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1 ANNEX 3 OF THE AGREEMENT ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

1.1 Text of Annex 3

Annex 3

CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE FOR THE PREPARATION, ADOPTION AND  
APPLICATION OF STANDARDS

General Provisions

- A. For the purposes of this Code the definitions in Annex 1 of this Agreement shall apply.
- B.

Provisions

In respect of standards, the standardizing body shall accord treatment to products originating in any other Member of the WTO no less favourable than that accorded to like products of national origin and to like products originating in any other country.

The standardizing body shall ensure that standards are not prepared, adopted or applied with the effect of, creating unnecessary obstacles to international trade.

Where international standards exist or their completion is imminent, the standardizing body shall, or the relevant parts of them, as a basis for the standards it develops, except where national standards or relevant parts would be ineffective or inappropriate, for instance, because of an insufficient level of protection or fundamental climatic or geographical factors or technological problems.

In view of harmonizing standards on as wide a basis as possible, the standardizing body shall, in an appropriate way, play a full part, within the limits of its resources, in the preparation by national standardizing bodies of international standards regarding subject matter for

effort to achieve a national consensus on the standards they develop. Likewise the regional standardizing body shall make every effort to avoid duplication of, or overlap with, the work of relevant international standardizing bodies.

I. Wherever appropriate, the standardizing body shall specify standards based on product requirements in terms of performance rather than design or descriptive characteristics.

J. At least once every six months, the standardizing body shall publish a work programme containing its name and address, the standards it is currently preparing and the standards which it has adopted in the preceding period. A standard is under preparation from the moment a decision has been taken to develop a standard until that standard has been adopted. The titles of specific draft standards shall, upon request, be provided in English, French or Spanish. A notice of the existence of the work programme shall be published in a national or, as the case may be, regional publication of standardization activities.

The work programme shall for each standard indicate, in accordance with any ISONET rules, the classification relevant to the subject matter, the stage attained in the standard's development, and the references of any international standards taken as a basis. No later than at the time of publication of its work programme, the standardizing body shall notify the existence thereof to the ISO/IEC Information Centre in Geneva.

The notification shall contain the name and address of the standardizing body, the name and issue of the publication in which the work programme is published, the period to which the work programme applies, its price (if any), and how and where it can be obtained. The notification may be sent directly to the ISO/IEC Information Centre, or, preferably, through the relevant national member or international affiliate of ISONET, as appropriate.

K. The national member of ISO/IEC shall make every effort to become a member of ISONET or to appoint another body to become a member as well as to acquire the most advanced membership type possible for the ISONET member. Other standardizing bodies shall make every effort to associate themselves with the ISONET member.

L. Before adopting a standard, the standardizing body shall allow a period of at least 60 days for the submission of comments on the draft standard by interested parties within the territory of a Member of the WTO. This period may, however, be shortened in cases where urgent problems of safety, health or environment arise or threaten to arise. No later than at the start of the comment period, the standardizing body shall publish a notice announcing the period for commenting in the publication referred to in paragraph J. Such notification shall include, as far as practicable, whether the draft standard deviates from relevant international standards.

M. On the request of any interested party within the territory of a Member of the WTO, the standardizing body shall promptly provide, or arrange to provide, a copy of a draft standard which it has submitted for comments. Any fees charged for this service shall, apart from the real cost of delivery, be the same for foreign and domestic parties.

N. The standardizing body shall take into account, in the further processing of the standard, the comments received during the period for commenting. Comments received through standardizing bodies that have accepted this Code of Good Practice shall, if so requested, be replied to as promptly as possible. The reply shall include an explanation why a deviation from relevant international

1.2 Related decisions and recommendations of the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

1.2.1 Annexes 3.F, 3.G, 3.H, 3.J, 3.L and 3.N

1. See the Decision of the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade ( TBT Committee ) on principles for the development of international standards, guides and recommendations with relation to Articles 2 and 5 and Annex 3 of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement). <sup>1</sup>

Current as of: July 202 4

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<sup>1</sup> The text of the decision is contained in [G/TBT/1/Rev.15](#), pp. 68-70.