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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 LIBERIA

Revision

The following communication under Article 15.2 of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, dated 21 September 2017, has been received from the delegation of Liberia.

Pursuant to Article 15.2 of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, the Government of Liberia would like to inform the Committee of the measures taken to ensure the implementation and administration of the Agreement as follows:

The obligation of relevant Liberian authorities to meet the requirements on notification and enquiry procedures given by TBT Agreement have been incorporated into act MCI/NO.001/09/2015 establishing the Enquiry and Notification point at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Contact points have been established at the Ministries, Agencies and Private Institutions which may enact technical regulations to ensure functioning of the notification procedures and to provide for functioning of Enquiry Point.

Presidential executive order 74 of 10 December 2015, mandates that all Ministries, Agencies and Private Institutions mentioned in Liberia's WTO post-accession plan are to timely and fully implement the activities of the plan with Ministry of Commerce and Industry coordinating the implementation process.

The Regulatory and Standard Setting Bodies of Liberia which include Ministries and Agencies peruse policies based on international standards as developed by, but not limited to the following: the International Organization for Standardization (ISO); the International Electro-Technical Commission (IEC); the Codex Alimentarius Commission; the International Organization for Legal Metrology (OMIL); the International Bureau for Weight and Measures (BIPM); the African Regional Standard Organization (ARSO).

1 DEVELOPMENT AND APPLICATIONS OF TECHNICAL REGULATIONS AND CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES

1.1. The legal framework of the Republic of Liberia for technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures is governed by executive law, chapter 29 sec. 2 which created the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and empowered the Ministry to "execute broad powers with regard to protection to public interest and the achievement of the national goals through the establishment and enforcement of standards for commodities and trades". Draft technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures made by the Liberian government are published on the Ministry of Commerce and Industry's website: www.moci.gov.lr, and notifications are sent to the WTO.

2 STANDARDIZATION

2.1. The National Standards Body Act is being validated by stakeholders and the Law Reform Commission and it will be sent to legislature for ratification before 2018.

3 TIME ALLOWED FOR COMMENTS

3.1. The expected time limit for the submission of comments for writing on draft technical regulations, standards, and conformity assessment procedures is 60 days, with exception made in certain cases (depending on agency consideration where this period would be extended or reduced following the TBT Agreement).

3.2. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry is responsible for the implementation of the WTO agreements, and therefore, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry insures that the obligations under the WTO agreements, including TBT agreement are fulfilled. The Division of Standard of the Ministry of Commerce has been selected as the WTO TBT enquiry and notification point.

3.3. Comments on draft laws and regulations can be addressed to enquiry point and Notification Authority. Contact information:

Lasana M. Donzo
Coordinator for Standards
Bureau of Industrial Service
P. O. Box 941
Website: www.moci.gov.lr
Email: info.nep@staff.moci.gov.lr; imdono@staff.moci.gov.lr; lasanadonzo@yahoo.com
Phone no: 00231886524311/00231770302421

3.4. The enquiry point is responsible for the function of enquiries and notifications as decided by the Liberian TBT committee and it serves as the focal point for disseminating and receiving information to concerned regulatory departments and authorities on Liberia's obligations under the TBT Agreement.

4 RELEVANT LAWS/REGULATIONS

4.1. In Liberia, the application of standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment is governed by various legislation falling under various Ministries and Agencies as listed below.

Law/regulation	Section	Scope	Status
Ministry of Commerce and Industry act	29.2	Enforcement of Trade standards	In force
Ministry of Transportation act	37.3 (d)	Develop, regulate and monitor standards for vehicles	In force
General Business Law	1.2	Weight and measures	In force
Act adopting the new petroleum law	Chap. VIII section 8.3	Technical specification of products	In force
Telecommunications act of 2017	Part XI, Section 6 (a) & (b)	Certified Telecommunications equipment	In force
Ministry of Foreign Affairs act	20.6	Legal services as regard to treaties, conventions etc	In force
Ministry of Public Works act	27.2 (f)	Enforcement of construction standards	In force
Liberia Agricultural Commodity Regulatory Authority Act	Part IV, Section 45	Defining commodity standards	In force
Environmental Protection Agency Act	Part IV, sec 34-37	Enforcing environmental standards	In force
Public Health Law of Liberia	Chapter 21, Section 5	Standards on water quality	In force