

UGANDA

THE TBT-NEP

Structure

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TBT Institutional Infrastructure

MINISTRY OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES
(MTIC)

WTO focal point

NNA for TBT & SPS

UGANDA NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS (UNBS)

Statutory institution

- Under MTIC
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- NEP for TBT
 - Secretariat for National TBT/SPS Coordination Committee

TBT Institutional Infrastructure Cont.

- National Codex Contact Point
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The National TBT/SPS Coordination Committee

- An institutional & multi-sectoral Committee
- Consists of:
 - ❖ Regulatory institutions
 - ❖ Private sector associations
- Responsible for implementing TBT & SPS Agreements at national level

TBT Institutional Infrastructure Cont.

Composition of the Committee:

- MTIC;
- UNBS;
- Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry & Fisheries;
- Uganda Export Promotion Board;
- Uganda Coffee Development Authority;
- Dairy Development Authority;
- Uganda Communications Commission
- National Information Technology Authority-Uganda

TBT Institutional Infrastructure Cont.

- Uganda Investment Authority;
- Ministry of Finance, Planning & Economic Development;
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Horticulture Exporters Association;
- Uganda National Farmers Federation;
- Uganda Flower Exporters Association;
- Uganda Fish Processors & Exporters Association;
- Uganda Fisheries & Fish Conservation Association;
- The Uganda National Apiculture Development Organisation;
- Uganda Manufacturers Association;

TBT Institutional Infrastructure Cont.

- Uganda Beef Producers Association;
- Uganda National Chambers of Commerce & Industry;
- Uganda Coffee Trade Federation;
- Private Sector Foundation Uganda;
- Uganda Development Corporation;
- National Environment Management Authority;
- First Parliamentary Counsel, Office of the Attorney General, Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs.

TBT Notification submission and access

The TBT-NEP uses the TBT Notification Submission System (NSS) to submit notifications

The TBT NSS is designed to facilitate ease in submission of TBT notifications by Members and to help the WTO Secretariat to better manage and expedite the processing of the TBT notifications. <https://nss.wto.org/tbtmembers>.

Member States can access information on technical regulations, conformity assessment procedures and standards from the Technical Barriers to Trade Information Management System (TBT IMS) <http://tbtdims.wto.org/>.

The Use of the eping system by the TBT-NEP

Following the UN DESA/MTIC eping workshop 7-10 July 2015 in Kampala, Uganda.

- All staff of the TBT NEP are registered and are using the eping system

Testing the workflow of notifications with the eping system

We were unable to download any notifications for TBT related measure at the time using the eping system. However, using the TBT IMS, we were able to identify 2 notifications that were found relevant for Uganda

The Use of the eping system by the TBT-NEP, Cont.

Issued by the UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA, OMAN, QATAR, STATE OF KUWAIT, YEMEN on Cosmetic Products – Cosmetic Products Claims

**G/TBT/N/ARE/267, G/TBT/N/BHR/399, G/TBT/N/SAU/858,
G/TBT/N/OMN/210, G/TBT/N/QAT/396, G/TBT/N/KWT/280,
G/TBT/N/YEM/2**

The Objective and rationale, for the measure: Prevention misleading claims and consumer protection

Issued by India on Edible vegetable oil/Edible vegetable fat, the Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and Labelling) Amendment Regulation, 2015 **G/TBT/N/IND/49**

The Objective and rationale, for the measure: Food safety

Comments on the eping system

- No alerts are received to date;
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Perhaps this was due to the fact that there was no exhaustive list of objectives for the TBT.

The objectives that had been defined in the ePing mainly covered SPS notifications. As a result most of the TBT notifications were being left out in the email alerts.

The preposition was to ensure the addition of the following objectives that are normally used when notifying draft TBT measures to the ePing: prevention of deceptive practices and consumer protection, protection of human health or safety, protection of animal or plant life or health, protection of the environment, quality requirements, national security requirements, and trade promotion. **(These have now been added).**

Comments on the eping system.. Cont.

- A list of all the TBT NEPS is yet to be uploaded in the system.
- Additional rights on the portal under the **NEP account** so as to activate the 'national documents upload' function and to see a list of all national ePing users is still not possible.

Other TBT & SPS activities funded by International partners

Currently the Development Alternatives International (DAI), the USAID East Africa Trade and Investment Hub under the standards Alliance programme is seeking a team of qualified experts/consultants with technical expertise and proven record to develop an Electronic Notification System (ENS) for Enquiry Points and Notification Authorities in the EAC partner states.

The TBT NEP submitted a proposal to the USAID Standards Alliance in 2013 requesting for the development of an online portal for TBT notifications with email and SMS alert services as well as a comprehensive database for all Technical regulations in Uganda. Unfortunately they are only able to fund the email alert system.

Capacity Constraints and the need for further Technical Assistance

- Insufficient awareness and preparedness on the part of various stakeholders, particularly, private sector, to effectively tackle TBT challenges;
- The TBT NEP i.e. UNBS is operational but is usually affected by the weak coordination mechanism between the focal points in the relevant MDAs and the private sector;
- Lack of an effective mechanism for dissemination of TBT-related information among the stakeholders;
- Inadequate access to appropriate technology and adequate finance among various stakeholders, particularly private sector;
- Insufficient technical capacity in the private sector to effectively comment on relevant notifications.

Possible Remedies

- Training and awareness is highly recommended for all people that are involved in the notification process, including among others, the stakeholders who benefit from the notification process;
- An effective national information exchange mechanism is an essential requirement to help better coordination and consultation among relevant government institutions, as well as improved interaction between public and private sector stakeholders with interest in TBT issues; and if required, provision of TBT-related consultancy services on a payment basis by government and semi-government agencies for the exporters;

Possible Remedies.. Cont.

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- A TBT Information Management System is a necessity and funding should be explored from development partners for its development. This will improve transparency on TBT Information and Notification in Uganda.
 - There is need for strong private sector associations that would coordinate the dissemination of TBT information to their members and represent members' interests adequately in the National TBT/ SPS Committee.
 - Lobbying for securing as much technical assistance as possible to better tackle various capacity constraints, including financial, infrastructural and technical;

THANK YOU

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