

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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2 August 2007

(07-3316)

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

Original: English

IMPLEMENTATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE AGREEMENT ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

Communication from Malawi

Addendum

The following communication under Article 15.2 of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade has been received from the Government of Malawi.

1. In accordance with Article 15.2 of the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and considering the decision of the TBT Committee of 14 July 1995 concerning the statement on Implementation and administration as contained in document G/TBT/1/Rev.8 of 23 May 2002, the Government of the Republic of Malawi accepted the Agreement Establishing the WTO, the TBT Agreement and associated Legal Instruments included in Annexes 1, 2 and 3.

2. The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Private Sector Development is the coordinating body/agency for the implementation of Malawi's obligations under the WTO Agreement on TBT and has the overall responsibility of ensuring that the obligations under the agreements are fulfilled.

3. The contact address is:

Ministry of Industry, Trade and Private Sector Development
3rd Floor, Gemini House
P.O. Box 30366
Capital City
Lilongwe 3
Malawi
Tel: +(265) 1 770 244
Fax: +(265) 1 770 680
Email: minci@malawi.net

4. The Trade Section within the Ministry is responsible for the follow-up monitoring and implementation of the TBT provisions. Furthermore, a National TBT Coordinating Committee comprising representatives from relevant ministries and organizations, both public and private, oversees the overall implementation of the TBT Agreement. The Trade Section and the Malawi Bureau of Standards work in close liaison and collaboration to ensure that the provisions of the TBT Agreement are applied.

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5. The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Private Sector Development is the National Notification Authority.

6. The Malawi Bureau of Standards (the National Standards Body) is the designated National Enquiry Point for the WTO-TBT Agreement. Its contact address is:

Director General
Malawi Bureau of Standards
P.O. Box 946
Blantyre
Malawi
Tel: +(265) 1 870 488
Fax: +(265) 1 870 756
Email: mbs@mbsmw.org
info@mbsmw.org

7. The Malawi Bureau of Standards (MBS) is a statutory organization established by an Act of Parliament Chapter 51:02 in 1972. It is charged with the preparation and promulgation of national standards with a view to helping the local industry to produce quality products and services, hence enabling them to compete effectively in the global market. The work of the MBS in standards development and conformity assessment is geared so as to enable local companies meet quality requirements of buyers at home and abroad.

8. The MBS publishes an "MBS Standards Work Programme" every six months which contains a list of standardization projects under development and is available to all interested parties free of charge.

9. The MBS accepted and complies with the provisions of the Code of Good Practice for the formulation of standards (Annex 3 of the TBT Agreement). The standards development process involves the following stages:

- Needs Identification
- Draft proposal stage
- Technical Committee State (consensus based decisions)
- Public enquiry stage (60 days)
- Divisional Committee stage (a higher technical stage including academia – decisions are consensus based)
- Standards Policy Advisory Committee stage (considers policy issues regarding standards implementation)
- Approval stage (by the Malawi Standards Board)

10. Standards developed by the MBS are either for voluntary application (voluntary standards) or for mandatory application (mandatory standards). Mandatory standards (technical regulations) are implemented through provisions published as ministerial orders or regulations issued by the relevant government ministry.

11. Notices concerning standards and technical regulations developed, issued or adopted by the MBS and other relevant government bodies are published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Malawi.
