

REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

A draft

DECREE

No.... Dated.....1999

THE CRITERIA AND COMPETENCIES IN THE FIELDS OF STANDARDIZATION,
CERTIFICATION AND ACCREDITATION

Following the Law No. 8464, dated 11.03.1999 "On Standardization", with the proposal of the Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Trade, the Council of Ministers

HAS DECIDED

CHAPTER I

The Criteria and Competencies for Standardization

1. The basic standardization criteria are as follows:

- x Approval by consensus
- x Ensuring free participation of all interested parties and equality between them
- x Transparencies
- x Protection of consumers' interests
- x An orientation towards the latest levels in science, know-how and technology both in production and services so as to avoid technical barriers to trade
- x Unification of test methods for the assessment of conformity

2. Technical Committees (TC's) shall draw standards. The TC are established by the GDS (General Directorate of Standardization) on the basis of parties' interests. A TC is made up of representatives from ministries and public Institutions, universities, science and research institutions, manufacturers or traders as well as consumers. TC's Chairman is elected by the members of the TC. Each TC appoints its secretary.

3. Standards shall be approved by TC and ratified by GDS' General Director. When deemed necessary, TC's can also approve the adoption of European or International Standards of which only the first page shall be translated, or such standards can also be approved without a translated version.

4. TC's performs their function according to internal regulations, which are approved by GDS. Depending on the workload for developing a standard, TC can delegate assignments to technical sub-committees, work groups (WG's) or special teams.

5. As concerns new products, TC's shall develop experimental

standards. As a general rule, an experimental standard can remain valid up to three years following its approval, and at the end of such period, if necessary, it can be converted into a standard.

6. As concerns the transitory period as provided by the Law, the GDS, in its information journal, shall publish denomination and reference numbers of mandatory standards, which shall retain this status until May 2002. To this end, the GDS shall cooperate with interested ministri

- x Transparency
- x It's voluntary choice

13. The accreditation process shall be carried out according to accreditation European Standards of EN 45000 series adopted as a national standards, (ISO) International Organization for Standardization's guidelines, and the GDS's accreditation regulations.

14. The accreditation department at GDS is recognized as the national body for accreditation. This body gives accreditation, upon request, to the following organizations:

- x testing laboratories
- x calibrating laboratories
- x products certification bodies
- x quality systems certification bodies
- x personnel certification bodies
- x inspection bodies

15. In order for domestic laboratories to get prepared for being accredited, a time of two years is allowed to them. Foreign accreditation bodies can accredit domestic laboratories as well, which for themselves have been accredited by their national organizations that, on their part, are members of international or European Accreditation Organizations.

16. Concerning the regulation of technical activity for certification, there is the Council of

and the GDS will be in charge of carrying ~~the~~ inspection. At the end of this period, relevant ministries will discharge inspection responsibilities.

21. Imported products remaining with mandatory standards fall into the following groups:

Machinery and equipment