

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

ATTACHMENTS TO TBT NOTIFICATIONS

Note by the Secretariat¹

1. At the Fourth Triennial Review of the TBT Agreement, concluded on 9 November 2006, the TBT Committee agreed, with respect to texts of notified technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures, to explore ways to attach to the notification form a copy of the text of the notified measure.²
2. At the Fifth Special Meeting on Information Exchange, held on 7-8 November 2007, Members emphasized the importance of access to full texts of notified documents and noted that hyperlinks in the notification format that linked directly to the notified text could greatly facilitate Members' work and reduced the number of enquiries to the Enquiry Point. At its meeting on 9 November 2007, the Committee decided to establish a facility whereby Members may, on a voluntary basis, provide the WTO Secretariat with an electronic version of the notified draft text (attachment) together with the notification format. This text will be stored on a WTO server and accessed through a hyperlink in the notification format.
3. The mechanism is voluntary in nature. The purpose is to facilitate access to notified draft texts. Information about the provision, storage and language of attachments to TBT notifications is contained in the Annex to this document.³

¹ This document has been prepared under the Secretariat's own responsibility and is without prejudice to the positions of Members or to their rights or obligations under the WTO.

² G/TBT/19, para. 68.

³ For further assistance Members may wish to contact Mrs. Una Flanagan at the Trade and Environment Division (una.flanagan@wto.org).

ANNEX

Attachments submitted together with WTO TBT Notifications **Guidelines**

1. General

- (a) An "attachment" is a draft regulatory text (full text) or a translation thereof referred to in a WTO TBT notification
- (b) An attachment will not be considered as a WTO document
- (c) The Secretariat cannot be held responsible for the content of attachments

2. Provision of attachments to the WTO

- (a) Attachments shall be provided electronically in conjunction with the corresponding WTO TBT notification
- (b) Attachments will not be scanned by the WTO Secretariat if submitted in hard copy
- (c) Attachments shall be provided in PDF format only. Notifications shall continue to be submitted in Word
- (d) Individual attachments shall not exceed 4MB in size; multiple attachments may be provided

3. Storage of attachments

- (a) Attachments will be stored on a WTO central server
- (b) Attachments stored on the WTO central server will be viewable online by clicking on the hyperlink in the notification form
- (c) Attachments can also be saved directly by the user
- (d) Attachments will not be circulated in hard copy form

4. Language of attachments

- (a) Attachments may be provided in their original language
 - (b) If available, Members may also provide translations
 - (c) Attachments will not be translated by the Secretariat
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