Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

FOURTH ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATION OF THE AGREEMENT

Basic Document by the Secretariat

Supplement

The present document completes the information relating to the Fourth Annual Review of the Implementation and Operation of the Agreement contained in documents TBT/17 and TBT/17/Suppl.1. It supplements or replaces the relevant parts of those documents in the following sections:

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2. IMPLEMENTATION AND ADMINISTRATION

2.1 GENERAL

Brazil

The Coordination Committee which was established in April 1983 addressed itself to compliance by Brazil with its obligations under the Agreement and more specifically to notification requirements. The Coordination Committee concluded that since the few existing standards are based on international standards, the transparency requirements are being fulfilled and that furthermore, those standards are far from constituting technical barriers to trade.

Chile

The technical regulations adopted in Chile are based on international standards and do not have an impact on trade of other signatories.

Czechoslovakia

The enquiry point established in Czechoslovakia formally started its activities including information dissemination on 27 September 1983. Although the procedures have been established in Czechoslovakia to make notifications under the Agreement, no new technical regulations are in preparation or adopted which require such a notification.

Egypt

The Agreement has entered into force for Egypt on 13 November 1983.

European Economic Community

A Council Directive laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical standards and regulations was adopted in March 1983. The Directive lays down a number of internal procedures for determining a common position on the harmonization of national technical regulations and standards within the Community.

France

Pursuant to an examination of the standardization mechanism in effect in France, the need was felt to adopt measures in view of bringing the standardization programmes in France more in line with the objectives of the industry. The French authorities are also in the process of exploring ways of furthering the involvement of French standards-creating bodies in the international standardization activities.

India

The Indian Standards Institution is making administrative arrangements in order to initiate notification procedures in accordance with the provisions of Article 2.5 by the end of 1983. The Indian Standards Institution Certification Marks Act of 1952 is in the process of being
amended with the purpose of developing and adopting a new certification mark scheme that will be in conformity with the provisions of the Agreement. An exception of two years has been granted to India, under Article 12.8, to complete these procedures.

**Japan**

Amendments to parts of fifteen related laws which facilitate registration of and type approval for foreign manufacturers, entered into force on 1 August 1983. Amendments to the parts of the Fertilizer Control Law is to be effected around April 1984. Steps are taken to improve operational procedures with respect to standards and certification systems which consist of ensuring transparency, promoting the use of international standards, promoting the acceptance of foreign test data, and simplification and speeding-up of certification procedures. In addition, the Government will provide guidance to the standard-drafting and certification activities of non-governmental bodies in accordance with the set of policies and measures adopted by the Decision of 26 March 1983.

**Pakistan**

Although the notification procedures are established in Pakistan, no new technical regulations or certification systems have been proposed so far. Two lists of items under compulsory certification marking, relative to exports and to home market respectively, are available for consultation in the secretariat.

**United Kingdom**

A Memorandum of Understanding was concluded between the Government of the United Kingdom and the British Standards Institution, in which the government has expressed its intention to raise the status of standards applied in the United Kingdom by promoting the use of standards that are recognized on a wide basis. The Memorandum also encourages the BSI to create new standards that will increase the competitiveness of exports by national companies. It is also stated in the Memorandum that the BSI should play its part in harmonizing technical regulations and standards at an international level.

**United States**

A newsletter is published by the Standards Code and Information programme of the Office of Product Standards Policy in the National Bureau of Standards. Its purpose is to inform industry and other interested groups of the Government programme and available services established in support of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade.

2.2 **CONSULTATION POINTS**

2.3 PANELISTS


5. DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

Consultations under Article 14 have been sought by one Party concerning new rules of certification systems applied on certain products by another Party.

6. ACCEPTANCE, ACCESSION AND RESERVATION

6.2 ACCESSION

A draft decision on Bulgarian accession to the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade submitted by the delegation of Bulgaria was circulated in document TBT/WPB/2 of 31 March 1983. At its thirteenth and fourteenth meetings, the Committee heard statements by the observer from Bulgaria concerning his country's request for accession.

8. TRANSPARENCY

8.2 INFORMATION


9. TESTING PROCEDURES AND ACCEPTANCE OF TEST RESULTS

Czechoslovakia

A bilateral agreement has been concluded between Czechoslovakia and the Democratic Republic of Germany on testing procedures applied on traded goods. Similar bilateral agreements will also be concluded with some of the other members of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA). The aim of these agreements is mainly to avoid the duplication in testing and verifying of imported products.