

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

Original: English

IMPLEMENTATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE AGREEMENT
ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

Revision

Communication from Norway

The following Statement under Article 15.2 of the Agreement has been received from the delegation of Norway.

1. The WTO TBT Agreement has been adopted by the Norwegian Parliament, which means that the agreement is directly binding for Norwegian regulatory authorities. Since the WTO Agreement is an agreement between states, having no direct effect on citizens or economic operators, no further regulatory measures are needed or envisaged.

A seminar on the notification obligations under the TBT Agreement, including general information of the Agreement, was held in December 1996 under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with participation from notifying authorities and other parties concerned.

2. The general responsibility for the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade resides with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Any questions concerning the application and administration of the Agreement as well as requests for consultation should therefore be addressed to this ministry. Its address is:

Det Kgl. Utenriksdepartement
(*The Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs*)
Postboks 8114 DEP.
N-0032 OSLO
Norway

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is also - by way of contact point - responsible for the notification to the WTO Secretariat of national technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures under Articles 2.9.2 and 5.6.2 on behalf of the national competent authorities.

3. A period of 60 (minimum) to 90 days is normally allowed for making comments on the adoption of technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures.

4. Enquiry point for questions concerning technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures, etc. according to Article 10.1 of the Agreement, is The National Standards Association (NSF). The procedure is fully implemented and has been operational since the entering into force of the Agreement. Enquiries and requests for documentation should be addressed to:

Norges Standardiseringsforbund (NSF)
(*The Norwegian Standards Association*)
Postboks 353 Skøyen
0212 Oslo

Telephone: + (47 22) 04 92 00
Fax: + (47 22) 04 92 11

5. All standardization work is carried out by non-governmental, private institutions, each responsible for standardization within its specific field of activity (construction, telecom, information technology, etc.). NSF is the central body for standardization matters in Norway, being responsible - among other things - for coordination of standardization work between the national standardization bodies and vis-à-vis the relevant authorities.

6. Norway attaches great importance to the Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards in Annex 3 of the Agreement. The following national standardization bodies have accepted the Code:

Norges Standardiseringsforbund (NSF)
(*The Norwegian Standards Association*)
Postboks 353 Skøyen
0212 Oslo

Telephone: + (47 22) 04 92 00
Fax: + (47 22) 04 92 11

Norsk Elektroteknisk Komité (NEK)
(*The Norwegian Electrotechnical Committee*)
Postboks 280 Skøyen
0210 Oslo

Telephone: + (47 22) 52 69 50
Fax: + (47 22) 52 69 61

These two bodies account for nearly all standardization work done in Norway, with the exception of standardization in the telecommunications field. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has asked the standardization body in this field to notify its acceptance of the Code to the WTO Secretariat. Notification by this body is expected to follow shortly.