

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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Group "Non-Tariff Measures"

Sub-Group "Technical Barriers to Trade"

## ISO WORKING GROUP ON DEFINITIONS

Report by Mr. K. Bergholm

At our last meeting I invited the Chairman and some members of the Sub-Group to attend forthcoming meetings of ISO/STACO Working Group 3, Definitions, to draw the attention of that Working Group to some difficulties which the Sub-Group had had in applying ISO/ECE definitions to the draft Standards Code. The Sub-Group agreed that such informal contacts would be useful.

Mr. Williams and a number of delegates taking part in the work of the Sub-Group attended meetings of Working Group 3 which were held on 9 February and 10 May 1976 specifically to consider points raised by the Sub-Group. Representatives of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe were also present at these meetings.

During the meetings the points which the Sub-Group wished to raise were presented to Working Group 3.

The meetings demonstrated that ISO and ECE are prepared to consider certain changes in their definitions. Working Group 3 also appeared to accept without any difficulty that, in certain respects, the definitions used for the specific purpose of the draft Standards Code might be different from definitions drawn up in ISO. In some cases the need for differences is evident e.g. services might be excluded from the definitions used in the GATT context but included in ISO definitions. Working Group 3 also considered that normative elements might be included in some ISO definitions but excluded in GATT since such elements would properly figure in the operative provisions of the Code. It was suggested that GATT might draw up a separate paper which set out the differences between the two sets of definitions and explained the reasons for these.

The ISO/STACO Working Group 3 is only a preparatory body. Neither ISO nor ECE have yet made any decisions to amend (or not to amend) their existing definitions. Thus the following list is giving only my personal estimates on which amendments ISO and ECE might accept and which amendments they will probably not accept. It must further be kept in mind that Working Group 3 has expressed its readiness to consider also in future any requests and problems presented to it by GATT.

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Definition 1, "Regulation"

To change the position of the word "binding" can be accepted, not the deletion of the words "and published".

Definition 2, "Technical Specification"

To add the words "or deal exclusively with" can be accepted and probably also to delete "codes of practice".

Definition 3, "Standard"

To delete the words "based on the consolidated results of science, technology and experience, aimed at the promotion of optimum community benefits" can be accepted, but not other deletions. To add the words "for continued application" can be accepted, but probably not to add the words "and with which there is no legal obligation to comply". If "codes of practice" are deleted from the definition of "technical specification" they will be added to this definition.

Definition 4, "Technical Regulation"

To add the words "or those parts of a regulation" can be accepted.

Definitions 4, 18 and 20 ... 24

To add the words "or other" can probably not be accepted.

Definition 29, "Certification Body"

Probably no amendments can be accepted.

Definition "Regulatory Body"

This term is probably of no interest for the ISO, but the ECE might need it. It was suggested that "Enforcement Body" might be better than "Regulatory Body" and "National Government Body" better than "Central Government Body".

Definitions "Membership in a certification system" and "Participation in a certification system"

The ISO and the ECE are interested in adopting these definitions after they have got a final wording by the GATT.