

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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Special Distribution

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

REGIONAL STANDARDS-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Note by the Secretariat

Corrigendum

The reply of the Norwegian Standards Association should be replaced by the following expanded reply:

INSTA has no formal organization or secretariat. Representatives of the standards bodies in the Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden) meet every second or third year for exchange of information and experience. The meeting is organized by the country that hosts the meeting. The main aim is to avoid duplication of work and maximum use of the resources.

There is cooperation in the elaboration of some standards, in the sense that one tries to achieve that the technical content of a particular standard should be identical in as many of the countries as possible. The reference to the other identical standards are indicated on each national standard.

The technical cooperation is between the relevant standards bodies or relevant technical committees and restricted to specific projects. The cooperation is done in one of the following ways:

- a) Common Nordic committee with secretariat in one of the organizations.
- b) A Nordic working group with representatives from the corresponding national technical committees.
- c) A national committee is extended by specialists from one or more of the other countries.
- d) The work is delegated to a technical committee in one of the standards bodies.

There is a common policy in all the standards bodies in the Nordic countries to make maximum use of international standards (approved within ISO or IEC). Some bodies adopt international standards and publish the national standard with or without translation of the international standard.

Each of the national standards bodies in the Nordic countries (except Iceland) have a national system for certification of products in conformity with standards. In 1977 these bodies agreed on a mutual certification procedure which can be implemented when two or more of the bodies have harmonized standards. Further, the standards bodies approve the administration of each others certification system and mutually accept control and test reports drawn up by approved testing laboratories.

In accordance with the issued certificate of conformity, a product which is in conformity with the relevant standards can be marked with either a national mark of conformity or a Nordic mark of conformity, i.e. a combination of national marks of conformity.