The Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade was signed by New Zealand on 17 December 1979 and thus entered into force for New Zealand on 1 January 1980.

Measures taken to ensure the Agreement's implementation include: the circulation of the text of the Agreement in the White Paper published by the New Zealand Government on the outcome of the MTN; all government departments and other bodies associated with standards have been informed of New Zealand's accession to the Agreement and of the need to comply with its provisions; and the Department of Trade and Industry has been designated as the enquiry point for receiving communications.

New Zealand is an active member of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, and the Food Standards Committee (a committee set up to advise the Minister of Health on New Zealand food law) is currently reviewing Codex standards with a view to incorporating them into New Zealand legislation as far as is appropriate. New Zealand has recently accepted Codex limits for pesticide residues in food (the Food and Drug Regulations 1973, Amendment No. 4). New Zealand belongs to the International Plant Protection Convention administered by FAO and the International Organisation for Epizootics which attempt to prevent the spread of animal and plant diseases with an agreed framework for international trade in plants and animals and in the field of industrial standards New Zealand actively participates in the ISO, IEC, ISONET and is also a member of ILAC.

The "New Zealand Gazette" is the main source of information for standards in the health, agriculture and industrial fields. Thus on proposed new industrial standards drafts for comment are notified in the Gazette. A minimum period of three weeks (more usually at least one month) is allowed for the receipt of comments. The time available for comments from overseas is the same as that available to parties commenting in New Zealand.
In the health (food) and agricultural fields however procedures are a little different. Where a standard is being proposed, current practice is for the Secretary of the Food Standards Committee to request information and/or comments from New Zealand manufacturers and producers together with notifying posts in Wellington of those countries which export the food to New Zealand. Once comments are received draft regulations are sent to the Minister and following approval by Government it is notified in the Gazette. In the agricultural field, animal remedies and agricultural chemicals are only licensed or registered on request so no prior notification is possible. Licences granted for animal remedies are however subsequently notified in the Gazette. The licensing or registration applies to a specific product being manufactured or distributed by a specific company or agent in New Zealand.

The "Enquiry Point" established in New Zealand for the purposes of the Agreement is:

The Department of Trade and Industry
Private Bag
Wellington
New Zealand

Signatories wishing to consult on matters relating to the operation of the Agreement should communicate in writing with the Enquiry Point or with the Permanent Delegation of New Zealand in Geneva.

Apart from the Department of Trade and Industry, other agencies having functions under the Agreement are:

The Standards Association of New Zealand (Industrial Standards)
World Trade Center
15/23 Sturdee Street
Wellington 1
New Zealand.

Telarc (Testing Laboratories)
272 Parnell Road
Parnell
Auckland 1
New Zealand.

Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries (Technical regulations for animals and animal remedies, agricultural chemicals and plants.)
Private Bag
Wellington
New Zealand.
Department of Health
Private Bag
Wellington
New Zealand.

Names for consideration for work on Panels set up under the Agreement are being forwarded to the Chairman of the Committee.