda Juan Pablo II y Calle Guadalupe
 San Salvador, El Salvador, C.A.
 Tel: + (503) 281 11 22, + (503) 281 11 55
 Fax: + (503) 221 47 71

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

EC TBT Enquiry Point
 DG III - B/4
 Rue de la Science, 15 - 1/61
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 Belgium
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 Fax: + (32 2) 299 57 25, + (32 2) 296 08 51
 E-mail: sabine.lecrenier@dg3.cec.be
 There will no longer be a separate enquiry point for agricultural products.

FINLAND

Suomen Standardisoimisliitto SFS
 (Finnish Standards Association SFS)
 P.O. Box 116
 FIN-00241 Helsinki
 Tel: + (358 0) 149 93 31
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FIJI

Department of Fair Trading and Consumer Affairs
 Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Public Enterprises
 P.O. Box 2112
 Suva
 Tel: + (679) 305 411
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FRANCE

Centre d'information sur les normes et règlements techniques (CINORTECH)
 (Information Centre on Standards and Technical Regulations)
 Association française de normalisation (AFNOR)
 (French Standard Association)
 Tour Europe Cedex 07
 F-92049 Paris La Défense
 Tel: + (33 1) 42 91 56 69
 Fax: + (33 1) 42 91 56 56
 Telex: 611974 AFNOR F
 (address care of CINORTECH)
 Contact person: Mme Martine Vaquier
 "The Centre is fully operational. CINORTECH can provide all information on AFNOR standards and on technical regulations and certification systems."

GERMANY

Deutsches Informationszentrum für technische Regeln (DITR)
 (German Information Centre for Technical Regulations)
 Postfach 11 07
 Burggrafenstr. 6
 D-10787 Berlin
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 Fax: + (49 30) 26 28 125

The DITR is being established by DIN, the German Standards Institute, in cooperation with the Federal Government. This body is the central point to which to address all questions concerning technical rules in the Federal Republic of Germany.

The Centre provides information about all technical rules (including standards, technical regulations and certification systems) valid in the Federal Republic of Germany, irrespective of whether the technical rules have been issued by federal or local authorities or by non-governmental bodies. At present the computer-aided DITR databank comprises information about 36,000 technical rules either in force or in the draft stage.

GHANA

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GREECE

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HONDURAS

(a) *Enquiry point for all notifications:*
 Secretaría de Industria y Comercio
 (Ministry of Industry and Trade)
 Dirección General de Integración
 Económica y Política Comercial
 Edificio Larach, Piso No. 10
 Tegucigalpa
 Tel: + (504) 222 60 55, + (504) 222 18 19
 Fax: + (504) 238 13 36

(b) *Technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures:*

Secretaría de Industria y Comercio
 (Ministry of Industry and Trade)
 Dirección General de Protección al Consumidor
 Departamento de Normalización y Metrología
 Edificio Larach y Cia Piso No. 8
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(c) *Pharmaceutical products:*

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 Departamento de Farmacia
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 Fax: + (504) 237 53 43

(d) Food products:

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 Departamento Control de Alimentos
 Paseo Monumento a la Paz, Edificio CEESCO
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 Tel: + (504) 232 11 39
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HONG KONG, CHINA

Industry Department
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 (Assistant Director-General, Quality Services Division)
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 Telex: 50151 INDHK HX
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HUNGARY

Magyar Szabványügyi Testület
 (Hungarian Standards Institute)
 25 Ulloi ut
 H-1091 Budapest
 Tel: + (36 1) 218 30 11
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ICELAND

Ministry for Foreign Affairs and External Trade
 External Trade Department
 Raudararstig 25
 150 Reykjavík
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 Contact person: Mr. Sverrir Júlíusson

INDIA

Bureau of Indian Standards
 Manak Bhavan
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 New Delhi 110 002
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 Fax: + (91 11) 323 40 62
 Telex: (031)-65870 - Answer Back 'BIS/IN'

INDONESIA

Badan Standardisasi Nasional (BSN)
 (National Standardization Agency)
 Sasana Widya Sarwono Lt 5
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IRELAND

(a) Technical regulations and certification systems:
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 Department of Tourism and Trade
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(b) Standards:

Standards Development

National Standards Authority of Ireland
 Glasnevin
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 Fax: + (353 1) 807 38 38
 Telex: 45301

ISRAEL

The Standards Institution of Israel
 42 Chaim Levanon Street
 Tel-Aviv 69977
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 Fax: + (972 3) 641 96 83 (Director-General)
 + (972 3) 641 27 62 (Inf. Center,
 WTO Enquiry Point)

ITALY*(a) WTO notifications:*

MICA DGPI
 Ministero Industria, Commercio e Artigianato
 Divisione XIX
 Via Molise 19
 I-00187 Roma
 Tel: + (39 6) 470 526 69
 Fax: + (39 6) 478 877 48
 E-mail: Min.Ind.Isp.Tecnico@agora.stm.it

(b) Technical regulations:

Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR)
 Ufficio Trasferimento, Innovazione, Brevetti, Normativa
 Tecnica (Stibnot)
 Via Tiburtina 770
 I-00159 Roma
 Tel: + (39 6) 40 758 26
 Fax: + (39 6) 49 932 440
 E-mail: Utinob@IRMRETI.CED.RM.CNR.IT

(c) Standards of all sectors, except electronics which can be requested to CEI:

Ente Nazionale Italiano di Unificazione (UNI)
 Via Battistotti Sassi 11-b
 I-20153 Milano
 Tel: + (39 2) 70 02 41
 Fax: + (39 2) 70 10 61 06
 E-mail: Presidenza@UNI.UNICEI.IT

(d) Electronics standards:

Comitato Elettrotecnico Italiano (CEI)
 Viale Monza 259
 I-20126 Milano
 Tel: + (39 2) 25 77 31
 Fax: + (39 2) 25 77 32 01
 E-mail: Camagni@CEIUNI.IT

JAMAICA

Jamaica Bureau of Standards
 6 Winchester Road
 P.O. Box 113
 Kingston 10
 Tel: + (1 809) 926 3140-6, + (1 809) 968 2063-71
 Fax: + (1 809) 929 47 36
 Telex: 2291 STANBUR JA

This government agency has responsibility for standards development and standards implementation as follows:

- laboratory testing;
- product and systems certification;
- technical information;
- training;
- energy efficiency evaluation;

- metrology;
- ISO 9000 certification; and
- laboratory accreditation.

JAPAN*(a) Standards Information Service*

Standards Information Service at MOFA mainly handles enquiries in the fields of drugs, cosmetics, medical devices, foodstuffs, food additives, telecommunications facilities, motor vehicles, ships, aircraft and railway.

First International Organization Division
Economic Affairs Bureau
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo
Tel: + (81 3) 35 80 33 11
Fax: + (81 3) 35 03 31 36
Telex: C. J22350 A. GAIMU A-B J22350

(b) Standards Information Service

Standards Information Service at JETRO mainly handles enquiries in the fields of electric equipment, gas appliances, measurement scales, foodstuffs, food additives, etc. Those enquiries concerning JIS on medical devices, motor vehicles, ships, aircraft and railway equipment are handled by JETRO.

Information Service Department
Japan External Trade Organizations (JETRO)
2-2-5 Toranomon, Minato-Ku
Tokyo
Tel: + (81 3) 35 82 62 70
Fax: + (81 3) 35 89 41 79
Telex: C. J24378 A. JETRO A-B J24378

In relation to the services of these two bodies, a Standards Agreement Office has been established in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA). Enquiries can be made in a WTO language.

KENYA

The Managing Director
Kenya Bureau of Standards
P.O. Box 54974
Nairobi
Tel: + (254 2) 50 22 10-9
Fax: + (254 2) 50 32 93
Tlx: 252 52 "VIWANGO"
E-mail: KEBS@ARGO GN.APC.ORG

KOREA, REPUBLIC OF*(a) Industrial products:*

Korean National Institute of Technology and Quality (KNITQ)
International Cooperation and Metrology Division
2 Choongang-dong, Kwachon
Kyunggi-do, 427-010
Tel: + (822 2) 507 43 69
Fax: + (822 2) 503 79 77
E-mail: int_coop@mail.nitq.go.kr

(b) Agricultural products:

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF)
Bilateral Cooperation Division
1 Choongang-dong, Kwachon
Kyunggi-do 427-760
Tel: + (82 2) 503 72 94
Fax: + (82 2) 507 20 95
E-mail: bcd@maf.go.kr

(c) Fishery products:

Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
Trade Promotion Division
826-14 Yoksam-dong, Kangnam-gu
Seoul, 135-080
Tel: + (82 2) 567 27 29
Fax: + (82 2) 556 78 17

(d) Health, sanitation and cosmetic products:

Ministry of Health and Welfare (MOHW)
International Cooperation Division
2 Choongang-dong, Kwachon
Kyunggi-do 427-760
Tel: + (82 2) 503 75 24
Fax: + (82 2) 504 64 18
E-mail: invuiou1@chollian.net

LATVIA

World Trade Organization Information Division
Department of Quality Management and Structure
Development
Ministry of Economy
55 Brivibas Street
Riga LV-1519
Tel: + (371) 701 31 97, + (371) 701 32 36
Fax: + (371) 728 08 82

LIECHTENSTEIN

Office for foreign Affairs
Heiligkreuz 14
9490 Vaduz
Liechtenstein

LUXEMBOURG

Inspection du travail et des mines (ITM)
Rue Zithe 26
Boîte postale 27
L - 2010 Luxembourg
Tel: + (352) 478 61 50
Fax: + (352) 491 447

MACAU

Macau Government Economic Services
1-3 Rua do Dr. Pedro José Lobo
Edifício "Luso Internacional" 25th floor
Macau
Fax: + (853) 59 03 10

MALAYSIA

Standard and Industrial Research Institute of Malaysia (SIRIM)
Persiaran Dato' Menteri
Section 2
P.O. Box 7035
40911 Shah Alam
Selangor Darul Ehsan
Tel: + (60 3) 559 26 01, + (60 3) 559 16 30
Fax: + (60 3) 550 80 95
Telex: SIRIM MA 38672

MALAWI

Malawi Bureau of Standards
P.O. Box 946
Blantyre
Tel: + (265) 670 488
Fax: + (265) 670 756
Telex: 44325 "MSD" MI

MALI

Direction nationale des industries

Rue Famalo Coulibaly
BP 278
Bamako
Tel: +(223) 22 57 56, +(223) 22 06 63
Fax: +(223) 22 61 37

MALTA

Malta Standards Authority (MSA)
Department of Industry
Kukkanja Street
St. Venera CMR02
Tel: +(356) 446 250
Fax: +(356) 446 257

MAURITIUS

Mauritius Standards Bureau
Moka
Tel: +(230) 433 36 48
Fax: +(230) 433 50 51, +(230) 433 51 50

MEXICO

Lic. Carmen Quintanilla Madero
Dirección General de Normas
Av. Puente de Tecamachalco No. 6, 3º piso
Col. Lomas de Tecamachalco
C.P. 53950
Naucalpan, Mexico
Tel: +(52 5) 729 94 80
Fax: +(52 5) 729 94 84
E-mail: cidgn@secofi.gob.mx, cqm@secofi.gob.mx

MONGOLIA

Mongolian National Centre for Standardization and Metrology
Peace Street 46 A
Ulaanbaatar 51
Mongolia
Tel: +(976 1) 358 349
Fax: +(976 1) 358 032

MOROCCO

Ministry of Trade, Industry and Handicrafts
Standardization and Quality Promotion Division
Moroccan Industrial Standardization Service (SMINA)
Administrative District Rabat-Chellah
Tel: +(212) 7 76 63 17, +(212) 7 76 66 98
Fax: +(212) 7 76 62 96

MOZAMBIQUE

Instituto Nacional de Normalização e Qualidade
Av. 25 de Setembro, 1179 2º andar
Maputo
P.O. Box 2983 Maputo
Tel: +(258 1) 42 14 09, +(258 1) 42 14 98
Fax: +(258 1) 42 45 85
Telex: 6-933 INNOQ MO

MYANMAR

Director General
Directorate of Trade
Ministry of Commerce
228-240 Strand Road
Yangon
Tel: +(95 1) 286 442, +(95 1) 283 235
Fax: +(95 1) 289 578

NAMIBIA

Namibia Standards Information and Quality Office (NSIQO)

Private Bag 13340
Windhoek
Tel: +(264) 61 283 7111
Fax: +(264) 61 220 227

NETHERLANDS

(a) *Enquiry point for Article 10, paragraph 1.1:*
Ministry of Finance
Central Licensing Office for Imports and Exports
Tax and Customs Administration
Section EEC/WTO- Notifications
P.O. Box 30003
9700 RD Groningen
Tel: +(31 50) 52 39 178, +(31 50) 52 39 275
Fax: +(31 50) 52 39 219
E-mail: cdiuor@noord.bart.nl

The CDIU is responsible for the implementation of regulations in the field of international trade and also for information on technical regulations, including notifications.

(b) *Enquiry point for Article 10, paragraph 1.2:*
Nederlands Normalisatie Instituut (NNI)
(Netherlands Standardization Institute)
P.O. Box 5059
NL 2600 GB Delft
Tel: +(31 15) 69 02 55
Fax: +(31 15) 69 01 30

(c) *Enquiry point for Article 10, paragraph 1.3:*
Raad voor Accreditatie
(Council for Accreditation)
P.O. Box 2768
NL-3500 GT Utrecht
Tel: +(31 34) 28 94 500
Fax: +(31 34) 23 94 539

NEW ZEALAND

Standards New Zealand
Standards House
155 The Terrace
Private Bag 2439
Wellington
Tel: +(64 4) 498 59 90
Fax: +(64 4) 498 59 9

NIGER

Ministère du commerce et de l'industrie
BP 480
Niamey
Tel: +(227) 72 34 67, +(227) 73 29 74
Fax: +(227) 73 21 50

NIGERIA

The Director-General
Standards Organization of Nigeria
Federal Secretariat
9th floor, Phase 1
Ikoyi, Lagos
Tel: +(234 1) 68 26 15
Fax: +(234 1) 68 18 20

NORWAY

Norges Standardiseringsforbund
(Norwegian Standards Association)
P.O. Box 7020 Homansbyen
(Hegdehaugsveien 31)
N-0306 Oslo 3

Tel: +(47) 22 04 92 00
 Fax: +(47) 22 04 92 11
 Telex 19050 nsf n

PAKISTAN

(a) Standardization and certification undertaken by the Pakistan Standards Institution:

Pakistan Standards Institution
 39 Garden Road
 Saddar, Karachi 74400
 Tel: +(92 21) 77 29 527
 Fax: +(92 21) 77 28 124

(b) Technical regulations relating to food and health safety:

Ministry of Health, Social Welfare and Population
 Planning
 Government of Pakistan
 Secretariat Block 'C', Islamabad
 Tel: +(92 51) 820 930
 Fax: +(92 51) 829 703

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Director General
 National Institute of Standards and Industrial Technology
 (NISIT)
 P.O. Box 3042
 Boroko
 National Capital District
 Port Moresby
 Tel: +(675) 323 18 52
 Fax: +(675) 325 87

PERU

Comisión de Reglamentos Técnicos y Comerciales
 Instituto de Defensa de la Competencia y de la Propiedad
 Intelectual
 Calle La Prosa No. 138
 Lima 41, Perú
 Tel: +(51 1) 224 07 88
 Fax: +(51 1) 224 03 48, +(51 1) 224 0347
 E-mail: cnmamel@indecopi.gob.pe

PHILIPPINES

Bureau of Product Standards
 Department of Trade and Industry
 3/F Trade and Industry Bldg.
 361 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue
 Metro Manila, Makati City 1200
 Postal Address: P.O. Box 3228 MCPO
 Tel: +(63 2) 890 49 65
 Fax: +(63 2) 890 49 26, +(63 2) 890 51 30
 E-mail: dtibpsrp@mnl.sequel.net

POLAND

Polski Komitet Normalizacyjny (PKN)
 (Polish Committee for Standardization)
 WTO/TBT National Enquiry Point
 P.O. Box 411
 ul. Elektoralna 2
 PL-00-950 Warsaw
 Tel: +(48 22) 620 02 41 ext. 651,
 +(48 22) 624 71 22
 Fax: +(48 22) 624 71 22
 E-mail: polknor@atos.warman.com.pl
 Contact person: Mr. Marek Zarnoch

PORTUGAL

Instituto Português da Qualidade
 (Portuguese Institute for Quality)
 Rua C à Avenida dos Três Vales

P-2825 Monte da Caparica
 Tel: +(351 1) 294 81 00
 Fax: +(351 1) 294 82 23, +(351 1) 294 81 01
 +(351 1) 294 82 22
 E-mail: PINCDPC@IPQM.IPQ.GTWMS.MAILPAC.PT

ROMANIA

Romanian Standards Institute
 13 Jean Louis Calderon Street
 Sector 2
 Bucharest
 Tel: +(40 1) 211 32 96
 Fax: +(40 1) 210 08 33
 Telex: (065) 11 312 ins r

SAINT LUCIA

St Lucia Bureau of Standards
 Government Buildings
 Block B, 4th Floor
 John Compton Highway
 Castries
 Tel: +(1 758) 453 00 49
 Fax: +(1 758) 453 73 47

SINGAPORE

(a) Standardization and certification undertaken by the Singapore Productivity and Standards Board:

Singapore Productivity and Standards Board
 1 Science Park Drive
 PSB Building
 Singapore 118221
 Tel: +(65) 778 77 77
 Fax: +(65) 776 12 80

(b) Technical regulations relating to specific electrical fittings and accessories:

Public Utilities Board
 111 Somerset Road
 15-01
 Singapore 238164
 Tel: +(65) 235 88 88
 Fax: +(65) 731 30 20

(c) Technical regulations relating to processed food:

Food Control Department
 Ministry of the Environment
 Environment Building
 40 Scotts Road
 Singapore 228231
 Tel: +(65) 732 90 15
 Fax: +(65) 731 98 44

(d) Technical regulations relating to fish, meat, fruits and vegetables:

Primary Production Department
 National Development Building
 5 Maxwell Road
 Singapore 169110
 Tel: +(65) 222 12 11
 Fax: +(65) 220 60 68
 Telex: RS 28851 PPD

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Slovenský ústav technickej normalizácie
 WTO Enquiry Point
 Karloveská cesta 63
 842 45 Bratislava
 Visiting address:
 Stefanovicova 3

814 39 Bratislava
Tel: + (421 7) 397 886
Fax: + (421 7) 397 886

SLOVENIA

Standards and Metrology Institute of the Republic of Slovenia (SMIS)
WTO TBT Enquiry Point
Kotnikova 6
SI-1000 Ljubljana
Tel: + (386 61) 178 3041
Fax: + (386 61) 178 3196
E-mail: smis@usm.mzt.si

SOUTH AFRICA

Standards Information Centre
South African Bureau of Standards
Private Bag X191
0001 Pretoria
Tel: + (27 12) 428 7911
Fax: + (27 12) 344 1568
E-mail: info@sabs.co.za

SPAIN

(a) Ministerio de Comercio y Turismo
Dirección General de Comercio Exterior
(Subdirección General de Control, Inspección y Normalización del Comercio Exterior)
Paseo de la Castellana, 162, 6a planta
28046 Madrid
Tel: + (34 1) 349 37 70, + (34 1) 349 37 64
+ (34 1) 349 37 54
Fax: + (34 1) 349 37 40, + (34 1) 349 37 77

(b) Spanish national standards:

Asociación Española de Normalización y de Certificación (AENOR)
Calle Fernández de la Hoz, 52
28010 Madrid
Tel: + (34 1) 310 48 51
Fax: + (34 1) 310 49 76

SRI LANKA

Director of Commerce
Department of Commerce
"Rakshana Mandiraya"
21 Vauxhall Street
Colombo 2
Tel: + (94 1) 29 733, + (94 1) 43 61 14
Fax: + (94 1) 43 02 33
Telex: 21908 COMMERCE

SWAZILAND

Quality Assurance Unit
Ministry of Enterprise and Employment
P.O. Box 451
Mbabane
Tel: + (268) 432 01
Fax: + (268) 447 11

SWEDEN

(a) Enquiry point for Article 10.1:
Kommerskollegium
(National Board of Trade)
WTO-TBT Enquiry Point
Box 6803
S-113 86 Stockholm
Tel: + (46 8) 690 48 00
Fax: + (46 8) 690 48 40

(b) Enquiry point for Article 10.2:

SIS Service AB
WTO-TBT Enquiry Point
Box 6455
S-10382 Stockholm
Tel: + (46 8) 610 30 00
Fax: + (46 8) 307 757

SWITZERLAND

Swiss Association for Standardization
SNV
Mühlebachstrasse 54
CH-8008 Zürich
Tel: + (41 1) 254 54 54
Fax: + (41 1) 254 54 74
E-mail: switec@snv.ch
The SNV has been established as the Enquiry Point by the Federal Office of External Economic Affairs.

TANZANIA, UNITED REPUBLIC OF

The Principal Secretary
Ministry of Industries and Trade
P.O. Box 9503
Dar Es Salaam
Tel: + (255 51) 117 222-5
Fax: + (255 51) 46919
Telex: 41689

The Director
Tanzania Bureau of Standards
P.O. Box 9524
Dar Es Salaam
Tel: + (255 51) 450 298
Fax: + (255 51) 450 983
Telex: 41667 TBS TZ

THAILAND

Thai Industrial Standards Institute (TISI)
Ministry of Industry
Rama VI Street
Bangkok 10400
Tel: + (66 2) 202 34 01, + (66 2) 202 35 08
+ (66 2) 202 35 12
Fax: + (66 2) 247 87 34, + (66 2) 202 34 02
E-mail: stdinfo@tisi.go.th

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The Director
Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS)
P.O. Box 467
Port of Spain
Tel: + (868) 662 88 27, + (868) 662 44 81/2
Fax: + (868) 663 43 35
E-mail: ttbs@opus.co.tt

TUNISIA

(a) Standards:
Institut national de la normalisation et de la propriété industrielle (INNORPI)
(National Standardization and Industrial Property Institute)
Contact point: Mr. Ali Ben Gaied
Cit  El Khadhra par Rue Alain Savary
1003 Tunis-Belvéd re
B.P. 23
1012 Tunis
Tel: + (216 1) 78 59 22
Fax: + (216 1) 78 15 63

For information on: standards; standardization and certification systems; industrial property; quality; relations with foreign standardization and certification bodies.

For services in the areas of: quality promotion; certification; Industrial property; other services include sale of standards and draft standards, access to domestic and foreign databases, consultation of Tunisian and foreign standards.

(b) Seeds and plants:

Ministry of Agriculture
Directorate-General of Agricultural Production
Seeds and Plants Monitoring and Certification Division
30 rue Alain Savary
1002 Tunis-Belvédère
Tel/Fax: +(216 1) 80 04 19

Contact point: Mr. Aissa Bouziri

For information on: Standards for seeds and plants

Documents available: Analysis reports and texts of regulations and standards

(c) Technical regulations on Telecoms:

Ministry of Communications
Contact point: Mr. Ridha Guellouz
3 bis, rue d'Angleterre
1000 Tunis

Tel: +(216 1) 33 34 36

Fax: +(216 1) 33 26 85

Documents available on: Regulations and technical subjects

(d) Pesticides and disinfectants for domestic use:

Ministry of Public Health
Directorate of Environmental Health and Environmental Protection
5 rue Chaabane El B' houri
1002 Tunis

Tel: +(216 1) 79 17 15

Fax: +(216 1) 79 09 73

Contact point: Mr. Shlaheddine CHENITI

For information on: Regulatory and organizational aspects relating to pesticides for domestic use and disinfectants.

Documents available on: Approval and attribution procedures relating to pesticides for domestic use and disinfectants.

(e) Pharmaceuticals, medical accessories and special diet foods:

Ministry of Public Health
Directorate of Pharmacy and Medicaments
31 rue Khartoum
1002 Tunis

Tel: +(216 1) 79 68 24

Fax: +(216 1) 79 78 16

Contact point: Professor Amor TOUMI

For information on: Regulatory and organizational aspects relating to:

- Human medicaments;
- Veterinary medicaments;
- Serums and vaccines;
- Pharmaceutical accessories;
- Cosmetics.

Documents available on: Legislation and approval and attribution procedures for the above-mentioned products.

(f) Technical regulations in other areas:

Ministry of Trade

Directorate-General of Competition and Internal Trade
6, rue Venezuela

1002 Tunis-Belvédère

Tel: +(216 1) 78 08 15

Fax: +(216 1) 78 18 47

For information on: Any technical regulations not covered above

TURKEY

(a) Enquiry point for Article 10.1:

Prime Ministry
Undersecretariat for Foreign Trade
General Directorate for Standardization for Foreign Trade
06510 Emek-Ankara

Tel: +(90 312) 212 58 96, +(90 312) 212 87 17

Fax: +(90 312) 212 87 68

E-mail: gokali@foreigntrade.gov.tr

(b) Enquiry point for Article 10.1.2:

Turkish Standards Institution
Necatibey Cad. No: 112 Bakanhklar
06100 Ankara

Tel: +(90 312) 418 01 15

Fax: +(90 312) 418 01 16

E-mail: biedb@tse.org.tr

UGANDA

Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS)
Plot M 217, Nakawa Industrial Area
P.O. Box 6329
Kampala

Tel: +(256 41) 22 23 69, +(256 41) 22 23 67

UNITED KINGDOM

(a) Enquiry point of Article 10.1:

WTO Section
Department of Trade and Industry
Room 360
Kingsgate House
66-74 Victoria Street
London SW1E 6SW

Tel: +(44 171) 2 15 45 11

Fax: +(44 171) 2 15 45 12

(b) Enquiry point of Article 10.3:

BSI Information Centre
389 Chiswick High Road
London W4 4AL

Tel: +(44 181) 996 71 11

Fax: +(44 181) 996 70 48

UNITED STATES

National Center for Standards and Certification
Information
National Institute of Standards and Technology
Bldg. 820, Room 164
Gaithersburg, MD 20899

Tel: +(1 301) 975 40 40

Fax: +(1 301) 926 15 59

E-mail: ncsci@nist.gov

The United States' enquiry point, in the National Institute of Standards and Technology, maintains a reference collection of standards, specifications, test methods, codes and recommended practices. This reference material includes United States' government agencies regulations, and standards of United States private standards-developing organizations and foreign national and international standardizing bodies. The enquiry point responds to all enquiries for information concerning federal, state and private regulations, standards, and conformity assessment procedures.

URUGUAY

Dirección General para Asuntos Económicos
Internacionales
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
Colonia 1206
Montevideo
Tel: +(598 2) 902 06 18
Fax: +(598 2) 901 74 13

Dirección General de Comercio del Ministerio de
Economía y Finanzas
Servicio de Información Comercial
Colonia 1206 - PB
C.P. 11.100
Montevideo
Tel: +(598 2) 900 26 22
Fax: +(598 2) 902 82 06
E-mail: coensic@tips.org.uy

ZAMBIA

(a) Zambia Bureau of Standards
The Director
Box 50259
ZA 15101
Ridgeway
Lusaka
Tel/Fax: +(260 1) 227 171
Telex: 40555 zabs
E-mail: zabs@zamnet.zm

(b) Permanent Secretary/Attention of Director of Trade
Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry
P.O. Box 31968
Lusaka
Tel: +(260 1) 228 301/9
Fax: +(260 1) 226 673

(c) Zoo - Sanitary (Animal/animal material)
Senior Veterinary Officer
Department of Animal Production and Health

Mulungushi House
P.O. Box 50060
Lusaka
Tel: +(260 1) 250 274, +(260 1) 252 608
Fax: +(260 1) 236 283

(d) Phytosanitary service (Plant material)
Mount Makulu Research Station
P/B 7
Chilanga
Tel: +(260 1) 278 655, +(260 1) 278 242
Fax: +(260 1) 230 62 22

ZIMBABWE

(a) Standards, technical regulations and certification schemes:
The Director General
Standards Association of Zimbabwe
P.O. Box 2259
Northend Close, Northridge Park
Borrowdale
Harare
Tel: +(263 4) 882 017-19, +(263 4) 885 511/2
Fax: +(263 4) 882 020

(b) Agricultural products:
The Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture
1 Borrowdale Road
P/Bag 7701
Causeway
Harare
Tel: +(263 4) 708 061
Fax: +(263 4) 734 646

(c) Food and health safety:
Ministry of Health and Child Welfare
P.O. Box CY 1122
Causeway
Harare
Tel: +(263 4) 730 011
Fax: +(263 4) 729 154

AGREEMENT ON THE APPLICATION OF SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES**ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**

Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Trade
P.O. Box 1550
Redcliffe Street
St. John's
Tel: +(809) 462 16 26/28, 462 15 42
Fax: +(809) 462 16 25

ARGENTINA

Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería, Pesca y Alimentación
Dirección Nacional de Mercados Agroalimentarios
Paseo Colón 922, Oficina 40
1063 Buenos Aires
Tel: +(541) 349 22 42/349 22 43
Fax: +(541) 349 22 44

AUSTRALIA

Policy and International Division
Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service
GPO Box 858
Canberra ACT 2601
Tel: +(612) 6272 4146

Fax: +(612) 6272 3678
E-mail/Internet: sps.contact@aqis.gov.au
Web site: <http://www.aqis.gov.au>

BANGLADESH

Mr. Ghulam Rahman
Joint Secretary
Ministry of Commerce
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Secretariat
Dhaka
Tel: +(8802) 83 46 65
Fax: +(8802) 86 57 41

BELIZE

The Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture
Belmopan
Tel: +(5018) 22 330
Fax: +(5018) 22 409

BOLIVIA

Dirección Nacional de Producción y Protección Agrícola
Av. Camacho No. 1471, Piso 5

La Paz
Tel: +(5912) 37 42 68/37 42 70 interno 126
Fax: +(5912) 35 75 35

BOTSWANA

The Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture
Private bag 003
Gaborone
Tel: +(267) 35 05 00/35 06 03
Fax: +(267) 35 60 27

BRAZIL

Secretaria de Defesa Agropecuária (SDA)
Ministério da Agricultura e da Reforma Agrária (MAARA)
Esplanada dos Ministérios
Bloco 'B', Anexo 'B', sala 406
Brasilia - DF - 70.170
Tel: +(5561) 218 23 14/218 23 15
Fax: +(5561) 224 39 95
E-mail/Internet: cenagri@ibict.br

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

International Relations and Trade and Development
Division
Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources
Tel: +(6732) 38 28 22
Fax: +(6732) 38 28 46/38 38 11

BULGARIA

Phytosanitary Measures:
Mr. Stefan Uzunov, *Responsible for WTO SPS Enquiries*
National Service for Plant Protection, Quarantine and
Agrochemistry
Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Land Reform
55, "Hristo Botev" Blvd.
1040-Sofia
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Functions: To develop and promote private sector participation in the implementation of plans and programmes for the prevention, control and eradication of pests and diseases which have a significant socio-economic impact on agricultural activity. At the same time, it is the body responsible for the sanitary protection of national agriculture. It has the task of proposing standards of national and regional scope to the Minister of Agriculture, in connection with monitoring, inspection, registration, control, supervision and sanitary assessment activities in the agricultural field. It also establishes sanitary rules for the import, export, marketing and internal transit of animals, plants and agricultural products and inputs.

PHILIPPINES

Policy Analysis Service

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Departament Rynku i Gield

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The Ministry of Public Health

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SENEGAL

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Direction du commerce extérieur
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Area of competence:

(a) Food safety relating to food additives, veterinary drug and pesticide residues, contaminants methods of analysis and sampling, and codes and guidelines of hygienic practice concerning international movements of meat and meat products (including canned meat), fish and fishery products, vegetables and fruits;

(b) Animal, health and zoonoses, the standards and guidelines and recommendations developed under the auspices of the International Office of Epizootics (OIE) especially concerning the international movements of animals and birds, and their products including bones and bone meal, hides and skins, hoofs, horns, hoof meal, horn meal, offal and any other product of animal origin; semen, fodder, litter, dung or any animals or birds; veterinary biologics for use on animals or birds; and simple and compounded feedstuffs for animal consumption;

(c) Plant health including phytosanitary certifications;

(d) Fish health including certifications for ornamental fish and fishery products;

(e) International movements and certifications of endangered species of fauna and flora under agreements of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

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Slovak Institute for Standardization
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