GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED
TBT/W/41
22 February 1982
Special Distribution

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

PUBLICITY ON ENQUIRY POINTS

Note by the Secretariat

1. At its meeting of 20-22 October 1981, the Committee requested the secretariat to propose, for its next meeting, a set of common elements that might be included in information booklets which Parties might wish to issue on enquiry points (TBT/M/8, paragraph 12). The purpose of this exercise is to improve publicity concerning the role of enquiry points in answering queries from parties (TBT/M/8, Annex, paragraph 11). It is suggested that it is important that all interested parties, in particular exporters, should know what services are being provided by enquiry points in other Parties.

2. Common elements and a standard layout for information booklets are presented in the Annex. The references to relevant provisions of the Agreement are intended to bring out the main requirements under which enquiry points operate.

3. It is suggested that the Committee should recommend that all booklets issued by Parties should contain the elements and, as far as possible, follow the layout at Annex.

ANNEX

Common elements and standard layout for information booklets on enquiry points

1. Objective, name and address of GATT enquiry point(s) as in TBT/W/31/Rev.2 and Add.1/Corr.1.

   1.1 Objective
   Refer to the provisions of Articles 10.1 and 10.7 of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade.

   1.2 Date established, and name of responsible officer.

   1.3 Who can use the enquiry point(s)
   Refer to the provisions of Articles 10.1, 10.2, 2.5.3, 2.6.2, and 8.1 (in relation to 7.3.3 and 7.4.2) of the Agreement.

2. Information available from enquiry point(s)

   2.1 Documentation:

   (a) Refer to the provisions of Articles 2.5.3, 2.6.2, 2.9, 2.10, 3.1, 4.1, 7.3.3, 7.4.2, 8.1, 9.2, and 10.3, 10.5.1, 10.5.2.

   (b) Documentation that can be obtained from the enquiry point(s).

   (c) Procedures for handling documentation on proposed or adopted domestic regulations and standards and certification systems.

   2.2 Notifications: content, format, comment period

   (a) Refer to the provisions of Articles 2.5.2, 2.6.1, 2.9, 2.10, 7.3.2, 7.4.1, and 3.1, 4.1, 8.1, 9.2, of the Agreement and to the decisions of the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade regarding format and comment period.

   (b) Procedures for handling notifications issued by other signatories of the Agreement, for issuing notifications from domestic sources, and for handling comments on notifications received or issued.

   2.3 Publication:

   (a) Refer to the provisions of Articles 2.5.1, 2.7, 2.9, 2.10, 7.3.1, 7.5 and 3.1, 4.1, 8.1, 9.2 and 10.1.4.

   (b) Procedures for ensuring compliance with these provisions of the Agreement, including any publications by the enquiry point(s).

3. Facilities offered (including charges, if any)

3.1 Data bank (content and form of documents, e.g. paper, microfilm, computer etc.).

3.2 Access to data (retrieval system: manual, tape, on-line; software used).

3.3 Languages used.

3.4 Translation, if any.

Annex

A.1 Brief description of the Agreement: objectives, date of entry into force, date joined, status in domestic law.

A.2 List of signatories of the Agreement.

A.3 List of enquiry points of other signatories (based on TBT/W/31/Rev.2 and Add.1/Corr.1).