

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

Original: English

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 Macau.

1. As a result of the administrative constraints of a small economic entity, Macau does not maintain its own system of standardization, therefore its standardization policy, testing and type approval are highly pragmatic. Nevertheless, both international and national standards required by major importing countries are observed, for that purpose.
2. To promote the general awareness, the Agreement had been published in the Macau Official Gazette, as an integral part of the WTO Agreement. Subsequent to gazetting in Portuguese version¹, the Agreement was incorporated into the legal system of Macau and no further legislation was implemented on such issue.
3. Macau does not maintain any legal requirements both with respect to notices or (length of time for) comments on proposed regulations. Nevertheless, most trade-related legislation is customarily subject to hearing by the Economic Council and forwarded afterward to the Consultative Council, involving both the public and private sectors, for appraisal. The Legislative Assembly has the role of an open forum for discussion on legislative matters, namely the drafts on proposed regulations and is empowered to enact complementary laws upon them, when necessary.
4. The Government is the competent authority for the enforcement of the obligations and adoption of standardization and related activities under the Agreement. The Macau Economic Services as the main administrative unit involved in the preparation and implementation of trade-related policies, observe the compliance with the technical regulations and standards along with other government departments.
5. The Macau Economic Services are also the coordinating unit for WTO-related matters and act both as the enquiry and the consultation points under the Agreement. The address and contact number are as follows:

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¹On 26 February 1996, in Macau Government Gazette, 1st Series, No.9, by Governor's Decision No.9/GM/96.