

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

Original: English

## SECOND MEETING OF ENQUIRY POINTS

### Discussion Paper Submitted by the United States Delegation

#### I. Inquiries which Enquiry Points should be prepared to answer

Enquiry points should be able to respond to any inquiry dealing with standards regulations issued by their Government, private standards organizations, and regional standards bodies. In cases where the information is not available directly from the Enquiry Point, the requestor should be referred to the appropriate organization or source.

#### II. Notifications

To aid the Parties to the Agreement in determining whether the text of a proposed regulation would be useful, a more detailed description of the new regulation and/or changes should be made in item 6 of the notification form. Too often the brief description fails to provide adequate information.

#### III. Requests for extension of comment period and responses to such requests

The United States Enquiry Point has not received any requests for extensions. Parties are referred by the Enquiry Point to the United States Government agency responsible for the proposed regulation directly for additional information. All requests made by the United States for extensions have been granted or acceptable responses have been given for not extending the comment period. The United States received comments on one proposed regulation after the closing date for comments. The comments were reviewed by the cognizant agency and a response was sent to the commenting country.

#### IV. Translation of proposed regulations

Many proposed regulations are not in English. The United States has arranged for a translation service on a shared-fee basis. We would like to know how other Parties handle translations, and whether there may be interest in co-operative programmes for translating proposed regulations.

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V. Availability of information

A. Computerized information. The United States Enquiry Point has a computerized system which contains data on United States voluntary standards (KWIC Index). The Index is available on microfilm. We are interested in finding out what type of information is available from other signatories which may be of use to the United States.

B. Other sources of information. The United States Enquiry Point used ISO directories and its newly developed "Directory of International and Regional Organizations Conducting Standards-Related Activities." We are interested in finding out what information sources are used by other Parties.

VI. Enquiry point contacts

Parties to the Agreement should update information of their Enquiry Points whenever there is a change, helping to avoid unnecessary delays in exchanging information.

VII. Date for meeting

The United States Enquiry Point suggests that the meeting be scheduled for the end of May or beginning of June 1983.

VIII. Criteria for determining trade significant regulations

The United States has suggested that guidelines be developed for voluntary use by Parties in selecting the proposed regulations to be notified to the GATT. In addition, the United States is interested in finding out what procedures are currently used by Parties in selecting regulations for notification to the GATT. The Enquiry Points meeting should examine this issue with a view towards providing the Committee a list of possible criteria that may be used as guidelines. The United States has suggested that such criteria could include: (1) dollar volume and/or quantity of imports from signatory countries; (2) market size of the product in the reporting country; (3) potential for market growth for the product in the reporting country; and (4) the cost or lead time involved for exporters in other countries to comply with the regulation.