

WTO TBT NOTIFICATIONS BULLETIN

A Weekly Publication of the Bureau of Philippine Standards (BPS) of the
Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)

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This publication seeks to provide cohesive information in a weekly basis on the foreign notifications of the WTO members under the TBT agreement on their proposed technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures.

Philippine exporters and relevant stakeholders are invited to review the proposed regulations. Comments that will be received by the BPS will be transmitted to the governments concerned for their consideration.

IN THIS WEEK'S ISSUE

Notifications on food, fruits and vegetables, furniture, healthcare, home textiles metallurgy, etc. from the European Union, Georgia, Republic of Korea, Thailand, Uganda, United States of America and other countries are listed.

We would like to hear from you. For any questions, suggestions or requests for full text of notified regulations, please contact us at bps@dti.gov.ph

We are glad to be of service to you!

You can expect that, at BPS, we aim HIGH!

List of WTO TBT NOTIFICATIONS (29 October-04 November 2016)

Product Sector	Country	Date Notified	TBT Notification Symbol	Product Coverage / Title	Final Date for Comments
DOMESTIC AND COMMERCIAL EQUIPMENT. ENTERTAINMENT. SPORTS					
FURNITURE *INCLUDING UPHOLSTERY, MATTRESSES, OFFICE FURNITURE, SCHOOL FURNITURE, ETC	REPUBLIC OF KOREA	02/11/2016	G/TBT/N/KOR/687	Furniture for children <i>Draft revision for Supplier Conformation criteria for Furniture for Children notice has been revised as follows:</i> · In order to reduce injuries to children from hazards associated with the tipping over of drawers, the safety specification of stability is added. <i>According to the Supplier Conformation System, manufacturers or importers should indicate labelling of safety or quality if their products are subject to the Supplier Conformation Mark.</i>	60 days from notification

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FURNITURE *INCLUDING UPHOLSTERY, MATTRESSES, OFFICE FURNITURE, SCHOOL FURNITURE, ETC	REPUBLIC OF KOREA	02/11/2016	G/TBT/N/KOR/688	Furniture Draft revision for Safety and Quality Mark Criteria for Furniture has been revised as follows: · In order to reduce injuries to children from hazards associated with the tipping over of drawers, the safety specification of stability is added According to the Safety and Quality Mark System, manufacturers or importers should indicate labelling of safety or quality if their products are subject to the Safety and Quality Mark.	60 days from notification
HOME TEXTILES. LINEN	UGANDA	04/11/2016	G/TBT/N/UGA/594	Pillows for domestic use <i>This Draft Uganda standard specifies the requirements and methods of testing for synthetic-fibre filled pillow for domestic use.</i>	2 January 2017
HOME TEXTILES. LINEN	UGANDA	04/11/2016	G/TBT/N/UGA/595	Pillows for domestic use <i>This Draft Uganda standard specifies the requirements and methods of testing for plumage filled pillows for domestic use.</i>	2 January 2017
ENVIRONMENT. HEALTH PROTECTION. SAFETY					
VEHICLE EMISSIONS (AIR QUALITY)	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	03/11/2016	G/TBT/N/USA/1011/Add.5	Vehicle emissions - Addendum <i>EPA and NHTSA, on behalf of the Department of Transportation, are establishing rules for a comprehensive Phase 2 Heavy-Duty (HD) National Program that will reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and fuel consumption from new on-road medium- and heavy-duty vehicles and engines. NHTSA's fuel consumption standards and EPA's carbon dioxide (CO2) emission standards are tailored to each of four regulatory categories of heavy-duty vehicles: Combination tractors; trailers used in combination with those tractors; heavy-duty pickup trucks and vans; and vocational vehicles. The rule also includes separate standards for the engines that power combination tractors and vocational vehicles. Certain requirements for control of GHG emissions are exclusive to the EPA program. These include EPA's hydrofluorocarbon standards to control leakage from air conditioning systems in vocational vehicles and EPA's nitrous oxide (N2O) and methane (CH4) standards for heavy-duty engines.</i>	—

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VEHICLE EMISSIONS (AIR QUALITY)	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	03/11/2016	G/TBT/N/USA/1011/Add.5	<p>Vehicle emissions - Addendum</p> <p><i>Additionally, NHTSA is addressing misalignment between the Phase 1 EPA GHG standards and the NHTSA fuel efficiency standards to virtually eliminate the differences. This action also includes certain EPA-specific provisions relating to control of emissions of pollutants other than GHGs. EPA is finalizing non-GHG emission standards relating to the use of diesel auxiliary power units installed in new tractors. In addition, EPA is clarifying the classification of natural gas engines and other gaseous-fueled heavy-duty engines. EPA is also finalizing technical amendments to EPA rules that apply to emissions of non-GHG pollutants from light-duty motor vehicles, marine diesel engines, and other nonroad engines and equipment. Finally, EPA is requiring that engines from donor vehicles installed in new glider vehicles meet the emission standards applicable in the year of assembly of the new glider vehicle, including all applicable standards for criteria pollutants, with limited exceptions for small businesses and for other special circumstances.</i></p>	—
REFRIGERATION PRODUCTS	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	02/11/2016	G/TBT/N/USA/1215	<p>Refrigeration products</p> <p><i>The Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975 ("EPCA"), as amended, established the Energy Conservation Program for Consumer Products Other Than Automobiles. Based on provisions in EPCA that enable the Secretary of Energy to classify additional types of consumer products as covered products, the U.S. Department of Energy ("DOE") classified miscellaneous refrigeration products ("MREFs") as covered consumer products under EPCA. In determining whether to set standards for products, DOE must evaluate whether new standards would be technologically feasible and economically justified, and would save a significant amount of energy. In this proposed rule, DOE proposes new energy conservation standards for MREFs identical to those set forth in a direct final rule published elsewhere in this Federal Register. If DOE receives adverse comment and determines that such comment may provide a reasonable basis for withdrawal, DOE will publish a notice withdrawing the final rule and will proceed with this proposed rule.</i></p>	15 February 2017. Comments regarding the likely competitive impact of the proposed standard should be sent to the Department of Justice contact listed in the ADDRESSES section before 28 November 2016

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FUELS (SULFURIC CONTENT)	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	04/11/2016	G/TBT/N/USA/1218	Sulfur content in fuels <i>The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposes to approve the state implementation plan (SIP) revision submitted by the District of Columbia for the purpose of updating the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (DCMR) to lower the sulfur content of fuel oil. In the Final Rules section of this Federal Register, EPA is approving the District's submittal as a direct final rule without prior proposal because the Agency views this as a noncontroversial submittal and anticipates no adverse comments. A detailed rationale for the approval is set forth in the direct final rule. If no adverse comments are received in response to this action, no further activity is contemplated. If EPA receives adverse comments, the direct final rule will be withdrawn and all public comments received will be addressed in a subsequent final rule based on this proposed rule. EPA will not institute a second comment period. Any parties interested in commenting on this action should do so at this time.</i>	10 November 2016
FOOD TECHNOLOGY					
FOOD PRODUCTS IN GENERAL	EUROPEAN UNION	31/10/2016	G/TBT/N/EU/419	Minerals <i>This draft Commission Regulation concerns the inclusion of certain substances in the positive lists of Directive 2002/46/EC and Regulation (EC) 1925/2006. The purpose of this draft Regulation is to amend the positive lists of the above-mentioned legislation by adding new mineral substances that may be used for the manufacture of food supplements and fortified foods and for which the European Food Safety Authority has given a favourable opinion.</i>	60 days from notification

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FOOD PRODUCTS IN GENERAL	HONDURAS	04/11/2016	G/TBT/N/HND/88/Add.1	<p>Organic agricultural products - Addendum</p> <p><i>Central American Technical Regulation RTCA 67.06.74: 16 Organic Agricultural Products. Requirements for the Production, Processing, Marketing, Export, Import and Labelling</i></p> <p><i>This addendum Refers to:</i> [X] Modification of the deadline for comments.</p>	30 November 2016
FOOD PRODUCTS IN GENERAL	REPUBLIC OF KOREA	01/11/2016	G/TBT/N/KOR/686	<p>Health functional food products</p> <p>Main proposed amendment of the "Regulations for Re-assessment of Functional Ingredients" as follows: This regulation is pursuant to Article 15(2) of the "Functional Health Foods Act" and Article 20(3) of the Enforcement Rules of the Act, to establish the requirements for the standards, methods, procedures, etc. of reviewing and assessing the safety and functionality of functional ingredients (including final products) that have been previously identified, as well as of health functional foods, to the latest scientific level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · To set forth conditions and methods of re-assessment of functional ingredients · To determine matters related to the publishing of re-assessment results · Related data of functionality contents, including the human study, cases collected through distribution, literature information, etc. · Related data of safety, including adverse event, toxicological data, cases collected through distribution, literature information, etc. · To determine the scope of data of functional ingredients needed to be submitted for their re-assessment · To determine matters needed to be taken into account in examining draft proposals for re-assessment 	60 days from notification

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FRUITS. VEG-ETABLES	THAILAND	01/11/2016	G/TBT/N/THA/490	<p>Fresh fruits or vegetables</p> <p><i>For consumer protection, the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) is proposing the notification on good practice for packing house as follows:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 6.1 <i>The annex I of the draft MOPH notification indicates a list of some fresh fruit or vegetables which shall be packed by proper operations.</i> · 6.2 <i>The minimum requirements for packing house operations or good practices are summarized in The annex II of the draft MOPH notification to assure that only safe fruits or vegetables shall be collected, packed and distributed to consumer.</i> · 6.3 <i>The importers who import such fresh fruits or vegetables as shown in the annex I shall provide good practice certificate of satisfaction as required under this notification or otherwise not lower than the requirement of this notification.</i> · 6.4 <i>The minimum requirements for retail labelling are that each display must clearly show the following:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <i>Name and address of producer (packing house) or importer and country of origin</i> 2) <i>Registration Number</i> 3) <i>Code or Number of production lot</i> <i>This information should be on the labelling of the original container. Where such fresh fruits or vegetables are presented to the consumer without packing, the required information must be clearly and prominently displayed on a label on the container or tray. If not the retailer should have a record on the required information that is accessible to consumers.</i> · 6.5 <i>Those who received production or importing licenses for such fresh fruits or vegetables prior to the enforcement of this ministerial notification, which do not comply with this ministerial notification, shall provide for improvement or provide for certificates, as the case may be, within one year from the date of entry into force of the notification.</i> · 6.6 <i>This notification shall come into force after one year as from the date of its publication in the Royal Gazette.</i> 	40 days from date of circulation of notification

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FOOD PRODUCTS IN GENERAL	TURKEY	04/11/2016	G/TBT/N/TUR/83	Contaminants in foodstuffs <i>This Communiqué lays down criteria for methods of sampling and analysis for the official control of the levels of lead, cadmium, mercury, inorganic tin, inorganic arsenic, 3-MCPD and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons ("PAH") listed in the Turkish Food Codex Regulation on contaminants.</i>	2 January 2017
MILK AND PROCESSED MILK PRODUCTS	UGANDA	02/11/2016	G/TBT/N/UGA/593	Dairy based beverages <i>This Draft Uganda standard specifies the requirements and the methods of sampling and test for dairy based beverages.</i>	4 January 2017
FOODSTUFFS • MATERIALS AND ARTICLES IN CONTACT WITH FOODSTUFFS	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	04/11/2016	G/TBT/N/USA/1116/Add.2	Canned and bottled foods and beverages - Addendum <i>On 11 May 2015, the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment added bisphenol A (BPA) to the list of chemicals known to the state to cause reproductive toxicity pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65). OEHHA submitted this emergency action to readopt the amendments to section 25603.3 of title 27 of the California Code of Regulations made in OAS file no. 201.6-0408-02E. The amendments to section 25603.3 add provisions that, if followed, are deemed to comply with the Proposition 65 warning requirements for BPA. OAL approves this emergency regulatory action pursuant to sections 11346.1 and 11349.6 of the Government Code. <i>This emergency regulatory action is effective on 17 October 2016 and will expire on 18 January 2017.</i></i>	—
HEALTHCARE TECHNOLOGY					
MEDICAL EQUIPMENT	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	02/11/2016	G/TBT/N/USA/1213	Upper extremity prosthesis <i>The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is classifying the Upper Extremity Prosthesis Including a Simultaneously Powered Elbow and/or Shoulder with Greater Than Two Simultaneous Powered Degrees of Freedom and Controlled by Non-Implanted Electrical Components into class II (special controls). The special controls that will apply to the device are identified in this order and will be part of the codified language for the upper extremity prosthesis including a simultaneously powered elbow and/or shoulder with greater than two simultaneous powered degrees of freedom and controlled by non-implanted electrical components' classification. The Agency is classifying the device into class II (special controls) in order to provide a reasonable assurance of safety and effectiveness of the device.</i>	None

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MEDICAL EQUIPMENT	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	02/11/2016	G/TBT/N/USA/1214	Eustachian tube balloon dilation system <i>The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is classifying the Eustachian tube balloon dilation system into class II (special controls). The special controls that will apply to the device are identified in this order and will be part of the codified language for the Eustachian tube balloon dilation system's classification. The Agency is classifying the device into class II (special controls) in order to provide a reasonable assurance of safety and effectiveness of the device.</i>	None
MEDICAL EQUIPMENT	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	04/11/2016	G/TBT/N/USA/1216	Ozone-depleting substances <i>The Food and Drug Administration (FDA, the Agency, or we) is proposing to amend its regulation on uses of ozone-depleting substances (ODSs), including chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), to remove the designation for certain products as "essential uses" under the Clean Air Act. Essential-use products are exempt from the ban by FDA on the use of CFCs and other ODS propellants in FDA-regulated products and from the ban by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the use of ODSs in pressurized dispensers. This action, if finalized, will remove the essential-use exemptions for sterile aerosol talc administered intrapleurally by thoracoscopy for human use and for metered-dose atropine sulfate aerosol human drugs administered by oral inhalation. FDA is proposing this action because alternative products that do not use ODSs are now available and because these products are no longer being marketed in versions that contain ODSs.</i>	27 December 2016
MEDICAL EQUIPMENT	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	04/11/2016	G/TBT/N/USA/1217	Ozone-depleting substances <i>The Food and Drug Administration (FDA, the Agency, or we) is proposing to amend its regulation on uses of ozone-depleting substances (ODSs), including chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), to remove the designation for certain products as "essential uses" under the Clean Air Act. Essential-use products are exempt from the ban by FDA on the use of CFCs and other ODS propellants in FDA-regulated products and from the ban by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the use of ODSs in pressurized dispensers. This action, if finalized, will remove the essential-use exemption for anesthetic drugs for topical use on accessible mucous membranes of humans where a cannula is used for application. FDA is proposing this action because these products are no longer being marketed in approved versions that contain ODSs and because alternative products that do not use ODSs are</i>	27 December 2016

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METALLURGY					
IRON AND STEEL PRODUCTS	COSTA RICA	02/11/2016	G/TBT/N/CRI/121/Add.3	<p>Steel bars and wire for concrete reinforcement - Addendum</p> <p><i>On 27 July 2011, the Government of Costa Rica notified, in document G/TBT/N/CRI/121, Costa Rican Technical Regulation (RTCR) No. 452:2011 "Steel bars and wire for concrete reinforcement. Specifications", which establishes the technical characteristics and specifications for steel bars and wire used to reinforce concrete.</i></p> <p><i>The purpose of this addendum is to inform WTO Members that this Technical Regulation has been amended with a view to ensuring greater clarity and transparency and clear rules for Costa Rica's trading partners, with a view to facilitating trade in goods in the country.</i></p>	—
STEEL BARS AND RODS	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	04/11/2016	G/TBT/N/DOM/142/Add.1	<p>Corrugated steel bars for reinforcement and smooth concrete - Addendum</p> <p><i>The Dominican Republic hereby notifies that the Technical Regulation RTD 458 "Building Materials. Bars corrugated steel and smooth for concrete reinforcement. Specifications (23 pages. Spanish Language)", the Ministry of Public Works and Communications, notified through identified as G / TBT / N / DOM / 142 of 22 November 2011, which has been issued by Resolution No. 08/2011 of 10 January 2012.</i></p>	—
FLAT STEEL PRODUCTS AND SEMI-PRODUCTS	THAILAND	04/11/2016	G/TBT/N/THA/464/Add.1	<p>Flat steel products and semi-products - Addendum</p> <p><i>This addendum is to inform that Thai Industrial Standard for Electrolytic Zinc-Coated Cold Reduced Flat Carbon Steel of Commercial and Drawing Qualities (TIS 2223-2558 (2015)) issued by Thai Industrial Standards Institute, notified under G/TBT/N/THA/464 was adopted on 12 September 2016 and will enter into force after 180 days from the date of publication in the Official Gazette (20 March 2017) .</i></p>	—
STEEL PROFILES *INCLUDING SECTIONS	THAILAND	04/11/2016	G/TBT/N/THA/465/Add.1	<p>Hot rolled structural steel - Addendum</p> <p><i>This addendum is to inform that Thai Industrial Standard for Thai Industrial Standard for Hot Rolled Structural Steel Sections (TIS1227-2558 (2015)) issued by Thai Industrial Standards Institute, notified under G/TBT/N/THA/465 was adopted on 12 September 2016 and will enter into force after 180 days from the date of publication in the Official Gazette (16 March 2017) .</i></p>	—

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OTHERS					
PRODUCTS OF THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	03/11/2016	G/TBT/N/ARE/343	Textile products <i>UAE control scheme for textile products and their classification is concerned with textile products which includes in their composition one of the components set in Supplement No. 1</i>	60 days from notification
SAWING MACHINES	CHILE	31/10/2016	G/TBT/N/CHL/376	Portable chain saws <i>The notified protocol establishes the certification procedure for Portable chain saws for forest service equipped with an internal combustion engine powered by liquid fuel, covered by the scope of the Spanish standard UNE-EN ISO 11681-1: 2012 (chain saws for forest use).</i>	60 days from the date of notification
ROAD VEHICLES IN GENERAL	ECUADOR	01/11/2016	G/TBT/N/ECU/32/ Add.11	Motor vehicles - Addendum <i>By means of this Addendum No. 11, the Republic of Ecuador advises that the fourth revision (4R) of Ecuadorian Standardization Institute Technical Regulation (RTE INEN) No. 034 "Minimum safety requirements for motor vehicle parts", notified in document G/TBT/N/ECU/32/ Add.7 of 10 October 2014, has been issued pursuant to Resolution No. 16 382 of 15 September 2016 of the Under-Secretariat for Quality of the Ministry of Industry and Productivity, published in Official Journal No. 872 of 28 October 2016.</i>	—
ROAD TRANSPORT	GEORGIA	01/11/2016	G/TBT/N/GEO/97	Safety on roads <i>Accident prevention in case of emergency and emergency response in road tunnels.</i>	—
ROAD ENGINEERING	GEORGIA	01/11/2016	G/TBT/N/GEO/98	Road construction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Determination the principles of hiking trails · Development of hiking trails network · Ensure human safety and environmental protection · Preparation the infrastructure for organizing of the trails 	—
SUBSTANCES WITH PROBABLE EFFECTS ON THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM	JAPAN	03/11/2016	G/TBT/N/JPN/538	Substances with probable effects on the central nervous system <i>Proposed "Shitei Yakubutsu" (designated 3 substances), and their "proper uses" designated under the Act.</i>	Not applicable

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CLEANSING AND HYGIENE PRODUCTS	REPUBLIC OF KOREA	02/11/2016	G/TBT/N/KOR/689	<p>Cleansing and hygiene products</p> <p><i>The name of the Public Health Act, which regulated control of cleansing & hygiene products, will be changed to the Cleansing & Hygiene Products Control Act, and following articles will be added to the Act.</i></p> <p><i>The main proposed enactment of the "Hygiene Products Control Act" is as follows:</i></p> <p><i>a) Introduce the added list of cleansing & hygiene products to be regulated under the Act (Disposable straw, toilet paper, paper towel, cotton swab, disposable diaper etc. will be regulated under the Act) .</i></p> <p><i>b) The Act stipulates that those who import cleansing & hygiene products to be regulated by the Act. Also, importers should notify their businesses to competent authorities.</i></p> <p><i>c) Under the Act, dish detergents and dishwasher rinse aid manufacturers should submit the list of their products.</i></p> <p><i>d) Local governments may direct not less than six month of temporary prohibition of production when manufactures failed to comply with paragraph of standard of specification, labelling requirements, false claims, or when manufactures failed to meet the standard of their in-house quality control (these are paragraph 9 to 12 of the Act).</i></p>	60 days from notification
DESIGN FEATURES AND CONDITIONS OF USE OF OFFICIAL PASSWORD	MEXICO	04/11/2016	G/TBT/N/MEX/330	<p>Design features and conditions of use of official password</p> <p><i>This draft Mexican Official Standard establishes the design characteristics and conditions of the Official password for Mexican Official Standards and, when required, to the Mexican Standards under the provisions of the Federal Law on Metrology and Standardization.</i></p> <p><i>This draft Mexican Official Standard is intended that the use of the Official Password demonstrate to consumers or users that products or services meet the conformity assessment regarding the Mexican Official Standards and, when required, with the Standards Mexican.</i></p>	Within sixty days after November 1, 2016

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ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	03/11/2016	G/TBT/N/USA/1045/Add.1/Corr.1	Energy labelling - Corrigendum <i>The Federal Trade Commission is correcting a final rule published in the Federal Register of 15 September 2016 (81 FR 63634) . This document corrects provisions in the final rule related to ceiling fan labelling requirements.</i>	—
SERVICES FOR CONSUMERS	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	04/11/2016	G/TBT/N/USA/1139/Add.1	Taximeter systems - Addendum <i>This final rulemaking would amend Chapter 6 by adding a provision to the equipment requirements for modern taximeter systems (MTSs) in § 603, to require that each MTS allow the passenger to rate the ride experience through the rear console. The rule facilitates real-time passenger feedback about the use of the District's taxicabs, as part of the Commission's ongoing efforts to enhance customer service and improve the competitive position of taxicabs in the vehicle-for-hire ecosystem. Effective date 28 October 2016</i>	—