

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

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## ANNUAL TRANSITIONAL REVIEW MANDATED IN PARAGRAPH 18 OF THE PROTOCOL OF ACCESSION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA: INFORMATION REQUIRED IN ANNEX 1A OF WT/L/432

### Submission by the People's Republic of China

The following communication, dated 5 November 2007, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of the People's Republic of China.

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#### **I. NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF THE CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE NOT LATER THAN FOUR MONTHS AFTER CHINA'S ACCESSION**

1. There has been no change in this area since the last review.

#### **II. PERIODIC REVIEW OF EXISTING STANDARDS OF GOVERNMENT STANDARDIZING BODIES AND HARMONIZATION OF THE SAME WITH RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS WHERE APPROPRIATE**

2. There has been no change in this area since the last review.

#### **III. REVISION OF CURRENT VOLUNTARY NATIONAL, LOCAL AND SECTORAL STANDARDS SO AS TO HARMONIZE THEM WITH INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS**

3. The Standardization Law of the People's Republic of China encourages active alignment with international standards. The Plan on Preparation of National Standards places priority on those projects in alignment with international standards. The same principle will be followed in the coming years. Other than this, there has been no change in this area since the last review.

#### **IV. USE OF THE TERMS "TECHNICAL REGULATIONS" AND "STANDARDS" ACCORDING TO THEIR MEANING UNDER THE TBT AGREEMENT IN CHINA'S NOTIFICATIONS UNDER THE TBT AGREEMENT, INCLUDING UNDER ARTICLE 15.2 THEREOF AND PUBLICATIONS REFERENCED THEREIN, AND IN MODIFICATIONS OF EXISTING MEASURES**

4. Ever since its accession to the WTO, China has been using the terms "technical regulations" and "standards" according to their meaning under the TBT Agreement. There are two types of standards in China: mandatory and recommendatory. The nature of mandatory standards in China conforms to the definition of technical regulations under the TBT Agreement and forms a main component of Chinese technical regulations. Since accession to the WTO, China has notified

218 mandatory standards to the WTO in accordance with the requirements of the TBT Agreement on technical regulations (by 30 September 2007).

**V. REVIEW OF TECHNICAL REGULATIONS EVERY FIVE YEARS TO ENSURE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS ARE USED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 2.4 OF THE AGREEMENT AND POLICIES FOR ADOPTION OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AS THE BASIS FOR TECHNICAL REGULATION AS PART OF ITS NOTIFICATION UNDER ARTICLE 15.2 OF THE AGREEMENT**

5. There has been no change in this area since the last review.

**VI. PROGRESS REPORT ON INCREASE OF THE USE OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AS THE BASIS FOR TECHNICAL REGULATIONS BY TEN PER CENT IN FIVE YEARS**

6. There has been no change in this area since the last review.

**VII. PROVISION OF PROCEDURES TO IMPLEMENT ARTICLE 2.7 OF THE AGREEMENT**

7. There has been no change in this area since the last review.

**VIII. PROVISION OF A LIST OF RELEVANT LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL BODIES THAT ARE AUTHORIZED TO PREPARE TECHNICAL REGULATIONS OR CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES AS PART OF CHINA'S NOTIFICATION UNDER ARTICLE 15.2 OF THE AGREEMENT**

8. There has been no change in this area since last review.

**IX. UPDATED LIST ON THE CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT BODIES THAT ARE RECOGNIZED BY CHINA**

9. The number of conformity assessment bodies recognized by the Chinese Government is 185 in 2007 (as of 30 September 2007), in comparison to 156 in 2006.

A detailed list can be obtained on: <http://www.cnca.gov.cn/cnca/cxzq/default.shtml>

**X. ENACTMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A NEW LAW AND RELEVANT REGULATIONS REGARDING ASSESSMENT AND CONTROL OF CHEMICALS FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH COMPLETE NATIONAL TREATMENT AND FULL CONSISTENCY WITH INTERNATIONAL PRACTICES WOULD BE ENSURED WITHIN ONE YEAR AFTER CHINA'S ACCESSION FOLLOWING CONDITIONS SET OUT IN 3(T) OF THE TBT WORKING PARTY REPORT**

10. There has been no change in this area since the last review.

- XI. INFORMATION ON WHETHER, ONE YEAR AFTER ACCESSION, ALL CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT BODIES AND AGENCIES ARE AUTHORIZED TO UNDERTAKE CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT FOR BOTH IMPORTED AND DOMESTIC PRODUCTS AND ARE FOLLOWING THE CONDITIONS OUTLINED IN SECTION 13, SUBPARAGRAPH 4(A) OF THE PROTOCOL**
  
  - XII. ASSIGNMENT OF THE RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHINA'S CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT BODIES SOLELY ON THE BASIS OF THE SCOPE OF WORK AND TYPE OF PRODUCT WITHOUT ANY CONSIDERATION OF THE ORIGIN OF A PRODUCT NO LATER THAN EIGHTEEN MONTHS AFTER ACCESSION**
  
  - XIII. NOTIFICATION OF THE RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES ASSIGNED TO CHINA'S CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT BODIES TO THE TBT COMMITTEE 12 MONTHS AFTER ACCESSION**
11. There has been no change in this area since the last review.
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