

- DIN Global, a CD-ROM, which comprises 100,000 document references on foreign and international standards.
- Reference books, including directories, technical and scientific dictionaries and catalogues.
- Periodicals and standards related bulletins.

## SERVICES RENDERED

- Notified proposed draft standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedure to WTO through Ministry of Industry and Trade
- Distribution of TBT notifications from WTO members to interested parties in Tanzania.
- Handling of comments on Tanzania notifications received from WTO members.
- Responding to request for information both from WTO members and interested parties in Tanzania on national standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures.



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## Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS)



**WTO-TBT**

**THE NATIONAL  
ENQUIRY POINT  
(NEP)**

## INTRODUCTION

The World Trade Organization (WTO) was established in 1995 as a result of the Uruguay Round of Trade negotiations, which were held from 1986 to 1994. The negotiations were aimed at adopting rules to govern international trade by member countries. The efforts to regulate international trade started immediately after the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, and in 1948 the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade (GATT) was adopted. Later on the Uruguay Round of Trade Negotiations revised and updated the Agreement. The negotiations led to three Agreements; GATT 1994, the General Agreement to Trade and Services (GATS) and The Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). WTO was established to oversee the implementation of these Agreements and it acts as a forum for negotiations among Members.

Members also signed other 12 associate Agreements to deal with Agriculture, Textiles, Subsidies, Anti-dumping, Technical Barriers to Trade and others.

Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) is one of the GATT 1994 Associates Agreements. It addresses to matters pertaining to the preparation, adoption and application of standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures.

The Agreements, to which Tanzania is a signatory, commits members to working towards elimination of unnecessary obstacles to international trade. They require each Member country to establish an enquiry point, which is able to respond to all reasonable enquiries from other members and interested parties.

This requirement recognizes the fact that lack of information about other members' standards, technical regulations, conformity assessment and procedures can be an obstacle to international trade.

## NATIONAL ENQUIRY POINT (NEP)

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) is the National Enquiry Point for WTO – TBT Agreements in Tanzania. NEP became operational in January 2000 with the assistance of UNCTAD/ITC/WTO under the Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Programme (JITAP).

NEP handles information on technical regulations, standards adopted or proposed to be adopted, conformity assessment procedures adopted or proposed to be adopted.

## INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL RESOURCES

NEP maintains a collection of national, foreign and international standards and trade related information,, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures.

### NEP has

- Tanzania national standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures.
- International standards of International Organization for Standardization (ISO), Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Health Organization (WHO) etc.
- Foreign/Regional Standards – South African Standards (SABS), British Standards (BSI), Indian Standards (BIS), Sri Lanka Standards, Malaysian Standards, Japanese Standards, German Standards (DIN), Kenya Standards, Zimbabwe Standards, Mauritius Standards, East African Standards etc.
- Notifications from WTO members.