

## US PROPOSALS REGARDING G/TBT/1/REV.5: FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE

### Submission by the United States

1. In an effort to improve and clarify the rules of procedure and the interpretation, implementation and administration of the Agreement, the United States proposes that enquiry point officials give consideration to the following clarifications concerning G/TBT/1/Rev.5, "Decisions and Recommendations Adopted by the Committee Since 1 January 1995", and, if appropriate, make recommendations to the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade.

#### **I. NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES**

A. ITEM 1: DECISIONS ON FORMAT AND GUIDELINES (G/TBT/1/REV.5, PAGES 10-11)

2. There has been some confusion by WTO Members concerning what types of technical regulations are to be reported under the notification procedures.

3. We propose that the phrase "adopted technical regulations" be amended to read "*technical regulations adopted for urgent problems*" under Articles 2.10.1 and 3.2; and the phrase "adopted procedures for assessment of conformity" be similarly amended to read "*conformity assessment procedures adopted for urgent problems*" under Articles 5.7.1 and 7.2 in the description section of the notification form (Item (iii) Notified under).

4. This will ensure only those technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures adopted as a result of urgent problems of safety, health and environmental protection or national security are notified.

B. ITEM 4: RECOMMENDATION ON TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENTS RELATING TO NOTIFICATIONS AND ADDRESS OF BODY SUPPLYING THE DOCUMENTS (G/TBT/1/REV.5, PAGE 16)

5. We propose that an additional sentence be added to the end of the recommendation paragraph:

*Members may voluntarily make unofficial translations of proposed rules available - whether translations are of their own proposals or those of another Member - and could inform the Secretariat of the availability, language, and location of the translation on the Internet. The WTO could provide this information (notification, availability, language and location) to WTO Members generally through existing electronic systems on the WTO Home Page.*

C. ITEM 5: RECOMMENDATIONS ON PROCESSING OF REQUESTS FOR DOCUMENTATION (G/TBT/1/REV.5, PAGE 16)

6. We suggest that the following new items be added under Recommendations to improve the exchange of documentation on notified technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures:

- (c) *E-mail requests for documentation should include name, organization, address, telephone and fax numbers and e-mail address in the request;*
- (d) *Electronic delivery of documentation is encouraged and requests should indicate whether an electronic version is desired.*

D. ITEM 7: RECOMMENDATIONS ON HANDLING OF COMMENTS ON NOTIFICATIONS (G/TBT/1/REV.5, PAGE 17)

7. We suggest the following new statement be added under Recommendations:

- (c) *In order to facilitate a broader understanding of the implications of regulatory proposals, Members may wish to post their comments on the proposals on the Internet and make their Internet address known to other Members on the National Enquiry Point List.*

## II. PROCEDURES FOR INFORMATION EXCHANGE

A. ITEM 2: RECOMMENDATIONS ON BOOKLETS ON ENQUIRY POINTS (G/TBT/1/REV.5, PAGE 19)

8. We would propose amending under Recommendations: (b) (i) to include the following information:

*Objective, name, address, telephone number, fax number, e-mail address and Internet address of WTO TBT enquiry point(s).*

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