

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

TBT/W/8

5 June 1980

Special Distribution

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

LIST OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDIZING BODIES
FOR PURPOSES OF ARTICLES 10.4 AND
13.3 OF THE AGREEMENT

Note by the Secretariat

Article 10.4 of the Agreement states: "The GATT secretariat will, when it receives notifications in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, circulate copies of the notifications to all Parties and interested international standardizing and certification bodies ...".

Article 13.3 of the Agreement states: "It is understood that unnecessary duplication should be avoided between the work under this Agreement and that of governments in other technical bodies, e.g. the Joint FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission. The Committee shall examine this problem with a view to minimizing such duplication."

At the second meeting of the Committee, on 24 April 1980, it was agreed that the secretariat would circulate a list of the main bodies that may be concerned under Article 10.4 and that such a list should also enable the Committee to identify possible areas of duplication. The international standardizing bodies listed in the present note are such as defined in Annex 1 to the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, i.e., an international standardizing body is a governmental or non-governmental body, one of whose recognized activities is in the field of standardization and whose membership is open to the relevant bodies of at least all Parties to the Agreement. The membership, the main periodical publications and a brief account of main fields of activity are given for each body in the list. The list only covers bodies dealing with product-related standards whose activities are relevant to the purposes of the Agreement. It is not exhaustive and is subject to change in the light of further information that may become available to the secretariat.

A. Intergovernmental

1. Joint FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission

Membership: 117 countries

Publications: Nutrition Newsletter (quarterly)
Reports of the sessions of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme

Activities: Standards and codes issued are related to the following subjects: labelling of prepacked foods; sampling plans for prepacked foods; methods for determination of drained weights for processed fruit and vegetables, quick frozen fruit and vegetables, fruit and vegetable juices, edible fungi, sugar and sugar confectioneries, honey, olives, dairy products, fats and oils, fish and marine food products, processed meat products; list of additives for use in food; code of hygiene practices in general and specifically for canned fruit and vegetables, dried fruits, desiccated coconut, dehydrated fruit, vegetables and edible fungi, tree nuts; maximum levels for contaminants and pesticide residues.

2. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Membership: 110 countries

Publication: IAEA Bulletin (bi-monthly)

Activities: Safety standards and recommendations on radiation safety. Joint FAO/IAEA/WHO work on safety criteria for irradiated food. Advice and assistance on design and technology of power reactor systems.

3. International Bureau of Weights and Measures

Membership: 45 countries

Publication: Recueil de travaux du Bureau international des poids et mesures

Activities: International unit standards and measurement scales; verification of high precision and measurement scales; improvement of the International System of Units (SI).

4. International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

Membership: 144 countries

Publication: ICAO Bulletin

Activities: Aircraft design specifications, in the context of Convention on International Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPS).

5. International Institute of Refrigeration

Membership: 53 countries

Publication: Technical Bulletin (6 times a year)

Activities: International recommendations regarding cold storage and refrigerated transport of perishable foodstuffs and food freezing and refrigerated transport in developing countries.

6. Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO)

Membership: 111 countries plus 1 associate member

Publication: IMCO News (quarterly)

Activities: Recommendations for the carriage of dangerous goods by sea, contained in the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code (IMDG Code). The Code includes a General Index of Dangerous Goods, packing recommendations and facsimiles of labels. Safety requirements and tests for containers (International Convention of Safe Containers).

7. International Labour Office (ILO)

Membership: 138 countries

Publications: Official Bulletin, Series A (four issues)
Occupational Safety and Health Series (occasional)
Codes of Practice and Guides on Safety and Health

Activities: In the context of occupational safety and health policies, standard setting, e.g. code of practice entitled Safe design and use of chain saws; occupational exposure limits for toxic substances.

8. International Office of Epizootics

Membership: 97 countries

Publication: Bulletin (bi-monthly)

Activities: Standardization of biological products, in co-operation with WHO and IASM (International Association of Societies of Microbiology); International Zoo-sanitary Code on importation and exportation of animals and animal products, including norms for diagnostic tests, the preparation and control of certain vaccines, etc.

9. International Olive Oil Council (IOOC)

Membership: 21 countries

Publication: IOOC Survey (bi-monthly)

Activities: Uniform standards for physical and chemical characteristics of olive oil and olive-residue oil; uniform methods of analysis; liaison with Codex Alimentarius Commission on oils and fats.

10. International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML)

Membership: 44 countries plus 13 corresponding members

Publication: Bulletin (quarterly)

Activities: International recommendations on characteristics and standards for measuring instruments to facilitate their international use.

11. International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Membership: 153 countries

Publication: Telecommunication Journal

Activities: Standardization of equipment for international use; performance standards.

12. International Vine and Wine Office (OIV)

Membership: 29 countries

Publication: Bulletin de l'O.I.V.

Activities: International code of oenological practices (45 wine-growing and processing practices adopted by member States analyzed and evaluated, plus 20 definitions of vine and wine products).

13. World Health Organization (WHO)

Membership: 151 countries and 2 associate members

Publication: World Health (monthly)
WHO Chronicle (monthly)

Activities: Quality assurance for pharmaceutical products (1975 Certification Scheme on the quality of pharmaceutical products moving in international commerce - 54 participating governments - and Recommendation on good practices in the manufacture and quality control of drugs; International Pharmacopoeia and lists of international non-proprietary names for pharmaceutical substances (now numbering 4155); international standards and reference preparations for biologicals); food safety, in the framework of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (this covering, inter alia, the development of microbiological criteria for foods and work on pesticides and food additives); WHO also studies the possibility of establishing a central terminology bank and, in co-operation with CIOMS (Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences) it is working on a project of standardized international nomenclature of diseases.

14. World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Membership: 139 countries, 17 territories

Publication: WMO Bulletin (quarterly)

Activities: Model charts and forms

B. Non-governmental

1. International Air Transport Association (IATA)

Membership: Airlines from 83 countries

Publication: IATA Review (11 issues per year)

Activities: Regulations on restricted articles (i.e. not accepted for transportation except as provided in the Regulations) covering labelling; packaging, container standards, test procedures.

2. International Bureau for the Standardization of Man-Made Fibres

Membership: National associations or individual producers in 19 countries

Publication: Rules for standardization of various categories of man-made fibres

Activities: Technical rules for standardization and technical standards for testing.

3. International Container Bureau

Membership: 13 international NGO's, 1 IGO, 150 administrations or enterprises in 20 countries

Publication: Containers (twice a year)

Activities: International Register of Code Marks. Standardization of freight containers (in co-operation with other bodies).

4. International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

Membership: National standard bodies in 81 countries. Correspondent members in 18 countries.

Publication: ISO Bulletin (monthly)

Activities: Issues standards for products in various fields, e.g. wood products, food products, essential oils, agricultural equipment and supplies, rubber and rubber products, textiles, plastics and plastic products, containers, paper and inks; also documentation and terminology. (Over 4,000 ISO standards in existence.)

5. International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)

Membership: National committees in 42 countries

Publication: IEC Bulletin (monthly)

Activities: Issues standards on electrotechnical products and terminology.

6. International Council on Combustion Engines

Membership: National committees in 16 countries

Activities: Recommendations for diesel engine and gas turbine acceptance tests, based on or with reference to ISO and IEC standards.

7. International Dairy Federation

Membership: National committees in 31 countries

Publications: Annual Bulletin; IDF news

Activities: Standards on milk and milk products (composition, sampling and analyses); milk farm and factory equipment; disinfectants

8. World Packaging Organization

Membership: Asian, European, North-American Packaging Federations

Activities: Develops international packaging standards.