

TARIFFS AND TRADE

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Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

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**INFORMATION ON IMPLEMENTATION AND
ADMINISTRATION OF THE AGREEMENT****Supplement**

The following communication has been received from the delegation of Hungary.

The Decree No. 78 of 1988 of the Council of Ministers on standardization and quality matters entered into force on 1 January 1989. New regulations in this Decree replaced those in the Decree No. 19 of 1976 of the Council of Ministers on standardization.

As far as standardization is concerned, the new legal regulation does not imply a substantial derogation from the earlier decree of the Council of Ministers. (The information on legislative, regulatory and administrative measures taken to implement the provisions of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade are included in document TBT/10, pages 15 and 16.)

A new element in the regulation is that the relevant government decree, in addition to standardization, also serves as a legal basis for dealing with matters concerning the quality of goods and it appoints the Hungarian Office for Standardization as the directing organ responsible for the latter activities. Its provisions contain among others the current practice regarding certification systems.

This system can be characterized briefly as follows:

The system integrates two aspects, i.e. manufacturers' declarations of conformity and third party certification. It contains all elements of a modern certification system, i.e. tests carried out in accredited laboratories, evaluation of factory quality systems, quality assessment of products and regular surveillance.

The certification system consists of three levels:

The first level is a manufacturer's declaration - under his sole responsibility - that the product is in conformity with the designated technical specification. A mark of conformity can also be used.

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On the second level of the system, a third party certifies that a certain product type, tested in an accredited laboratory, meets the given technical specification and is produced in an attested factory under the surveillance of the certification body or the accredited laboratory (if delegated). On this product, a special mark of conformity may be used.

The third level of the system is a third party certification of outstanding quality of the good based on comparative tests by an accredited laboratory and by an expert group of assessors. Products of such quality may bear a mark of distinction.

Access to the Hungarian system is open to home and foreign users and a certificate issued by another compatible third party certification system will be accepted without further tests.

The new regulation on standardization and quality continues to be consistent with the principles and provisions of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade.