

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

TBT/1/Add.20/Rev.1
14 May 1981

Special Distribution

Committee on Technical
Barriers to Trade

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INFORMATION ON IMPLEMENTATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE AGREEMENT

Revision

Information supplied by Singapore on implementation and administration of the Agreement has been circulated in document TBT/1/Add.20. This revision takes into account Singapore's response to questions raised in the Annual Review.

1. No special legislation is required in Singapore to implement the Agreement. All relevant government departments and regulatory authorities have been provided with copies of the Agreement and have been informed accordingly of their obligations under it.
2. The department responsible for co-ordinating the implementation and administration of the Agreement as well as for notifying the GATT Committee is:

Department of Trade
201 World Trade Centre
Maritime Square

0409 Singapore

Singapore will notify the GATT secretariat as and when there is a proposal to introduce a new technical regulation or rule of certification systems.

3. The specific authorities responsible for standardization, certification and implementation of government technical regulations are outlined below.

Standards and certification

Standardization and certification are undertaken by the Singapore Institute of Standards and Industrial Research (SISIR). In principle, ISO, IEC and other international standards are used as a basis for the preparation of Singapore standards. All standards prepared are not mandatory except those which are incorporated into the technical regulations of the regulatory authorities for public health and safety. Prior to a standard being endorsed as a Singapore standard by the Singapore Standards Council, a three-month period is given for public comments.

Public comment is sought subsequent to the completion of the draft. Comments would be considered and a final draft prepared and submitted to the Council for endorsement.

The regulatory authorities publish notices of proposed regulations or rules of certification in the Singapore Government Gazette and foreigners can purchase copies of this quite easily. Press releases to the public through the local newspapers are also used.

The Institute operates several voluntary quality certification schemes which are open to both local and imported products.

The enquiry point is:

Singapore Institute of Standards
and Industrial Research
River Valley Road 179

0617 Singapore

Technical regulations

Enforcement of government regulations relating to electrical safety of specific products is the responsibility of the Public Utilities Board (PUB).

Before a regulation is enforced, a six-month advance notice is given to the manufacturers and traders in order for them to adapt to, and comply with, the revised technical requirements. The six-month period refers to the minimum period between adoption and enforcement. The information is published in the press. Regulations adopted are notified in the Government Gazette. The notice is issued subsequent to the endorsement of a standard and announcement of the need for compulsory compliance.

The enquiry point is:

The Public Utilities Board
PUB Building
Somerset Road

0923 Singapore

Enforcement of the regulations relating to processed foods is the responsibility of the Ministry of the Environment. The effective date of operation of the legislation is notified in the Gazette. The intention to introduce the legislation is published in the press well in advance of the effective date of operation.

The enquiry point is:

Ministry of the Environment
Princess House
Alexandra Road

0315 Singapore

Enforcement of regulations relating to fish, meat, fruits and vegetables is the responsibility of Primary Production Department (PPD). Any new legislation adopted is notified in the Gazette and the public is informed through the press in advance.

The enquiry point is:

Primary Production Department
National Development Building
Maxwell Road

0106 Singapore

Some of the other government agencies also responsible for enforcing technical regulations are as follows:

- (a) Ministry of Communication - Registry of Vehicles;
- (b) Ministry of Health;
- (c) Ministry of Labour - Factory Inspectorate;
- (d) Ministry of National Development - Building and Development Control Division;
- (e) Ministry of the Environment - Sewerage Department.