

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

LIST OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDIZING BODIES

Note by the Secretariat

Addendum

Following the circulation of the first list of standardizing bodies in TBT/W/8, the secretariat's attention has been drawn to the following certification system, whose activities are of interest in the context of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade.

IEC¹ International Quality Assessment System for Electronic
Components

1. The System is open to participation by all members of the IEC.
2. Its object is to facilitate international trade in electronic components of assessed quality. Quality assessment procedures are defined in such a manner that components released by one participating country as conforming with the requirements of an applicable specification are equally acceptable in all other participating countries without the need for further testing. The System is based on the use of IEC standards.
3. The overall responsibility for the functioning of the System is vested in the Certification Management Committee, which is a Committee of the IEC.
4. Under the System, quality assessment is carried out by the manufacturer of electronic components under the surveillance of a National Supervising Inspectorate established in each certifying country, in a number of steps described in the Rules of Procedure of the System. The main steps are as follows:
 - Approval of the manufacturer: The National Supervising Inspectorate evaluates, according to established rules, the organization and facilities of a manufacturer desiring to deliver components under the System.
 - Qualification approval: For each type of component to be delivered under the System, the manufacturer applies for qualification approval. Qualification approval is granted by the National Supervising Inspectorate.

¹International Electrotechnical Commission, described as item B.5 in document TBT/W/8.

- Quality conformance inspection: After qualification approval has been obtained, the manufacturer is responsible for ensuring that no major technical changes are introduced for the product without re-qualification being made, and that the quality conformance inspection prescribed by the specification is carried out. The quality conformance inspection is subject to surveillance by the National Supervising Inspectorate.

- Certification of conformity: As proof that the components delivered under the System come from lots released by the procedure described above, the manufacturer either issues an appropriate Certificate of Conformity with each delivery or he places a Mark of Conformity on each component or on the sealed package.

- Certified record of Released Lots: In special cases, the manufacturer may issue periodically (e.g. every six months) in concise form the accumulated results of tests made by him, for lots which were released under the System. This document is authenticated by the National Supervising Inspectorate.