

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

Original: English

IMPLEMENTATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE AGREEMENT  
ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

Communication from Mauritius

The following communication under Article 15.2 of the Agreement has been received from the delegation of Mauritius.

1. The Mauritius Standards Bureau (MSB) was set up in 1975 under the Standards Act to oversee all standardization activities in Mauritius including metrology and calibration services, standardization (standards development and implementation), testing and quality assurance together with dissemination of information. The Standards Act 1975 was replaced by the Mauritius Standards Bureau Act in 1993, a copy of which is annexed. The revised legislation transformed the MSB into a corporate body. The MSB is not a regulatory body.

2. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade is the coordinating body for WTO matters. The Trade Policy Unit within the Ministry is responsible for the follow-up, monitoring and implementation of all WTO provisions. Furthermore, a WTO Standing Coordination Committee comprising representatives from relevant Ministries and Organizations, both public and private, oversees the overall implementation of the WTO Agreement. The Trade Policy Unit and the MSB work in close liaison and collaboration to ensure that the provisions of the TBT Agreement are applied.

3. The MSB announces draft Mauritian standards which are published in the Government Gazette. A few other Ministries/Organizations are involved in the preparation and issuance/implementation of specific technical regulations: the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life; the Ministry of Land, Transport, Shipping and Public Safety; the Ministry of Local Government and Environment; the Ministry of Industry and Commerce; the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Cooperatives; the Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology and the Telecommunications Authority. Legal Metrology services are offered by the Legal Metrology Division of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. Announcements of technical regulations made by other relevant Ministries under their appropriate Acts are likewise published in the Government Gazette.

4. The expected length of time for submitting comments in writing on draft standards is currently 30 days but this is to be modified to 60 days.

5. The MSB has been designated as the WTO-TBT Enquiry Point for Mauritius. Its address is as follows:

Mauritius Standards Bureau  
Moka  
Telephone: + 230 / 4333648  
Telefax: + 230 / 4335051/5150

6. The Trade Policy Unit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade will be responsible for submitting all notifications to the WTO via the Mauritius Mission in Geneva.