

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

LIST OF PRODUCTS COVERED BY THE NOTIFICATIONS

Proposal by the Nordic Countries

Revision

Pursuant to a request of the Committee the secretariat has prepared a list of products covered by the notifications under the Agreement (TBT/W/68). At its meeting of 28 February 1984 the list was presented and the Committee agreed to revert to this item at its next regular meeting with a view to finalizing the list and agreeing what use should be made of it. At its meeting 10 July 1984 the Committee had a preliminary discussion on a draft proposal in this respect prepared by the delegations of the Nordic countries (TBT/W/72). Comments presented at the meeting and afterwards by interested delegations, are taken into account in this revised proposal.

In order to make the list available to interested standardizing bodies, as agreed, the list should have an introduction to explain its aim and content.

The international standards organizations which are observers at the Committee have informed the Committee that they are prepared to co-operate with the Committee in directing their work to eliminating technical barriers to trade. Preparing international standards is, however, not initiated by the international standardizing bodies themselves, but by national standardizing bodies, members of these international bodies. Accordingly, Parties should be invited to distribute the list to relevant national standardizing bodies within their territories.

The utilization of the list by these bodies would be considerably facilitated, if it should include indications on where relevant international standardization is taking or could take place. It is therefore proposed that the secretariat should be requested to add to the list such information with the assistance of the three international standards organizations represented as observers at the Committee, namely the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), and the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC). The information could indicate e.g. the relevant technical committees of the three international standards organizations. It is understood that in some cases the secretariat has to collect additional information from relevant enquiry points.

Since national technical regulations have a direct relevance and national certification systems only are of indirect relevance to international standardization the list should be divided into two parts, the first covering notifications on technical regulations and the second covering notifications on certification systems.

The Nordic delegations thus propose that the Committee:

1. adopt an introduction to the list as presented in the annex to this note;
2. request the secretariat to include in the list, in co-operation with ISO, IEC and CAC, indications on where relevant international standardization work is taking place or could take place;
3. request the secretariat to distribute the list as a derestricted document;
4. recommend that the Parties should circulate the list to relevant national standardizing bodies inviting them to take it into account in the work of international standardizing bodies in which they participate, and
5. review in 1987 the possible impact of the list on international standardization.

ANNEXLIST OF PRODUCTS COVERED BY NOTIFICATIONSUNDER THE AGREEMENT ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADEIntroduction

Under the GATT Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (Article 2.5) the Parties shall notify proposed national technical regulations through the GATT secretariat whenever:

- there is no relevant international standard to use as a basis for the technical regulation, or the technical content of a proposed technical regulation is not substantially the same as that of relevant international standards, and
- the technical regulation may have a significant effect on trade of other Parties.

Likewise, the Parties shall also notify proposed certification systems

With the purpose of clarifying what categories of products of importance in international trade are subject to notified technical regulations or certification systems the GATT Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade has agreed that a list of such products should be drawn up. The list is presented in two parts, the first covering the notifications on technical regulations and the second covering those on certification systems. It covers notifications over the 1980 to 1984 period classified according to the Customs Co-operation Council Nomenclature (CCCN). The classification is made at four-digit level. In cases where the products in question fall under part of a tariff heading, the CCN number is followed by an 'ex'. Product descriptions that can be classified under several headings are reproduced under the first of these CCN headings. Reference is also made to respective TBT-notification numbers (N) as well as to the Parties making the notifications.

The list is published and made available to interested standardizing bodies as it may indicate categories of products for which the elaboration of new international standards or revision/updating of such standards could prevent or eliminate technical barriers to trade.

For easy reference, for each item in the list, the relevant technical committees of the three international standards organizations, international Organization for Standardization (ISO), International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), and Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), are given.