

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

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Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

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COMMITTEE INVESTIGATION UNDER ARTICLE 14.4 CONCERNING TYPE
APPROVAL OF HEATING RADIATORS AND ELECTRICAL
MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

The following communication, dated 28 May 1984, has been received from the delegation of Spain.

At its meetings of 29 February and 25 April 1984, concerned with considering, in accordance with the procedure prescribed in Article 14.4 of the Code, the possible solution of differences between the European Economic Community and Spain concerning the Spanish standards for type approval of radiators and electromedical apparatus in Spain, the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade agreed, inter alia, that information should be supplied describing the administrative procedures used for the type approval both of radiators and of electromedical apparatus in Spain.

Pursuant to instructions received from my authorities, I herewith forward for the Committee's information a description of the administrative procedure for type approval in the case of radiators, and I hope to be able to send you shortly a similar description for electromedical apparatus.

PROCEDURE FOR TYPE APPROVAL OF RADIATORS

In keeping with its policy of consumer safeguards and protection, the Spanish administration draws up technical regulations which bring about a series of actions in respect of a set of technical and administrative requirements to be fulfilled by importers and domestic manufacturers.

In the majority of cases, and specifically in the case of type approval of radiators, the technical requirements are practically identical with those in most OECD countries.

The administrative procedure (mainly relating to documentation) is described below.

The party concerned - manufacturer or importer - submits to the administrative body competent under the law, an application for type approval, which must be accompanied by the required technical documentation. Along with application, the administration requests a series of identifying data concerning the applicant.

The application must be accompanied by:

- (1) A certificate from the laboratory in which the tests were carried out. For radiators, the laboratories are those of the Escuela Técnica Superior de Ingenieros Industriales, Madrid (approved by Decision of 22 June 1983) and of the Universidad Politécnica, Barcelona (approved by Decision of 8 March 1983). The testing procedures are prescribed in the Order of the Ministry of Industry dated 10 February 1983.
- (2) A verification report (auditoría) by a co-operating agency. There are four such authorized agencies in Spain and they are widely known to manufacturers and importers. The report must certify that the producing factory has an appropriate quality-control system.
- (3) Technical documentation or memorandum sufficiently explaining the functioning and the specifications of the apparatus to be approved, so that it is thoroughly described.

When the above documentation is complete, it is examined by the appropriate Committee of the Commission for Supervision and Certification of Radiators, which makes the relevant recommendation. This Committee is headed by the Director-General for Siderometallurgical and Naval Industries of the Ministry of Industry and Energy and includes two representatives of the Ministry of Economy and Finance, one representative of the Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs, one representative of the National Consumer Institute, one representative of the Ministry of Education, and two representatives of the Ministry of Industry and Energy. One representative of the technical association of the industry concerned is present in this Committee as technical observer.

The Standards, Approval and Safety Commission is headed by the Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Energy and includes all of the Directors-General and the Technical Secretary of the Department. All recommendations for type-approval action are brought to the notice of this Commission, which can make observations on the texts submitted.