

**GENERAL AGREEMENT
ON TARIFFS AND TRADE**

RESTRICTED
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Special Distribution

(94-2021)

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

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INFORMATION REGARDING ASPECTS OF NOTIFICATION
PROCEDURES AND PRACTICES

Note by the Secretariat

At its forty-seventh meeting on 4 May 1994, the Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare a paper on various aspects of notification procedures and practices. This note responds to that request. It reviews: A. existing notification procedures and practices under the Tokyo Round Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade; B. how these will be adapted upon entry into force of the WTO Agreement; C. how the Secretariat is following up the Ministerial decision on establishing a WTO-ISO information system; and D. the possibilities of finding the most efficient and cost effective way of undertaking the distribution of notifications.

The Committee may wish to forward its own reflections on these matters for consideration to the WTO Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade. In this respect, particular attention is drawn to: (i) the Secretariat's proposal for revising the notification forms to accommodate new notification obligations in the WTO Agreement (page 14 and Annex 1); (ii) the Memorandum of Understanding between the WTO and ISO Secretariats regarding the establishment of a WTO Information Service operated by ISO (page 14 and Annex 2); and (iii) estimates made by the Secretariat of the additional costs to the WTO of circulating notifications by telefax (page 15 and Annex 3).

A. THE TOKYO ROUND AGREEMENT ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

I. Notification Obligations

Article 2 Preparation, adoption and application of technical regulations
and standards by central government bodies

-Article 2.5.2

"Whenever a relevant international standard does not exist or the technical content of a proposed technical regulation or standard is not substantially the same as the technical content of relevant international standards, and if the technical regulation or standard may have a significant effect on trade of other Parties, Parties shall notify other Parties through the GATT secretariat of the products to be covered by technical regulations together with a brief indication of the objective and rationale of proposed technical regulations;"

-Article 2.6.1

"Subject to the provisions in the heading of Article 2, paragraph 5, where urgent problems of safety, health, environmental protection or national security arise or threaten to arise for a Party, that Party may omit such of the steps enumerated in Article 2, paragraph 5 as it finds necessary provided that the Party, upon adoption of a technical regulation or standard, shall notify immediately other Parties through the GATT secretariat of the particular technical regulation, the products covered, with a brief indication of the objective and the rationale of the technical regulation, including the nature of the urgent problems;"

Article 7 Certification systems operated by central government bodies-Article 7.3.2

"Parties shall notify the GATT secretariat of the products to be covered by the proposed system together with a brief description of the objective of the proposed system;"

-Article 7.4.1

"However, where urgent problems of safety, health, environmental protection or national security arise or threaten to arise for a Party, that Party may omit such of the steps enumerated in Article 7, paragraph 3 as it finds necessary provided that the Party, upon adoption of the certification system, shall notify immediately the other Parties through the GATT secretariat of the particular certification system and the products covered, with a brief indication of the objective and the rationale of the certification system including the nature of the urgent problems;"

Article 15 Final provisions-Article 15.7

"Each Party shall, promptly after the date on which this Agreement enters into force for the Party concerned, inform the Committee of measures in existence or taken to ensure the implementation and administration of this Agreement. Any changes of such measures thereafter shall also be notified to the Committee."

II. Decisions and Recommendations of the TBT Committee Related to Notifications:

In order to ensure a uniform and efficient operation of the procedures for notifications, the TBT Committee has agreed on a number of decisions and recommendations regarding the notification procedures; these are contained in Chapter A, C and D of document TBT/16/Rev.7.

-Regarding Article 15.7Statements on Implementation and Administration of the AgreementDecision:

1. The statement should cover the legislative, regulatory and administrative action taken as a result of the negotiation of the Agreement or currently in existence to ensure that the provisions of the

Agreement are applied. If the Agreement itself has been incorporated into domestic law, the statement should indicate how this has been done. In other cases, the statement should describe the content of the relevant laws, regulations, administrative orders, etc. All necessary references should also be provided.

2. In addition, the statement should specify:

- (a) the names of the publications used to announce that work is proceeding on draft technical regulations or standards and rules of certification systems and those in which the texts of technical regulations and standards or rules of certification systems are published (Articles 2.5.1, 2.7, 3.1, 4.1, 7.3.1, 7.5, 8.1 and 9.2);
- (b) the expected length of time allowed for presentation of comments in writing on technical regulations, standards or rules of certification systems (Articles 2.5.4, 2.5.5, 2.6.3, 7.3.4 and 7.4.3);
- (c) the name and address of the enquiry point(s) foreseen in Article 10 of the Agreement with an indication as to whether it is/they are fully operational;
- (d) the name and address of the agency with which to get in touch if consultations are to be requested under Article 14;
- (e) the name and address of any other agencies that have specific functions under the Agreement; and
- (f) measures and arrangements to ensure that national authorities preparing new technical regulations or certification systems, or substantial amendments to existing ones, provide early information on their proposals in order to enable the Party in question to fulfil its obligations on notifications under Article 2.5, 2.6, 7.3 and 7.4 of the Agreement.

-Regarding Articles 2.5.2, 2.6.1, 7.3.2 and 7.4.1

Notification Procedures

1. Format and Guidelines:

Recommendation:

Information contained in the notification form should be as complete as possible and no section should be left blank. Where necessary, "not known" or "not stated" should be indicated.

Decisions:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>
(i) Party to Agreement notifying	Government, including the competent authorities of the European Economic Community, which has acceded to the Agreement and which is making the notification.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>
(ii) Agency responsible	Body elaborating a proposal for or promulgating a technical regulation or certification system.
(iii) Notified under	Relevant provision of the Agreement: Article 2.5.2: proposed technical regulation by central government body, Article 2.6.1: adopted technical regulation by central government body, Article 7.3.2: proposed certification system by central government body, Article 7.4.1: adopted certification system by central government body, Other Articles under which notification can arise in cases of urgency set out in those Articles are: Article 3.1: adopted technical regulation by local government body, Article 4.1: adopted technical regulation by non-governmental body, Article 8.1: adopted certification system by local government or non-governmental body, Article 9.2: adopted certification system by international or regional organization.
(iv) Products covered	HS or CCCN (chapter or heading and number) where applicable. National tariff heading if different from HS or CCCN. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable. A clear description is important for an understanding of the notification by delegations and translators. Abbreviations should be avoided.
(v) Title and number of pages of the notified document	Title of the proposed or adopted technical regulation or certification system. Number of pages in the notified document.
(vi) Description of content	An abstract of the proposed or adopted technical regulation or rules of certification system clearly indicating its content. A clear description is important for an understanding of the notification by delegations and translators. Abbreviations should be avoided.
(vii) Objective and rationale	For instance: health, safety, national security, ... etc.
(viii) Relevant documents	(1) Publication where notice appears, including date and reference number; (2) Proposal and basic document (with specific reference number or other identification) to which proposal refers; (3) Publication in which proposal will appear when adopted;

<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>
	(4) Whenever practicable, give reference to relevant international standard. If it is necessary to charge for documents supplied, this fact should be indicated.
(ix) Proposed dates of adoption and entry into force	The date when the technical regulation or certification system is expected to be adopted, and the date from which the requirements in the technical regulation or certification system are proposed or decided to enter into force, taking into consideration the provisions of Article 2.8.
(x) Final date for comments	The date by which Parties may submit comments in accordance with Articles 2.5.4, 2.6.3, 7.3.4 and 7.4.3 of the Agreement. A specific date should be indicated. The Committee has recommended a normal time limit for comments on notifications of sixty days. A Party may, if necessary, however, indicate in its notification that it will proceed to implement the proposed measure after forty-five days if no comments or requests for extension of the time limit have been received from other Parties within that time. Any Party which is able to provide a time limit beyond sixty days is encouraged to do so.
(xi) Texts available from	If available from national enquiry point, put a cross in the box provided. If available from another body, give its address, telex and telefax number. Such indications should not in any way discharge the relevant enquiry point of its responsibilities under the provisions of Article 10 of the Agreement.

Where boxes appear under items 3 and 11 of the format, notifiers are requested to check the relevant box or to indicate relevant information under "other".

Notification Format

RESTRICTED

TBT/Notif.93.

1993

Special Distribution

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

NOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.4.

1. Party to Agreement notifying:

2. Agency responsible:

3. Notified under Article 2.5.2 [], 2.6.1 [], 7.3.2 [], 7.4.1 [], other:

4. Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable):

5. Title and number of pages of the notified document:

6. Description of content:

7. Objective and rationale:

8. Relevant documents:

9. Proposed date of adoption and entry into force:

10. Final date for comments:

11. Texts available from: National enquiry point [] or address and telefax number of other body:

2. Timing of Notifications:

Recommendation:

When implementing the provisions of Articles 2.5.2 and 7.3.2, a notification should be made when a draft with the complete text of a proposed technical regulation or rules for a proposed certification system is available and when amendments can still be introduced and taken into account.

3. Application of Article 2.5 (Preamble Part):

With a view to ensuring a consistent approach to the selection of proposed technical regulations to be notified, the Committee established the following criteria:

Recommendation:

For the purposes of Article 2.5 the concept of "significant effect on trade of other Parties" may refer to the effect on trade:

- of one technical regulation only or of various technical regulations in combination;
- in a specific product, group of products or products in general; and
- between two or more Parties (countries).

When assessing the significance of the effect on trade of technical regulations, the Party concerned should take into consideration such elements as the value or other importance of imports in respect of the importing and/or exporting Parties concerned, whether from other Parties individually or collectively, the potential growth of such imports, and difficulties for producers in other Parties to comply with the proposed technical regulations. The concept of a significant effect on trade of other Parties should include both import-enhancing and import-reducing effects on the trade of other Parties, as long as such effects are significant.

4. Translation of documents relating to notifications and address of body supplying the documents:

In order to avoid difficulties that can arise from the fact that the documentation relevant to technical regulations, standards and rules of certification systems is not available in one of the GATT working languages and that a body other than the enquiry point may be responsible for such documentation, the Committee agreed on the following procedures:

Recommendation:

When a Party seeks a copy of a document relating to a notification which does not exist in that Party's GATT working language, it will be advised, on request, by the notifying Party of other Parties that have requested, as of that date, a copy of the document. The Party seeking a copy of a document relating to a notification may then contact such other Parties in order to determine whether the latter are prepared to share, on mutually agreed terms, any translation that they have or will be making into relevant GATT working language(s).

Decisions:

- (a) When a translation of a relevant document exists or is planned, this fact shall be indicated on the GATT notification form next to the title of the document. If only

a translated summary exists, the fact that such a summary is available shall be similarly indicated;

- (b) Upon receipt of a request for documents, any translated summaries that exist in the language of the requester or, as the case may be, in a GATT working language, shall be automatically sent with the original of the documents requested;
- (c) Parties shall indicate under point 11 of the GATT notification form the exact address of the body responsible for supplying the relevant documents if that body is not the enquiry point.

5. Processing of requests for documentation:

The Committee addressed the problems of supplying and obtaining requested documentation on notified technical regulations and rules of certification systems as follows:

Recommendations:

- (a) requests for documentation should contain all the elements permitting the identification of the documents and in particular, the GATT notification number (TBT/Notif. ...) to which the requests refer. The same information should appear on the documents supplied in response to such requests;
- (b) any request for documentation should be processed if possible within five working days. If a delay in supplying the documentation requested is foreseen, this should be acknowledged to the requester.

6. Length of time allowed for comments:

Recommendation:

The normal time limit for comments on notifications should be sixty days. A Party may, if necessary, however, indicate in its notification that it will proceed to implement the proposed measure after forty-five days if no comments or requests for extension of the time limit have been received from other Parties within that time. Any Party which is able to provide a time limit beyond sixty days is encouraged to do so.

7. Handling of comments on notifications:

In order to improve the handling of comments on proposed technical regulations and rules of certification systems submitted under Articles 2.5.4, 2.6.3, 7.3.4 and 7.4.3 of the Agreement, the Committee agreed on the following procedures.

Recommendations:

- (a) each Party should notify the GATT secretariat of the authority or agency (e.g. its enquiry point) which it has designated to be in charge for handling of comments received, and
- (b) a Party receiving comments through the designated body should without further request

- (1) acknowledge the receipt of such comments,
- (2) explain within a reasonable time to any Party from which it has received comments, how it will proceed in order to take these comments into account and, where appropriate, provide additional relevant information on the proposed technical regulations or rules of certification systems concerned, and
- (3) provide to any Party from which it has received comments, a copy of the corresponding technical regulations or rules of certification systems as adopted or information that no corresponding technical regulations or rules of certification system will be adopted for the time being.

List of Products Covered by the Notifications

With the purpose of clarifying what categories of products of importance in international trade are subject to notified technical regulations or certification systems, a list of such products covering the notifications made in 1980 to 1984 and including indications on where relevant international standardization work is taking place or will take place, is drawn up in document TBT/W/68/Rev.1.

Recommendation:

Parties should circulate the list of products covered by the notifications, contained in document TBT/W/68/Rev.1 to their national standardizing bodies inviting them to take it into account in the work of international standardizing bodies in which they participate.

III. Summary of the Notifications Made by Signatories over the Past Years:

On the whole, Parties have followed the recommendations and decisions adopted by the Committee regarding the notification procedures. The Agreement has operated effectively and has generally been felt to have met initial expectations. From 1 January 1980 to 1 September 1994, 4240 notifications have been made by Signatories under Articles 2.5.2, 2.6.1, 7.3.2 and 7.4.1 of the Agreement. Table 1 gives data on the number of notifications made and the average comment periods allowed by Parties from 1980 to 1993.

Table I
TBT Notifications from 1980 to 1993

Year	Number of Signatories	Number of Notifications						Average comment period (days)
		Article 2.5.2	Article 2.6.1	Article 7.3.2	Article 7.4.1	Other articles (not specified)	Total	
1980	31	101	13	11	5	-	130	44
1981	31	227	26	15	-	27	295	46
1982	34	151	13	33	3	1	201	43
1983	36	162	18	73	1	1	255	52
1984	36	168	25	28	2	-	223	51
1985	36	148	21	19	8	-	196	59
1986	38	158	41	16	-	-	215	56
1987	39	166	15	17	1	-	199	56
1988	39	253	16	13	1	-	283	61
1989	39	306	11	11	-	-	328	61
1990	40	332	20	10	-	-	362	47
1991	40	322	18	9	1	8	358	55
1992	41	368	11	9	1	5	394	54
1993	45	448	18	9	1	11	487	56
Total		3310	266	273	24	53	3926	

*(From 1980 to 1982, the recommended comment period was six weeks, from May 1983 the recommended comment period has been 60 days).

B. THE WTO AGREEMENT ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

Experience gained from the implementation and administration of the Tokyo Round TBT Agreement contributed to the improvements made in the Uruguay Round Agreement. The revised TBT Agreement extends its coverage and provisions on transparency. Additional conformity assessment procedures will come under the notification provisions of the Agreement. There will be new obligations for Members to notify measures applied at the local government level. Transparency of standard setting activities will be increased through the Code of Good Practice for Standardizing Bodies. It is worth noting also that, under Article 10.5, upon request, developed country Members will be obliged to provide in a GATT language the documents covered by a specific notification.

I. Notification Obligations

Article 2 Preparation, Adoption and Application of Technical Regulations by Central Government Bodies

-Articles 2.9.2

"Whenever a relevant international standard does not exist or the technical content of a proposed technical regulation is not in accordance with the technical content of relevant international standards, and if the technical regulation may have a significant effect on trade of other Members, Members shall notify other Members through the Secretariat of the products to be covered by the proposed technical regulation, together with a brief indication of its objective and rationale. Such notifications shall take place at an early appropriate stage, when amendments can still be introduced and comments taken into account;"

-Article 2.10.1

"Subject to the provisions in the lead-in to paragraph 9, where urgent problems of safety, health, environmental protection or national security arise or threaten to arise for a Member, that Member may omit such of the products enumerated in paragraph 9 as it finds necessary, provided that the Member, upon adoption of a technical regulation, shall notify immediately other Members through the Secretariat of the particular technical regulation and the products covered, with a brief indication of the objective and the rationale of the technical regulation, including the nature of the urgent problems;"

Article 3 Preparation, Adoption and Application of Technical Regulations by Local Government Bodies and Non-Governmental Bodies

-Articles 3.2

"Members shall ensure that the technical regulations of local governments on the level directly below that of the central government in Members are notified in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 9.2 and 10.1 of Article 2, noting that notification shall not be required for technical regulations the technical content of which is substantially the same as that of previously notified technical regulations of central government bodies of the Members concerned."

Article 5 Procedures for Assessment of Conformity by Central Government Bodies

-Articles 5.6.2

"Whenever a relevant guide or recommendation issued by an international standardizing body does not exist or the technical content of a proposed conformity assessment procedure is not in accordance with relevant guides and recommendations issued by international standardizing bodies, and if the conformity assessment procedure may have a significant effect on trade of other Members, Members shall notify other Members through the Secretariat of the products to be covered by the proposed conformity assessment procedure, together with a brief indication of its objective and rationale. Such notifications shall take place at an early appropriate stage, when amendments can still be introduced and comments taken into account;"

-Article 5.7.1

"Subject to the provisions in the lead-in to paragraph 6, where urgent problems of safety, health, environmental protection or national security arise or threaten to arise for a Member, that Member may omit such of the steps enumerated in paragraph 6 as it finds necessary, provided that the Member, upon adoption of the procedure, shall notify immediately other Members through the Secretariat of the particular procedure and the products covered, with a brief indication of the objective and the rationale of the procedure, including the nature of the urgent problems;"

Article 7 Procedures for Assessment of Conformity by Local Government Bodies

-Article 7.2

"Members shall ensure that the conformity assessment procedures of local governments on the level directly below that of the central government in Members are notified in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 6.2 and 7.1 of Article 5, noting that notifications shall not be required for conformity assessment procedures the technical content of which is substantially the same as that of previously notified conformity assessment procedures of central government bodies of the Members concerned."

Article 10 Information About Technical Regulations, Standards and
Conformity Assessment Procedures

-Article 10.7

"Whenever a Member has reached an agreement with any other country or countries on issues related to technical regulations, standards or conformity assessment procedures which may have a significant effect on trade, at least one Member party to the agreement shall notify other Members through the Secretariat of the products to be covered by the agreement and include a brief description of the agreement."

Article 15 Final Provisions

-Article 15.2

"Each Member shall, promptly after the date on which the WTO Agreement enters into force for it, inform the Committee of measures in existence or taken to ensure the implementation and administration of this Agreement. Any changes of such measures thereafter shall also be notified to the Committee."

Article 4 Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards; and
Annex 3 Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards

Under Article 4 of the WTO Agreement, standardizing bodies within the territory of a Member that have accepted the Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards contained in Annex 3 of the Agreement are obliged to fulfil the following notification requirements:

-Paragraph C of the Code

"Standardizing bodies that have accepted or withdrawn from this Code shall notify this fact to the ISO/IEC Information Centre in Geneva. The notification shall include the name and address of the body concerned and the scope of its current and expected standardization activities. The notification may be sent either directly to the ISO/IEC Information Centre, or through the national member body of ISO/IEC or, preferably, through the relevant national member or international affiliate of ISONET, as appropriate."

-Paragraph J of the Code

"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. ... 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, preferable, through the relevant national member or international affiliate of ISONET, as appropriate."

II. Adaptation of Notification Procedures and Practices upon Entry into Force of the WTO Agreement:

-Articles 2.9.2 and 2.10.1 of the WTO Agreement are almost the same as Articles 2.5.2 and 2.6.1 of the Tokyo Round TBT Agreement.

-Articles 3.2 and 7.2 provide new notification obligations for Members because under the existing Tokyo Round Agreement there are no notification requirements on technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures by local government bodies. Articles 3.3 and 7.3 of the WTO Agreement states that "Members may require contact with other Members, including the notifications, provision of information, comments and discussions ... , to take place through the central government."

-Although Articles 5.6.2 and 5.7.1 of the WTO Agreement correspond to Articles 7.3.2 and 7.4.1 of the Tokyo Round Agreement, because of the extended coverage of the WTO Agreement conformity assessment procedures include a larger area of activities, such as procedures for sampling, testing and inspection; evaluation, verification and assurance of conformity; registration, accreditation and approval as well as their combinations (the definition of conformity assessment procedures is contained in Annex 1 of the Agreement).

-With the extended notification obligations under Article 2.9.2, 2.10.1, 3.2, 5.6.2, 5.7.1, and 7.2 of the WTO Agreement, **the Secretariat proposes that a modification of the existing notification form may be necessary. The proposed modified notification form with the changes highlighted is attached in Annex 1 of the document.**

-Article 10.7 of the WTO Agreement provides new obligations for Members to notify agreement reached with other country or countries on issues related to the TBT Agreement on an ad hoc basis.

-Article 15.2 of the WTO Agreement is exactly the same as Article 15.7 of the Tokyo Round TBT Agreement.

C. MINISTERIAL DECISION ON ESTABLISHING A WTO-ISO INFORMATION SYSTEM

Ministers have recommended that the Secretariat reach an understanding with the ISO to establish an information system. The Secretariat is negotiating with the ISO Secretariat pursuant to this Ministerial Decision that:

-the ISO/IEC Information Centre shall receive notifications as indicated in paragraphs C and J of the Code of Good Practice from standardizing bodies;

-the ISO/IEC Information Centre shall promptly convey to the WTO Secretariat copies of notifications referred to in paragraph C; and

-information regarding notifications received under paragraphs C and J shall be published annually in an ISO/IEC Information Centre publication and may be updated monthly in the ISO Bulletin.

The Secretariat shall distribute promptly to Members copies of the notifications it receives from the ISO/IEC Information Centre. The Secretariat together with the ISO Central Secretariat shall develop and circulate to the Members of WTO and ISONET notification forms regarding these notification obligations which fall under the Code of Good Practice.

For the information of the Committee, Annex 2 is a copy of the draft Memorandum of Understanding on this subject reached with the ISO Central Secretariat. Once the ISO secretariat has consulted its authorities on the draft, the Secretariat's intention is to recommend that the Director-General formalise the Understanding through an exchange of letters with the Director-General of ISO. The WTO Preparatory Committee will be informed of the Director-General's intentions in this regard.

D. DISTRIBUTION OF TBT NOTIFICATIONS

At the Sixth Meeting on Procedures for Information Exchange on 2 November 1992, it was proposed that the Committee should consider requesting the Secretariat to send out notifications in a double system to provide Parties more time to work on the notifications, using telefax in addition to the regular system of circulation (TBT/W/167). In July 1993 the Secretariat prepared a paper (TBT/W/173) giving information on different alternatives for the distribution of notifications with a comparison of the time Parties would gain by different alternatives and the estimates of the cost to GATT.

At its forty-sixth meeting on 2 November 1993, the Committee had a discussion on the matter based on the information provided in document TBT/W/173. It was generally emphasised that the current practice of sending out notifications should in any event be continued and not be replaced by telefax. Some delegations expressed the view that they had no problems with the current practice and that an improvement had been noticed since first class mail had begun to be used. Others raised concerns regarding the increase of costs for the Secretariat and the situation of Members, if all of them would have the necessary facilities. The Committee asked the Secretariat to reflect on the statements made (TBT/M/45).

Given the impending entry into force of the WTO Agreement with the expansion of membership and additional notifications, the Secretariat has undertaken a further estimation on how much it would cost the WTO each year to fax out TBT notifications, using computer software to facilitate the process. The estimation (Annex 3) is based on the presumption of faxing 700 notifications per year to 123 Members, limited to sending out the notifications to one address per Member, in one of the three GATT languages, and with three to five re-dials per notification in the event an initial connection is not made. The estimated additional cost to the WTO is approximately Sfr. 350,000 per year, a sum which does not take account of the need to purchase the necessary equipment nor any additional staffing requirements.

ANNEX 1**GENERAL AGREEMENT
ON TARIFFS AND TRADE**RESTRICTED
TBT/Notif.95

Special Distribution

(95-0000)

Committee on Technical Barriers to TradeNOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.6.

1.	Member to Agreement notifying: If applicable, name of local government involved (Articles 3.2 and 7.2):
2.	Agency responsible:
3.	Notified under Article 2.9.2 [], 2.10.1 [], 5.6.2 [], 5.7.1 [], other:
4.	Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable):
5.	Title and number of pages of the notified document:
6.	Description of content:
7.	Objective and rationale:
8.	Relevant documents:
9.	Proposed date of adoption and entry into force:
10.	Final date for comments:
11.	Texts available from: National enquiry point [] or address and telefax number of other body:

ANNEX 2

Memorandum of Understanding on WTO Standards Information Service Operated by ISO

The WTO Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards (Annex 3 to the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade) contains the following paragraphs with regard to information on standardizing bodies that have accepted the above code and on their standards work programmes:

"C. Standardizing bodies that have accepted or withdrawn from this Code shall notify this fact to the ISO/IEC Information Centre in Geneva. The notification shall include the name and address of the body concerned and the scope of its current and expected standardization activities. The notification may be sent either directly to the ISO/IEC Information Centre, or through the national member body of ISO/IEC or, preferably, through the national member body of ISO/IEC or, preferably, through the relevant national member or international affiliate of ISONET, as appropriate.

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 standards 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."

The WTO Secretariat and the ISO Central Secretariat (ISO(CS) have agreed to establish a WTO standards information service operated by ISO Central Secretariat under which:

1. The ISO/IEC Information Centre receives notifications as indicated in paragraphs C and J from standardizing bodies in English, French or Spanish languages.
2. The ISO Central Secretariat together with the WTO Secretariat shall develop and circulate to the members of WTO and ISONET standard notification forms with relevant instructions for their use.
3. The standards work programme of a standardizing body that has accepted the above-mentioned code shall for each standard contain the following attributes:
 - (a) **Classification number** which would indicate the subject matter of a given standard; for this purpose, the *International Classification for Standards (ICS)* shall be used;

- (b) **Stage Code** which would indicate the stage of development of a given standard; for this purpose, at least five stages of development should be distinguished: (1) the stage at which the decision to develop a standard has been taken, but technical work has not yet begun; (2) the stage at which technical work has begun, but the period for the submission of comments has not yet started; (3) the stage at which the period for the submission of comments has started, but has not yet been completed; (4) the stage at which the period for the submission of comments has been completed, but the standard has not yet been adopted; and (5) the stage at which the standard has been adopted; the *International Harmonized Stage Code System for the Development of Standards* should be used (the system has been developed by a group of experts from AFNOR, BSI, CEN, CENELEC, DIN, ETSI, IEC, ISO, ITU);
 - (C) **Reference number** of any international standard taken as a basis for the development of a given standard; the reference number shall be indicated in accordance with the identification system covered by ISO/IEC Guide 3: 1981 *Identification of National Standards that are Equivalent to International Standards* and ISO/IEC Guide 21: 1981 *Adoption of International standards in National Standards* and its Addendum 1: 1983 *Indication of the Degree of Equivalence Between National Standards and International Standards*.
4. The ISO/IEC Information Centre shall promptly convey to the WTO Secretariat a copy of any notification referred to in paragraph C of the *Code of Good Practice*.
5. Information on standardizing bodies that have accepted or withdrawn from the *Code of Good Practice* and on the work programmes of standardizing bodies, required under paragraph C and the third part of paragraph J, shall be published annually in an ISO/IEC Information Centre periodical publication and may be monthly updated in the *ISO Bulletin*. This publication, for which a reasonable fee will be charged, shall be available to ISONET members and through the WTO Secretariat to WTO members. All related translations shall be provided by the WTO Secretariat.

ANNEX 3

Contracting Party	Cost/Minute
Angola	3.20
Antigua and Barbuda/Antigua-et-Barbuda	3.20
Argentina/Argentine	3.20
Australia/Australie	3.20
Austria/Autriche	1.13
Bahrain/Bahreïn/Bahreïn	3.20
Bangladesh	3.20
Barbados/Barbade	3.20
Belgium/Belgique/Bélgica	1.13
Belize/Belice	3.20
Benin/Bénin	3.20
Bolivia/Bolivie	3.20
Botswana	3.20
Brazil/Brésil/Brasil	3.20
Brunei Darussalam/Brunéi Darussalam	3.20
Burkina Faso	3.20
Burundi	3.20
Cameroon/Cameroun/Camerún	3.20
Canada/Canadá	2.00
Central African Republic/République	3.20
Chad/Tchad	3.20
Chile/Chili	3.20
Colombia/Colombie	3.20
Congo	3.20
Costa Rica	3.20
Côte d'Ivoire	3.20
Cuba	3.20
Cyprus/Chypre/Chipre	1.40
Czech Republic/République tchèque	1.40
Denmark/Danemark/Dinamarca	1.40
Dominica/Dominique	3.20

Contracting Party	Cost/Minute
Dominican Republic/République dominicaine	3.20
Egypt/Egypte/Egipto	2.00
El Salvador	3.20
Fiji/Fidji	3.20
Finland/Finlande/Finlandia	1.40
France/Francia	1.13
Gabon/Gabón	3.20
Gambia/Gambie	3.20
Germany/Allemagne/Alemania	1.13
Ghana	3.20
Greece/Grèce/Grecia	1.40
Grenada/Grenade/Granada	3.20
Guatemala	3.20
Guinea-Bissau	3.20
Guyana	3.20
Haiti/Haïti/Haití	3.20
Honduras	3.20
Hong Kong	3.20
Hungary/Hongrie/Hungria	1.40
Iceland/Islande/Islandia	2.00
India/Inde	3.20
Indonesia/Indonésie	3.20
Ireland/Irlande/Irlanda	1.40
Israel/Israël	2.00
Italy/Italie/Italia	1.13
Jamaica/Jamaïque	3.20
Japan/Japon/Japón	3.20
Kenya	3.20
Korea, Republic of/Corée, République de	3.20
Kuwait/Koweït	3.20
Lesotho	3.20
Liechtenstein	0.20
Luxembourg/Luxemburgo	1.13

Contracting Party	Cost/Minute
Macau/Macao	3.20
Madagascar	3.20
Malawi	3.20
Malaysia/Malaisie/Malasia	3.20
Maldives/Maldivas	3.20
Mali/Mali	3.20
Malta/Malte	1.40
Mauritania/Mauritanie	3.20
Mauritius/Maurice/Mauricio	3.20
Mexico/Mexique/México	3.20
Morocco/Maroc/Marruecos	2.00
Mozambique	3.20
Myanmar, Union of/Myanmar, Union du	3.20
Namibia/Namibie	3.20
Netherlands, Kingdom of/Pays-Bas, Royaume des	1.13
New Zealand/Nouvelle-Zélande/Nueva Zelandia	3.20
Nicaragua	3.20
Niger/Niger	3.20
Nigeria/Nigéria	3.20
Norway/Norvège/Noruega	1.40
Pakistan/Pakistán	3.20
Paraguay	3.20
Peru/Pérou/Perú	3.20
Philippines/Filipinas	3.20
Poland/Pologne/Polonia	3.20
Qatar	1.40
Romania/Roumanie/Rumania	1.40
Rwanda	3.20
Saint Kitts and Nevis	3.20
Saint Lucia/Sainte-Lucie/Santa Lucía	3.20
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	3.20
Senegal/Sénégal	3.20
Sierra Leone/Sierra Leona	3.20

Contracting Party	Cost/Minute
Singapore/Singpur/Singapur	3.20
Slovak Republic/République slovaque	1.40
South Africa/Afrique du Sud/Sudáfrica	3.20
Spain/Espagne/España	1.40
Sri Lanka	3.20
Suriname	3.20
Swaziland/Swazilandia	3.20
Sweden/Suède/Suecia	1.40
Switzerland/Suisse/Suiza	0.20
Tanzania/Tanzanie/Tanzanía	3.20
Thailand/Thaïlande/Tailandia	3.20
Togo	3.20
Trinidad and Tobago/Trinité-et-Tobago	3.20
Tunisia/Tunisie/Túnez	2.00
Turkey/Turquie/Turquía	1.40
Uganda/Ouganda	3.20
United Arab Emirates	3.20
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1.40
United States of America/Etats-Unis d'Amérique	2.00
Uruguay	3.20
Venezuela	3.20
Yugoslavia/Yougoslavie	1.40
Zaire/Zaire	3.20
Zambia/Zambie	3.20
Zimbabwe	3.20
Total	332.31

N.B. To send a one page fax it can take anywhere from one to two minutes under normal circumstances. It depends on how full the page is and what type of equipment is used on the receiving end.

If 700 one page TBT notifications were sent to 123 members each year, the cost would be approximately Sfr. 348,925, assuming that it would take one and a half minutes per member and per notification.