

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

TBT/Notif.92.152

7 July 1992

Special Distribution

TARIFFS AND TRADE

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

NOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.4.

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| 1. Party to Agreement notifying: <u>FINLAND</u> |
| 2. Agency responsible: Ministry of the Environment |
| 3. Notified under Article 2.5.2 [X], 2.6.1 [], 7.3.2 [], 7.4.1 [], other: |
| 4. Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading):
Public building, commercial and service building in architectural design |
| 5. Title: F1 The Building Code of Finland; Freely Accessible Building, Regulations and Guidelines 1993 (available in Finnish and English, 16 pages) |
| 6. Description of content: In connection with the so-called partial revision of the Building Act an amendment was made to decree paragraph 85a of the buildings decree. This amendment, which came into force on 1 January 1990, revised the existing 1973 provisions concerning consideration at the construction stage, of the accessibility of public buildings to handicapped persons. The amendment to paragraph 85a pertains to both new buildings and buildings under repair and now reads as follows:

Public corporation administrative and service buildings and such commercial and service premises as well as the sites and locations of such buildings, and which, with regard to equality, must be equally accessible to everyone, shall also consider the needs of such persons whose movement, ability or orientation is restricted as result of age, injury or sickness.

The proposal to revise part F1 of the provisions has been made almost equivalent to the structure of previous norms, but is wider in content. On the basis of the revision of paragraph 85a of the buildings decree, stipulations concerning the duty to provide a lift or some other device intended for the transportation of persons between certain floors and a ramp of the maximum permitted inclination have now been included in norm F1. Construction of inva-wc facilities have now also been submitted as a provision. The provisions indicating the standard serve architectural design and building supervision when deciding building permits. In this way, any subsequent unfortunate cases against either party, the authority or the property developer, concerning the accessibility of the completed building.

A publication from 1990 compiled by experts on disablement at the request of the EC and entitled "European Manual for an Accessible Built Environment" has been |

6. (cont'd)

followed in connection with this work. Norm F1, Freely accessible building, will also include several numeral revisions originating from Europe, but continue to use those Nordic planning solutions which have already long been in practice.

7. Objective and rationale: To provide accessibility of public buildings to handicapped persons

8. Relevant documents: The document will be issued as a regulation in the Building Code of Finland

9. Proposed date of adoption and entry into force: Entry into force, 1 March 1993

10. Final date for comments: 30 September 1992

11. Texts available from: National enquiry point [X] or address of other body: