

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 New Zealand.

1. New Zealand was a Party to the Tokyo Round Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) from 1980. The TBT Agreement, as revised in the Uruguay Round, has required limited implementation adjustments. Measures taken to ensure implementation include: the circulation of the text of the Agreement in the White Paper published by the New Zealand Government on the GATT Negotiations; and the informing of all government departments and other bodies associated with standards (including by special seminars convened for the purpose and the publication of a special information journal) of New Zealand's accession to the Agreement and of the need to comply with its provisions.

2. For the setting of standards and accreditation of laboratories, the New Zealand Government recognizes two principal non-governmental organizations. As the primary standards writing body, Standards New Zealand has broad national authority in the industrial standards setting area and has responsibility for product and quality system certifications. Established in 1932, it is an independent Crown entity, and a member body of ISO, IEC and the Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC). Telarc New Zealand is responsible for the accreditation of laboratories undertaking tests, measurements, calibration and related services. It promotes international technical and quality management standards in New Zealand's industrial, scientific, commercial, regulatory, health care and administrative sectors.

3. Both Standards New Zealand and Telarc operate under government legislation. The former is governed by the Standards Council under the Standards Act 1988, with its activities defined by a series of service contracts with Crown agencies. Telarc operates under the Testing Laboratory Registration Act 1972 and is obliged annually to provide a "Statement of Intent" to the Minister of Commerce. Both bodies are required to ensure that their practices conform with the Articles of the TBT Agreement.

4. Notices of technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures are published in two gazettes. The annual New Zealand Standards Catalogue lists regulations /standards currently in use, and the Standards New Zealand Journal provides a monthly update of new ones. Such information is also published in national newspapers, in-house trade journals, and other publications.

5. In conformity with the TBT Agreement, a period of 60 days is generally provided for the submission of other members' comments on the adoption of technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures. This timing may vary depending on urgency considerations.

6. The New Zealand Enquiry Point/Notification Authority is situated within Standards New Zealand. This is the central point for the execution of all notifications under the Agreement, and initial point of contact for enquiries from other members. The address for enquiries is:

Director  
WTO Enquiry Point  
Standards New Zealand  
Private Bag 2439  
Wellington 6020  
New Zealand

Tel: 00 64 4 498/5992

Fax: 00 64 4 498/5994