

WTO TBT
Enquiry Point
2023

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1. **The WTO and the WTO TBT Agreement**
2. **Where do standards developers fit / Code of good practice**
3. **What are the overall roles of the TBT Enquiry Point?**
4. **How does the SA TBT Enquiry Point support stakeholders?**
5. **What are the benefits of using the National TBT Enquiry Points**

- The only international body dealing with global rules of trade between nations
- WTO has over 160 members
- Its main function is to ensure that trade flows as smoothly, predictably and freely as possible
- WTO agreements provide the legal ground-rules for international commerce
- They bind governments (member countries) to keep their trade policies within agreed limits
- Trade disagreements between members are channeled into WTO's dispute settlement process

Where do we as Standards developers fit in?

Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards

The diagram consists of two ovals connected by a right-pointing arrow. The left oval is dark grey and contains the text 'Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards'. The right oval is red and contains the text 'It lays down disciplines in respect of central government, local government, non-governmental and regional standardizing bodies developing voluntary standards'. A horizontal red line is at the top, and a horizontal red line with a grey segment at the end is at the bottom.

It lays down disciplines in respect of central government, local government, non-governmental and regional standardizing bodies developing voluntary standards

Where do standards developers fit / Code of good practice

- Standards are not to be prepared, adopted or applied with a view to, or with the effect of, creating unnecessary obstacles to trade
- Standardising bodies shall use international standards as a basis for standards being developed where applicable
- Play a full part in the work of international standardising bodies as far as possible
- Avoid duplication of, or overlap with relevant international standards
- Standards are to be based on performance rather than prescriptive product characteristics
- Transparency through notifications of work programme
- Allow a 60 (or more) day comment period on draft standards

- Monitors the SA gazette for technical regulations and notifies the WTO of potential TBTs
- Makes WTO TBT notification details and full-texts available via the Enquiry Point
- Assimilates comments, correspondence from SA stakeholders and WTO Members for submission to the dti
- Distributes comments, responds to correspondence from WTO Members and keeps Members and trade organisations informed
- Provides information & guidance to SA. industry and WTO Members on comment submissions

- Enquiry Point distributes on a weekly basis all notifications submitted to the WTO and provides guidance for SA commenters
- Stakeholders submit regulations, comments, procedural questions, other information requests to the Enquiry Point and the Enquiry Point distributes comments/messages to the appropriate WTO member national enquiry point or government trade/export organization
- WTO members submit comments on SA notifications to SA Enquiry Point and Enquiry Point distributes comments to regulators and industry

- Allows for interagency coordination, awareness of unintended consequences of regulation /possible defensive concerns
- Gain understanding of TBT agreement and its obligations
- Connect to trade organisations,
- Maintain Repository of Comments

Thank You, SABS

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