

IMPLEMENTATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE AGREEMENT
ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

Addendum

The following Statement under Article 15, paragraph 2 of the Agreement has been received from the delegation of Bulgaria.

1. The Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization and its integral part, the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, after having been ratified by law, accepted by the National Assembly on 24 October 1996, published by President's Decree No. 380/29.10.1996 in State Gazette No. 93/01.11.1996, have come into force for the Republic of Bulgaria on 1 December 1996.

2. The implementation and administration of the TBT Agreement is based on existing legislative acts:

- Law on Standardization of 19 June 1964, as last amended in 1996;
- Regulation for implementation of the Law on Standardization of 15 June 1973, as last amended in 1993;
- Regulation No. 121 of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria of 3 July 1992 for determination of basic functions and tasks of the Committee for Standardization and Metrology, as amended by Regulation No. 183/25.09.1995, assigning the Committee for Standardization and Metrology with functions for WTO/TBT Enquiry Point;
- Ordinance No. 1 of the Committee for Standardization and Metrology of 6 January 1997 on application of European and International Standards in the Republic of Bulgaria;
- Ordinance No. 2 of the Committee for Standardization and Metrology of 6 August 1991 on Technical Committees for Standardization.

3. The obligation of relevant national authorities to meet the requirements on notification procedures given by the TBT Agreement is incorporated into the draft Law on standardization and conformity assessment and draft Regulation for conformity assessment of products with the safety requirements which are now being prepared.

4. With Regulation No. 307 of 27 December 1996 on coordination and implementation of obligations of the Republic of Bulgaria as a Member of the WTO, the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria has charged the Committee for Standardization and Metrology with implementing and administration of the TBT Agreement and the Ministry of Trade and Foreign Economic Cooperation with coordination.

5. With Regulation No. 183 of the Council of Ministers of 25 September 1995, the Committee for Standardization and Metrology was appointed as National Information Center. The enquiry point is responsible for information obligation as stated in Article 10 of the TBT Agreement. The address, telephone and fax numbers of the enquiry point are as follows:

Committee for Standardization and Metrology

21, 6th September Street

1000 Sofia, Bulgaria

Tel: (+ 359 2) 85 91 (+ 359 2) 80 35 13

Fax: (+ 359 2) 801 402

Telex: 22 570 dks bg

Contact person: Violetta Veleva

6. Work proceeding on draft technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures is announced in the bulletin of the Committee for Standardization and Metrology. The texts of the adopted new technical regulations are published in the State Gazette.

7. Standards approved by the Committee for Standardization and Metrology are announced in bulletin "Standardization" of the Committee. Full texts of adopted standards are published by the Committee for Standardization and Metrology.

8. The expected length of time for presentation of comments in writing on draft technical regulations, standards or conformity assessment procedures by other WTO Members is 60 days, with exception for certain cases (depending on urgency consideration) where this period could be extended or reduced.