

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

Original: English

IMPLEMENTATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE AGREEMENT ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

Communication from the State of Qatar

Addendum

The following communication, dated 22 February 2006, has been received from the delegation of the State of Qatar.

1. Pursuant to Article 15.2 of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, the State of Qatar submits to the TBT Committee measures taken in respect of the implementation and administration of the Agreement.

I. TRANSPARENCY

A. GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY

2. Qatar General Organization for Standards and Metrology (QS) has the overall responsibility for ensuring that obligations under the Agreement are fulfilled.

B. ENQUIRY POINT AND NOTIFICATION POINT

3. Qatar General Organization for Standards and Metrology (QS) is the enquiry point foreseen in Article 10.1 of the TBT Agreement.

The address, telephone and fax numbers are as follows:

TBT Enquiry Point
Qatar General Organization for Standards and Metrology (QS)
P.O. Box: 23277
Doha - Qatar

Tel: (+974) 44 08 518
Direct: (+974) 44 78 912
Mobile: (+974) 58 48 019
Fax: (+974) 44 78 508
E-mail: standard@qatar.net.qa

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4. Qatar General Organization for Standards and Metrology (QS) performs notifications procedures of technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures as well as information exchange in accordance with Article 10.

C. PUBLICATIONS

5. Notifications of draft technical regulations are sent to WTO secretariat in accordance with Articles 2.9.2 , 2.10.1 , 5.6.2 and 5.7.1 of the Agreement.

6. Technical regulations (standards made mandatory) are approved by the Head of the Board of Directors (Minister of Economy and Commerce) and are announced in the gazette and in the bulletin of Qatar General Organization for Standards and Metrology (QS). Texts of technical regulations and standards are available in the information center of the Qatar General Organization for Standards and Metrology (QS), which can be obtained from the enquiry point.

7. Messages issued by Qatar General Organization for Standards and Metrology (QS) can be obtained from the enquiry point.

D. TIME

8. A period of at least 60 days is allowed for presentation of comments in writing on technical regulations, standards or procedures for assessment of conformity under Articles 2.9.4 and 2.10.3; 3.1 (in relation to 2.9.4 and 2.10.3); 5.6.4 and 5.7.3; 7.1, 8.1 and 9.2 (in relation to 5.6.4 and 5.7.3); and paragraph L of Annex 3 of the Agreement. This period may, however, be shortened in cases where urgent problems of safety, health or environment arise or threaten to arise.

II. RELATIVE LAWS AND REGULATIONS

The process of implementation and administration of the TBT is supported by the following laws:

- Law number (4) of the year 1990; concerning the system of standards and metrology in Qatar and its amendment law number (2) of the year 1992. (Available upon request, in Arabic).
 - Law number (16) of the year 2002; concerning the establishing of the Qatar General Organization for Standards and Metrology (QS). (Available upon request, in Arabic and in English).
 - Law number (8) of the year 1990; concerning the arrangement control of human food in Qatar. (Available upon request, in Arabic).
 - State of Qatar has accepted the code of good practice for preparation, adoption and application of standards.
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