

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

TBT/Spec/24

27 July 1993

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

REQUEST FOR A FACTUAL COMPARISON OF THE TEXTS OF ANNEX 3 OF THE DRAFT (1991) AGREEMENT ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE AND THE ISO/IEC CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE FOR STANDARDIZATION

(Communication from the Secretariat)

At its meeting on 11 May 1993 the Committee requested the secretariat to prepare a factual comparison of the texts of Annex 3 of the draft (1991) Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade and the ISO/IEC Code of Good Practice for Standardization once the Code was made available in its final version (TBT/M/44, paragraph 126).

The Secretariat has been informed by the ISO Central Secretariat that the ISO Executive Board, after noting the position taken at the meeting of the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade in May, has decided to recommend to the ISO Council that the ISO/IEC Code, incorporating, where appropriate, the editorial comments received, should become an ISO/IEC guide and that, for the time being, ISO should not seek statements of adherence. It is understood that the IEC concurs with the position of the ISO Executive Board.

The final text of the ISO/IEC Code will not become available until after the ISO and IEC Councils have had an opportunity to endorse the above recommendation, which is not expected until November 1993. Consequently, the secretariat is unable, for the time being, to undertake the comparison requested by the Committee.