

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

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Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

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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 Bahrain.

1. The Government of Bahrain is in the process of forming a national committee to deal with and to coordinate all matters relating to the Agreements under the WTO including the implementation of the TBT Agreement.
2. Bahrain's national standards are mandatory, whereas technical regulations usually pertaining to government departments do not enjoy national status until they are adopted as national standards.
3. Almost all Bahraini standards are an adoption of Gulf standards developed by the GCC Standardization and Metrology Organization.
4. Bahraini standards are published in the official Gazette and normally come into effect after a period of six months.
5. All government departments which develop technical regulations, although for internal use, are to be notified of the Agreement. They are asked to inform the Directorate of Standards and Metrology (SMD) about these regulations.
6. The Directorate of Standards and Metrology - Ministry of Commerce is the enquiry point. It prepares and publishes notifications in the official gazette as well as the SMD bulletin. Its address is:

Directorate of Standards and Metrology
Ministry of Commerce
P.O. Box 5479
Manama
Bahrain

7. The Directorate of Foreign Trade Relations - Ministry of Commerce is the consultation point under the Agreement.
8. Draft standards developed on the national and regional levels are to be published in the Official Gazette and SMD bulletin.