

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

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Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

Original: Spanish

IMPLEMENTATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE AGREEMENT ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

The following statement under Article 15.2 of the Agreement has been received from the delegation of Mexico.

1. The Government of Mexico accepted the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade by ratification of the Uruguay Round on 30 August 1994. As an integral part of the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization, the Agreement has become law in Mexico, following ratification and entry into force on 1 January 1995.
2. In order to ensure that the provisions of the Agreement are implemented, the Agreement was published in full in the *Diario Oficial de la Federación* (Official Journal of the Federation) on 30 December 1994. This guarantees that all Mexican Government agencies responsible for issuing and applying technical regulations, standards and procedures for assessment of conformity are aware of Mexico's obligations under the Agreement.
3. The Ministry of Trade and Industrial Development (SECOFI), which has responsibility for this sector through the National Standardization Commission, has analysed the Agreement and circulated it to its departments interested in and responsible for its application. The Commission is a national body made up of various sectors (academic, industrial, commercial and consumer groups) and by all Government agencies empowered to issue standards and technical regulations, as well as private standardization bodies. The Commission is responsible for drawing up standardization policies and coordinating the action of the various Mexican departments relating to standards, as well as preparing the National Standardization Programme.
4. Each year the National Standardization Commission draws up an Annual Standardization Programme, with the areas and sectors that each department wishes to regulate. This programme is published in the Official Journal; information and access for participation is open to all interested parties. SECOFI is responsible for notifying this Programme to the WTO Members, as it has been doing in the framework of the Tokyo Round Code on Technical Barriers to Trade, independently of the individual notification of draft technical regulations and standards.
5. The regulations and standards are drawn up through Committees in which all national and foreign interested parties participate, and the drafts are published in the Official Journal of Mexico. The period laid down by the Federal Law of Metrology and Standardization for receiving comments on the drafts is 90 days. In the case of voluntary standards, only the title of the standard is published in the Official Journal, while the full text is made known to the general public by a variety of means, such as specialized magazines, periodicals etc., and is made available upon request.

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6. The contact point for holding consultations under the Agreement, and inquiry point concerning technical regulations, standards and procedures for assessment of conformity in Mexico is the SECOFI Directorate-General of Standards, at the following address:

Dirección General de Normas
Secretaría de Comercio y Fomento Industrial
Avenida Puente de Tecamachalco
Naucalpan de Jaárez
53950 Estado de México
Mexico

7. The final adoption of technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures is the responsibility of the Mexican Government through the bodies having specific powers and competence in the various subjects. They are aware of Mexico's commitments and obligations under the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, including those relating to notification.

8. In Mexico, voluntary standards are drawn up through the same procedures as technical regulations (known in Mexico as Mexican Official Standards); that is to say, the requirements are observed of ensuring broad participation in their drafting, publication and dissemination prior to their entry into force, and provision of a period for public consultation concerning them. Voluntary standards are drawn up and issued by the national standardization bodies, which are private non-profit-making entities (the Directorate-General of Standards publishes Mexican standards when there is no specific standardization body for the sector). These bodies ensure the representation in all respects of their sectors of activity and are accredited by SECOFI for this purpose; accreditation is carried out in accordance with procedures established in international standards.