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GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

INDIVIDUAL STANDARDIZING AND CERTIFYING BODIES

Note by the Secretariat

Corrigendum

The section on Belgium appearing on page 5 of TBT/W/44/Add.1 should be replaced by the following:

Country: Belgium

1. Name:

Institut belge de normalisation (IBN)
(Belgian Standardization Institute)
Avenue de la Brabançonne 29, B 1940 Brussels

Centre d'information belge sur les normes et les règlements techniques
(CIBELNOR)
(Belgian Information Centre on Standards and Technical Regulations)
Avenue de la Brabançonne 29, B 1040 Brussels

IBN has empowered the Comité électrotechnique belge (CEB) (Belgian Electrotechnical Committee) to draw up standards and follow standards activities in regard to electrotechnology. Some of the replies given below also include results of the work of CEB.

2. Date established:

31 March 1946.

3. Membership:

The IBN statutes provide for three categories of members: full members, associate members and honorary members. The full members include all professional administrations and federations.

4. Organizational structure and management:

The General Assembly of full members is the most appropriate body for determining standardization policy and making major decisions.

Nevertheless, such decisions are proposed by the Administrative Board and day-to-day management is the responsibility of the Management Committee.

Practical work is carried out by the administrative and technical services of IBN.

The staff is appointed according to the procedure in force in the quasi-State organs which is more or less equivalent to that of the State. It implements decisions and provides secretariat services for the technical committees of IBN.

5. Financing:

IBN has a budget of about 80 million. About one third is made up of a government subsidy, one third comes from sale of standards and one third from industry.

6. Activities:

(a) IBN is concerned with both standardization and certification. Under a Royal Decree dated 10 April 1954, IBN was authorized to register the BENOR approval mark as a collective mark.

CEB has a similar mark, called the CEBEC mark.

(b) IBN publishes only its own standards.

(c) Belgian standards are solely rules of the art and do not have to be observed in the strict sense of the term. However, the Administration can make standards compulsory by a statement to that effect, as has been done in certain Royal Decrees and in tender specifications.

(d) IBN is a member of the International Standards Organization (ISO) and of the European Committee for Standardization (ECS).

On the other hand, CEB is a member of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), of the European Electrotechnical Standardization Committee (CENELEC) and of CEE/Arnhem.

(e) IBN acts as the enquiry point for Belgium within the framework of GATT.

It will perform a similar function within the framework of the Common Market and is already operating as an enquiry point to facilitate reciprocal information on certifications and test reports.

(f) IBN publishes an Annual Report each year and for the moment, every two years, a Standards Catalogue which is updated by cumulative supplements.

IBN also produces a periodical which is to be published ten times a year starting in 1982.

7. Fields of standardization:

(a) IBN follows standardization activities at international level in order to make them the basis for Belgian standards and to supplement them where necessary by purely national standards.

Accordingly, it follows all the fields of activity in which standardization is active.

(b) Number of standards for 1980: 114 standards approved
210 standards registered
143 draft standards

Number of standards for 1981: 57 standards approved
66 standards registered
51 draft standards

8. Fields of certification:

IBN grants its BENOR mark for the following products:

Steel for reinforced concrete
Gas-burning heating appliances
Solid-fuel metal stoves
Optical apparatus for regulating motor vehicle headlamps
Concrete ready for use
Concrete blocks
Ceramic products
Reinforced cables insulated with thermoplastic materials for telephones and signalling
Cement panels
Cement
Reinforced bitumen
Portable fire extinguishers
Wires and cables insulated with rubber
Concrete paving
Insulating panels based on wood fibre or shavings, cement or plaster for acoustic and thermal insulation
Poles of reinforced concrete
Tubes of PVC for electrical installations
Tubes of PVC-C, not plasticized for carrying used water at high temperatures for ventilation and for carrying hot air
Tubes and pipes, joints and connections of asbestos cement for drainage
Tubes and pipes of polyethylene for carrying fluids
Tubes and pipes of concrete not subjected to internal pressure
Tubes of rubber for soldering and related techniques
Safety glazing for motor vehicles

CEN grants the CEBEC mark for all low-tension equipment.

9. Status of publications:

(a) Optional standards: approximately 2,000

(b) Standards used as a basis for regulations: about twenty standards have been made compulsory, mainly in the area of safety and electricity.

In addition, all standards are included in tender specifications as contractual conditions.

(c) IBN applies technical regulations to organize inspection with a view to granting the BENOR mark for the products mentioned above.