

IMPLEMENTATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE AGREEMENT
ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

Addendum

Communication from Bolivia

The following Statement under Article 15, paragraph 2 of the Agreement has been received from the delegation of Bolivia.

1. The Government of Bolivia accepted the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade by adopting and ratifying the Final Act of the Uruguay Round establishing the WTO and embodying the results of the GATT trade negotiations, which entered into force on 13 September 1995.
2. On 17 February 1997 Supreme Decree No. 24498 of the Bolivian Standardization, Metrology, Accreditation and Certification System (NMAC System), which forms Bolivia's basic quality infrastructure, was enacted with a view to creating a legal framework for the implementation of the Agreement.
3. The objectives of the NMAC System are to foster the competitiveness and quality of Bolivian goods and services on the national and international markets, to guarantee human, animal and plant safety and health, environmental protection and the protection of consumer interests, and to organize and establish operational guidelines for standardization, metrology, accreditation, testing, certification and all other activities relating to the quality of products, processes and services.
4. The supreme body of the NMAC System is the National Quality Council, composed of an equal number of public and private sector-specific authorities. Its main function is to define national policy with respect to activities related to the NMAC System.
5. The NMAC System also has an Executive Commission responsible for implementing the mandates of the National Quality Council, as well as a National Coordinating Body. The executive bodies of the NMAC System are: the Bolivian Institute of Standardization and Quality (IBNORCA), a private, non-profit-making body responsible for standardization; the Bolivian Institute of Metrology (IBMETRO), a decentralized body responsible for administering the national metrology service; and the recently created Bolivian Accreditation Organization (OBA), a decentralized, mixed entity responsible for accreditation within the country.

6. IBNORCA operates through technical committees in which all of the interested sectors participate (private and public sectors, universities, etc.). It is a member of ISO and of the Pan-American Standards Commission (COPANT).

7. Bolivian Technical Standards (NB) are prepared as follows: the technical committee concerned meets to review and adopt the document, which is then submitted to public enquiry of 60 days through publication in the press. The document then returns to the technical committee and is submitted to the Governing Council for Standardization which, if it grants its approval, passes the document on to the Board of Directors of IBNORCA, the Institute's highest authority, for approval.

8. The Vice-Ministry of Industry and Trade, which is in charge of the sector, coordinates and registers the issuance of technical regulations through the Industrial Development Unit (UDI). The regulations must be based directly or by reference on Bolivian technical standards, or in the absence thereof, on regional or international standards or on codes of good practice. All of the entities issuing technical regulations must notify the UDI sufficiently in advance for the interested parties to be informed and the WTO notified.

9. The technical regulations enter into force 60 days after the UDI has been notified. This period may be disregarded in case of an emergency involving urgent problems of national security, human, animal and plant safety, or environmental protection, provided the technical regulation is duly notified upon adoption.

10. The contact point for holding consultations under the Agreement and the enquiry point for technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures in Bolivia is the Department of Standards and Quality of the Vice-Ministry of Industry and Domestic Trade at the following address:

Viceministerio de Industria y Comercio Interno
Av. Camach 1488
Casilla No. 4430 La Paz - Bolivia
Tel: 591-2- 37 20 46
Fax: 591 -2- 37 20 47

11. The enquiry point for technical standards is the Bolivian Institute of Standardization and Quality, IBNORCA, at the following address:

Instituto Boliviano de Normalización y Calidad IBNORCA
Av. Camacho 1488
Casilla No. 5034 La Paz - Bolivia

Tel: 591-2- 31 72 62
Fax: 591-2- 31 72 62
