

IMPLEMENTATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE AGREEMENT ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

Communication from the Republic of Latvia

Addendum

The following Statement under Article 15.2 of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade has been received from the Republic of Latvia.

1. The Agreement establishing the World Trade Organization and its integral part, the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (hereinafter referred to as the TBT Agreement), after having been accepted by the Saeima (Parliament) and signed by the President, came into force on 11 February 1999. The full text of the Agreement establishing the World Trade Organization was published in the Official Journal "Latvijas Vēstnesis" No. 388 of 30 December 1998.

2. Quality Assurance National program was accepted in 1994 as one of the priority programmes for the development of the National economy of Latvia. The objective of the programme is to develop legislation and infrastructure for conformity assessment and quality assurance in Latvia according to the international requirements.

3. The process of implementation and administration of the TBT Agreement is supported by the following legislative acts in existence, that came into force before Latvia's accession to the WTO:

- Law "On Conformity Assessment", August 20th, 1996 (published in the Official Journal "Latvijas Vēstnesis" No. 139 of 20 August 1996);
 - Law "On Consumer Protection", October 28th, 1992 (new draft law "On the Protection of Consumer Rights" is under acceptance in the Parliament at present) (published in the Official Journal "Saeimas un Ministru kabineta Ziņotājs" No. 46 of 3 December 1992);
 - Law "On the Safety of Products, Services and Liability of Producer, Service Supplier", September 26th, 1996 (published in the Official Journal "Latvijas Vēstnesis" No. 168 of 8 October 1996);
 - Law "On Standardisation", October 14th, 1998 (published in the Official Journal "Latvijas Vēstnesis" No. 317 of 28 October 1998).
- The Regulations No. 465 of the 24th December 1996 "Arrangements for Accreditation of Testing and Calibration Laboratories, Certification Bodies and Inspection Bodies";
 - The Regulations No. 463 of the 24th December 1996 "On the Authorization of Testing and Calibration Laboratories, Certification and Inspection Bodies in the Mandatory Area"; and

- The Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 464 of the 24th December 1996 “On Procedure of Recognition in the Republic of Latvia of Conformity Assurances and Approval Issued Abroad in Mandatory Area” are specifying the order of conformity assessment in Latvia. Due to the principles of conformity assessment defined by the regulations mentioned above, specific regulations for different branches have been developed to implement applicable International and European legislation and requirements.
- The obligation of relevant national authorities to meet the requirements of notification procedures of the TBT Agreement is incorporated into the Ordinance of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 12 accepted on 28th October, 1997 (published in the Official Journal “Latvijas Vēstnesis” No. 286 dated 31 November 1997). According to this Ordinance the Ministry of Economy is the responsible institution for implementation of the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade.

4. A period of two months is normally allowed for making comments on the adoption of technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures.

5. Name and address of the Enquiry Point is as follows:

The Ministry of Economy
Republic of Latvia
Department of Quality Management
and Structure Development
World Trade Organization Information Division
55 Brivibas Str.
Riga, LV-1519
LATVIA
Telephone: +371 7 01 31 97
+371 7 01 32 36
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6. Activities related to national standardization are performed by the “Latvian Standards Ltd” (LVS) which is the main body for standardization matters in Latvia. LVS is an affiliated member of the European Standardization Committee (CEN) and corresponding member of the International Standardization Organization (ISO). LVS has accepted the Code of Good Practice for Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards in Annex 3 of the Agreement. Its address is:

Latvian Standards Ltd.
157, Kr. Valdemara street
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