MANDATORY MARKING AND LABELLING REQUIREMENTS ON IMPORTED PRODUCTS: PRACTICAL COMPLIANCE ISSUES

Thematic Session on Technical Regulations – Marking and Labelling
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Marking & labelling requirements

- **What?**
  - Product Characteristics
  - Production methods and processes
  - Information concerning use
  - etc.
Marking & labelling requirements

Why?

✓ Conformity with mandatory technical requirements,
✓ Identity of manufacturers,
✓ Informing consumers about safety, health and environmental issues, etc.
Background

**Scope**: practical aspects of compliance with mandatory marking and labelling requirements affecting imported products.

**Objective**: promote measures and practices that enable producers to fulfil the legitimate objectives pursued by mandatory marking and labelling requirements in the least costly and burdensome way possible.
There is no one-size-fits-all: Regulators have to balance

Legitimate need to ensure products are safe, and provide consumers with adequate information / confidence…

… without excessive cost and administrative burden for producers who need to market their products
Considerations

1 – What to require

2 – What to allow

3 – Procedures relating to labels

4 – Method and timing of labelling
Considerations – 1
Information required by the regulator

What kind of information must be affixed on the label?

Limited to information:

➢ relevant for consumers or users of the product

➢ needed to indicate the product's conformity with mandatory technical requirements.
Considerations – 2
Information allowed by the regulator

Allow additional information, unless is misleading, contradictory or confusing

➢ information in other languages in addition to the language required in the importing Members;

➢ internationally-accepted nomenclatures, pictograms, symbols or graphics;

➢ additional information to that required in the importing Member
Considerations – 3
Mandatory procedures related to labels

Approval of labels?

➢ No prior approval, registration or certification should be required

➢ No fee disbursement
Considerations – 4
The method and timing of label application

➢ Labelling/corrections in the customs territory of the importing party should be allowed

➢ Non-permanent or detachable labels

➢ Sufficient time to adapt the labels of products in case of new labelling requirement / transitional provisions
EU Proposals

➢ Discuss and share experiences from Members

➢ Develop recommendations or other guidance documents to support Members in the implementation of the TBT Agreement
Thank you!