

**GENERAL AGREEMENT  
ON TARIFFS AND TRADE**

**RESTRICTED**  
**TBT/W/184**  
11 April 1994  
Special Distribution

(94-0662)

---

**Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade**

**OPERATION OF ENQUIRY POINTS IN DIFFERENT PARTIES**

**Note by the Secretariat**

The present document contains a compendium on the operation of enquiry points in different Parties. Such consolidated information might be useful for new members setting up their enquiry points.

ENQUIRY POINT/ PARTY	CZECH REPUBLIC	FRANCE	SLOVAK REPUBLIC	SPAIN	THAILAND	UNITED KINGDOM	JAPAN		CANADA
1. Name	Czech Office for Standards, Metrology and Testing	CINORTECH	GATT Enquiry Point of Slovak Institute of Technical Standardization	S.G. Control, Inspección y Norm., Comercio Exterior	Thailand Industrial Standards Institute (TISI), (covering national standards, technical regulations and certification system)	United Kingdom GATT Enquiry Point	1. Standards Information Service, Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO)*	2. Standards Information Service, Ministry of Foreign Affairs*	GATT Enquiry Point - Standard Council of Canada
							*Handles enquiries in connection with certain products as indicated on page 10 of TBT/W/31/Rev.10		
2. Responsible Government Agency	Ministry of Economy	AFNOR	Ministry of Economy, Office of Standards, Metrology and Testing of the Slovak Republic	Ministerio de Comercio y Turismo	Ministry of Industry	Department of Trade and Industry	Ministry of International Trade and Industry	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Canada (FAITC)
3. Number of staff employed	2	1 (full time) 5 (15%) for information	3	5	11	1	4	4	4.25
4. Nature of establishment									
(a) private		X							
(b) governmental	X		X	X	X	X	X (semi-official)	X	X
5. Member of									
(a) ISO	X	X			X				X
(b) ISONET	X	X	X		X				X

ENQUIRY POINT/ PARTY	CZECH REPUBLIC	FRANCE	SLOVAK REPUBLIC	SPAIN	THAILAND	UNITED KINGDOM	JAPAN		CANADA
6. Facilities or services offered									
(a) database			X	X					X
(b) database in more than one language		X			X				X
(c) hot line	X	X	X	X					
(d) translation		X	X (into Slovak language only)						X (documents are sent to a government department for translation)
7. Brochure issued for publicizing the enquiry point			X		X	X	X		X (currently updated)
8. Charges for services									Currently no charge for services, however, charge for information will begin during the course of 1994
(a) providing information			X		X				
(b) providing documents			X (only for making copies)		X				
(c) hot line									
(d) translation					X				
9. Languages used									
(a) English	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
(b) French		X				X (enquiries acceptable)	X (enquiries acceptable)	X	X
(c) Spanish				X		X (enquiries acceptable)	X (enquiries acceptable)	X	

ENQUIRY POINT/ PARTY	CZECH REPUBLIC	FRANCE	SLOVAK REPUBLIC	SPAIN	THAILAND	UNITED KINGDOM	JAPAN		CANADA
10. Responsibilities other than answering enquiries									
(a) notifying the GATT Secretariat under Articles 2 and 7 of the Agreement	X		X	X	X	X		X	X
(b) responding to comments from other Parties	X		X (in cooperation with responsible organization)		X	X	X	X	
(c) consultation with other Parties	X			X	X			X	
(d) participating in preparing comments addressed to other Parties	X		X (in cooperation with responsible organization)	X	X			X	
(e) other						liaison with EC GATT Enquiry Point, Brussels			providing documents in support of GATT/TBT notifications
11. Handling of incoming notifications									
(a) announce in publication	X	X	X	X	X		X		X
(b) dissemination to interested industries or bodies	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
(c) review by special group or Committee					X			If necessary, reviewed by ad hoc working group	
(d) other			translating into Slovak and store in database						Input into GATT/TBT notifications database

ENQUIRY POINT/ PARTY	CZECH REPUBLIC	FRANCE	SLOVAK REPUBLIC	SPAIN	THAILAND	UNITED KINGDOM	JAPAN		CANADA
<p>12. Handling of incoming comments</p> <p>(a) forward to relevant governmental agencies for action</p> <p>(b) handle by special group or committee</p> <p>(c) other</p>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
					X	pass to EC GATT Enquiry Point, Brussels		If necessary, handled by ad hoc working group	