

**IMPLEMENTATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE AGREEMENT  
ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE**

Communication from Nicaragua

The following communication under Article 15.2 of the Agreement has been received from the delegation of Nicaragua.

1. The Ministry of Development, Industry and Trade is responsible, on behalf of the Government of Nicaragua, for the implementation of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade. Representations concerning Nicaragua's implementation of the Agreement and requests for consultations should be addressed to:

Directorate of Technology, Standardization and Metrology  
Km 6 Carretera a Masaya, Frente a Camino de Oriente

Telephone: +(505) 2 670161 ext. 1032, 1137  
Fax.: +(505) 2 672019  
E-mail: dtnm@mific.gob.ni

2. Law No. 290 on the Organization, Jurisdiction, and Procedures of the Executive Branch and its Regulations mandate the Directorate of Technology, Standardization and Metrology (DTNM) to develop the National System of Technical Standardization and Quality, the National Accreditation System and the National Metrology System as well as to implement Law No. 219 on Technical Standardization and Quality and its Regulations, and Law No. 225 on Metrology and its Regulations.

3. Under Law No. 219 on Technical Standardization and Quality and its Regulations, the DTNM's functions include acting as the Executive Secretariat of the National Committee on Standardization and Quality, which is the body responsible for:

- (a) Approving, on an annual basis, the National Standardization and Quality Programme, and coordinating and evaluating compliance;
- (b) proposing measures that it considers appropriate for the promotion of technical standardization and quality;
- (c) issuing guidelines for the organization of the technical standardization committees;
- (d) studying and approving technical standards developed by the technical standardization committees;

- (e) assigning appropriate functions to public institutions, according to their areas of competence, to ensure compliance with the technical and quality standards laid down in the corresponding regulations;
- (f) proposing such measures as are necessary to carry out the functions indicated above and those that the Committee itself may establish in the future.

4. The National Committee on Standardization and Quality, pursuant to the Regulations to Law No. 219, is composed as follows:

- 1. The Ministry of Development, Industry and Trade
- 2. The Ministry of Health
- 3. The Ministry of Construction and Transport
- 4. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
- 5. The Ministry of Labour
- 6. The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
- 7. The Nicaraguan Energy Institute
- 8. The Nicaraguan Institute of Water and Sewage Systems
- 9. The Nicaraguan Institute of Telecommunications and Postal Services
- 10. The Nicaraguan Chamber of Industry
- 11. The Nicaraguan Chamber of Commerce
- 12. The Union of Agricultural Producers of Nicaragua
- 13. The Autonomous National University of Nicaragua
- 14. A representative of the consumer organizations

5. Under Law No. 219 on Technical Standardization and Quality, there are two types of standards: Nicaraguan Mandatory Technical Standards (NTONs), which are equivalent to "Technical Regulations", and Nicaraguan Technical Standards (NTNs) which are equivalent to "Standards". The NTONs are implemented by public institutions according to their sphere of competence.

6. The Technical Standardization Department operates under the DTNM, and is responsible for coordinating the process of developing and approving technical standards, relying on the provisions governing such procedures. In addition to the internal regulations for the development and approval of standards, the Department also developed the internal regulations for the organization and operation of the National Committee on Standardization and Quality and the manual for the organization and operation of the national standardization committees.

7. The procedure for developing technical regulations begins with the convening of the entities affected by the regulations and the formation of a technical committee, which is then responsible for reviewing and approving them. Once the regulations have been approved, a national consultation takes place: the regulations are published in a newspaper with national circulation so that any Nicaraguan national may submit comments, and at the same time, notification is sent to the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade for circulation to WTO Members.

8. As regards conformity assessment procedures, the above-mentioned Law and its Regulations provide for the creation of the National Accreditation Office responsible for organizing the system of accreditation of certification bodies and for administering the national accreditation and certification system, which involves registration, inspection, and accreditation of testing, analysis and calibration laboratories and certification bodies.

9. The TBT Enquiry Point operates under the supervision of the DTNM, and serves both as the country's contact point and as the body in charge of notification. The Enquiry Point is responsible for responding to technical enquiries from other Members concerning national regulations, standards and

conformity assessment procedures, and for submitting the notifications required under the TBT Agreement. The address of Nicaragua's Enquiry Point is as follows:

Centro de Información de Obstáculos Técnicos al Comercio  
Dirección de Tecnología, Normalización y Metrología  
Km 6 Carretera Masaya  
Managua, Nicaragua

Telephone: +(505) 2670161 ext. 1130  
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