

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

MUTUAL ACCEPTANCE OF TESTING AND INSPECTION

Note by the Nordic Delegations

The Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade has for some years discussed ways and means to promote an increased acceptance of testing and inspection between Parties. In this connection, several delegations have drawn attention to a number of Guides prepared by ISO and IEC, and dealing with relevant issues. While it seems clear that any new obligations for Parties in this respect have to be agreed within a new round of multilateral trade negotiations, some steps in a positive direction could perhaps nevertheless be taken already at the present stage.

The Nordic delegations therefore propose that the Committee should consider agreeing to the following statement and recommendations:

In order to further the objectives of Article 5.2 of the Agreement, the Committee has considered the following ISO/IEC Guides as providing an important contribution in ensuring the mutual confidence in testing and inspection activities between Parties:

- ISO/IEC Guide 25 - "General Requirements for the Technical Competence of Testing Laboratories", Second edition, 1982;
- ISO/IEC Guide 38 - "General Requirements for the Acceptance of Testing Laboratories", First edition, 1983;
- ISO/IEC Guide 39 - "General Requirements for the Acceptance of Inspection Bodies", First edition, 1983;
- ISO/IEC Guide 43 - "Development and Operation of Laboratory Proficiency Testing", First edition, 1984;
- ISO/IEC Guide 45 - "Guidelines for the presentation of test results", First edition, 1985.

Recommendation:

1. When developing testing and inspection activities within their territories, Parties should adhere to the principles and rules presented in the ISO/IEC Guides 25, 38, 39, 43 and 45.
2. Parties should recognize testing laboratories and inspection bodies as well as testing and inspection performed by these as competent and reliable when the laboratories and inspection bodies are accredited and the testing and inspection operated in compliance with these Guides and when accreditation is granted by a competent national body.