

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

TBT/W/42/Add.3

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Special Distribution

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

REGIONAL STANDARDS-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Note by the Secretariat

Addendum

1. At its meeting of 20-22 October 1981, the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade agreed that the secretariat should transmit a number of agreed questions to regional bodies (TBT/M/8, paragraph 55). Questions to be addressed to such bodies were circulated informally on 15 January and 12 February 1982.
2. The following replies regarding PASC (Pacific Area Standards Congress) have been received by the secretariat.

Question

In TBT/W/30 (p.14) it is stated that membership of PASC may be opened to national standards organizations of countries outside the Pacific Area which PASC feels can make a substantial contribution to its purpose and objectives. The question is: (a) What countries have been admitted to membership under this heading? (b) Also, what is considered a substantial contribution to the purposes and objectives of the PASC? (c) Is it sufficient to become a member of PASC that a country has substantial trade interests in the Area?

Answer

- (a) South Africa.
- (b) Each application considered on its merits.
- (c) No.

Question

- (a) Does the PASC create or harmonize standards for the Pacific Area?
- (b) Does it administer or establish certification systems? (c) Is there an index or catalogue of standards developed by PASC?

Answer

- (a) No.
- (b) No.
- (c) No.

Question

(a) What is the PASC's relationship to ISO? (b) Does PASC undertake standardization work in an area where an ISO standard already exists or is under discussion? (c) If so, what is its role in this respect?

Answer

(a) PASC is a regional organization of standards bodies which are members or prospective members of ISO.

(b) No.

(c) Not applicable.