



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

COMMUNICATION FROM LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Addendum

The following statement under Article 15.2 of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade has been received from Lao People's Democratic Republic.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. Pursuant to Article 15.2 of the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement) and Lao PDR's commitments in paragraph 115 to 125 of the Report of the Working Party on the Accession of Lao PDR, the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic would like to inform the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade of the following measures which have been in existence or taken to ensure the implementation and administration of the TBT Agreement.

2 CONSISTENCY OF LAO PDR'S TECHNICAL REGULATIONS, STANDARDS AND CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES WITH THE TBT AGREEMENT

2.1. Lao PDR's technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures will be formulated and adopted to fulfil those legitimate objectives which are in line with the TBT Agreement and the Lao PDR's Law on Standardization built upon key provisions of the TBT Agreement by setting out the framework for standards (Articles 19 and 21), technical regulations (Articles 28 and 29), and conformity assessment procedures (Part V). Specific principles of the agreement has also been covered, including non-discrimination (Articles 6 and 44), avoiding unnecessary barriers to trade (Article 6), transparency (Articles 21, 22, 27 to 30 and 47), harmonization with international standards (Articles 7, 19 and 44); and the concepts of equivalence and mutual recognition. According to Article 20 of the Law, all standards were voluntary, and the implementation of the law has been accompanied by more detailed legislation as per the action plan (WT/ACC/LAO/14/Rev.7) which include its implementation decree, Regulation on the Control on Production, Export-Imported Safe Food, Regulation the Basic Principles in the Application of Sanitary and Technical Measures for the Food Safety Management, Regulation on Quality Inspection of Goods, Regulation on Labelling of Pre-packaged Food, Regulation on Organization and Activities of Central Technical Committee, Decision on the Organization and Activities of the National Standards Council, and also supplemented by the Law on Metrology.

2.2. Lao PDR's technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures shall ensure transparency, publicity and non-discrimination, so as not to cause unnecessary obstacles to production, trade and commercial activities.

3 TRANSPARENCY

3.1 NATIONAL NOTIFICATION AUTHORITY AND ENQUIRY POINT

3.1. As stated in Paragraph 120 of the Report of the Working Party on the Accession of Lao PDR to the WTO, Lao PDR set up the SPS and TBT Notification Unit and TBT Enquiry Point, which became operational on 22 February 2013. The SPS and TBT Notification Unit is under the Foreign Trade Policy Department, Ministry Of Industry and Commerce. The TBT Enquiry Point is under the standards Division, Department of Standardization and Metrology, Ministry of Science and Technology.

3.2. The address of the SPS and TBT Notification; and TBT Enquiry Point is:

Lao PDR SPS and TBT Notification Unit
Foreign Trade Policy Department
Ministry of Industry and Commerce
P.O. Box 4107, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR
Tel: +856 21 450 065
Fax: +856 21 450 066
Email: sps_tbt_notification@laoftpd.com
Website: <http://www.laoftpd.com>

Lao PDR TBT Enquiry Point
Department of Standardization and Metrology
Ministry of Science and Technology
P.O. Box 2279
Vientiane, Lao PDR
Tel: +856 21732093
Fax: +85621732093
Email: tbtinquiries@laotradeportal.gov.la
Website: <http://www.laotradeportal.gov.la>

3.3. As mentioned in paragraphs 118 and 120, for the purpose of greater transparency and predictability, Lao PDR has established the TBT Network including TBT points in the concerned ministries and local authorities by Ministerial Decision No. 1199/NAST-PMO "On the Organization and Operation of Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Enquiry Point (EP)" of 22 June 2011. This network supports the Notification Authority and Enquiry Point in dealing with the obligations of TBT notifications and enquiries under the TBT Agreement.

3.2 COMMENTS

3.4. When formulating technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures, Lao PDR will give non-discriminatory consideration to comments from the concerned organizations and individuals, including those in other WTO Members.

3.5. As stated in Article 3.4 of Decree No. 363/PM "On Notification and Enquiry of Trade Related Information" provided that, before adopting a TBT measure, all interested parties, both domestic and foreign, would be allowed to submit comments on the draft measures, for a period of at least 60 days except in urgent circumstances. The Decree also stipulated that all adopted technical regulations and standards, and other TBT measures shall be published 180 days before their enforcements, except in urgent circumstances.

3.3 PUBLICATIONS

3.6. Technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures will be published by the approving technical regulation agencies (mainly line ministries) in their respective publications and websites. Those publication will also available on the website: <http://www.laotradeportal.gov.la>, and <http://www.laoftpd.com>.

3.7. National standards will be published in the annual catalogues and/or supplements thereof by SPS and TBT Notification Unit.
