

**IMPLEMENTATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE AGREEMENT
ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE**

Communication from the Dominican Republic

Addendum

Pursuant to Article 15.2 of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, all the state agencies and national authorities of the Dominican Republic wish to inform the Committee of the measures in force or taken to ensure the implementation and administration of the Agreement. The Committee will also be notified of any subsequent modification.

I. LAWS AND REGULATIONS

1. The Dominican Republic ratified the WTO Agreements on 9 March 1995 after the Congress had approved the Marrakesh Agreement by Decree No. 2-95 of 20 January 1995. Accordingly, by virtue of being international treaties, the WTO Agreements take precedence over the domestic laws and may be invoked before the country's courts. Consequently, there is no need in the Dominican Republic for special legislation to implement the Agreement. All the state agencies of the Dominican Republic and the national authorities responsible for the implementation and administration of technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures have received copies of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade and have been duly informed of the obligations arising from it. On 23 January 2003 there was established, under Decree No. 58-03, the National Committee for the implementation of the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, which is responsible for ensuring the administration and implementation of the Agreement.

2. The Directorate-General of Standards and Quality Systems of the Dominican Republic is a legal body set up under Law No. 602 of 20 May 1977, which established a system to standardize the preparation of quality standards that will serve as a basis for the production of domestic goods. The preparatory process is covered by regulations under the Law.

II. TRANSPARENCY

3. The technical regulations of the Dominican Republic are published in a national newspaper. During the preparatory stages (preliminary draft) a period of 60 days, beginning from the notification, is established for the formulation of comments in writing.

4. The announcement of the entry into force of a technical regulation is only published in national newspapers.

5. All the technical regulations that were drawn up before 1995 are available and may be obtained through the enquiry point.

III. INSTITUTIONS

6. The enquiry points, as mentioned in Article 10, paragraphs 1 and 3, of the Agreement is:

Comité Nacional para la aplicación del Acuerdo para las Medidas Sanitarias y Fitosanitarias y del Acuerdo sobre Obstáculos Técnicos al Comercio,
Secretaría de Estado de Relaciones Exteriores,
Ave. Independencia 752. Santo Domingo, Rep. Dom.
Embajador Julián de la Rosa.

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The National Committee for the implementation of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade has general responsibility for ensuring the fulfilment of the obligations deriving from the Agreement.

7. The government departments which adopt technical regulations in the Dominican Republic are:

- Directorate-General of Standards and Quality Systems (DIGENOR)
- Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources
- Ministry of Public Works and Communications

In accordance with Article 10.11 of the WTO Agreement, the institution which has responsibility for notification procedures is:

Comité Nacional para la aplicación del Acuerdo para las Medidas Sanitarias y Fitosanitarias y del Acuerdo sobre Obstáculos Técnicos al Comercio.
Secretaría de Estado de Relaciones Exteriores.
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