

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

G/TBT/2/Add.18

29 August 1996

(96-3065)

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 Colombia.

1. On 24 June 1996, the Government adopted Decree No. 1112 "Establishing a National Enquiry Point on Standardization Measures and Procedures for Assessment of Conformity".

2. This National Enquiry Point will centralize information in Colombia on technical standards, technical regulations and procedures for assessing conformity, and will be responsible for implementing the TBT Agreement.

3. The Division of Standardization and Quality under the authority of the Ministry of Economic Development will be responsible for representing and coordinating the Enquiry Point. The Division will carry out the following activities:

- (a) Centralize information on technical standards, technical regulations and procedures for assessment of conformity;
- (b) provide relevant information to any person requesting it;
- (c) pursuant to the provisions of international trade agreements, notify the competent bodies of matters related to the adoption of technical standards, technical regulations and procedures for assessment of conformity;
- (d) receive and take up with the competent national and international bodies any questions related to standardization measures and procedures for assessment of conformity submitted to Colombia pursuant to the international trade agreements it has signed.

4. As far as notification is concerned, the Decree prescribes the following:

Competent bodies shall inform the Division of Standardization and Quality of the Ministry of Economic Development of any draft technical standards, technical regulations and procedures for assessment of conformity that they wish to adopt. The Division shall then transmit this information to the competent bodies of the international trade agreements at the latest 10 days following receipt of the notification.

./.

Draft standards shall be published in the Official Journal of the Ministry of Economic Development.

The bodies concerned may not put the proposed measure into effect before sixty five (65) days have elapsed after the official notification to the competent body of the international agreement, in this particular case, the WTO Secretariat.

If urgent problems of safety, environmental protection or national security arise or threaten to arise, urgent or emergency technical regulations may be adopted. These shall be notified as soon as possible to the WTO Secretariat.

5. The National Enquiry Point for Colombia is:

Ministerio de Desarrollo Económico (Ministry of Economic Development)
División de Normalización y Calidad (Division of Standardization and Quality)

Address: Carrera 13 No. 28-01. Piso 8
Telephone: (57 1) 338 06 41
Telefax: (57 1) 245 72 56
Santafé de Bogotá

6. In addition, for your information, on 27 October 1995 the Colombian Institute of Technical Standards (*Instituto Colombiano de Normas Técnicas (ICONTEC)*) notified the acceptance of the Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards.