

Preparation & Submission of Notifications in T&T

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History

March 1995

- Trinidad and Tobago became a member of the World Trade Organization

History

March 1996

- TTBS was designated to be the WTO/TBT Enquiry Point on behalf of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

History

March 1996

- TTBS signed the “Code of Good Practice for the Preparation of Adoption and Application of Standards” which is embodied in (Annex 3) of the TBT Agreement.

History

- TTBS is the National Standards Body with responsibility for Goods and Services except Food, Drugs and Cosmetics.

*Legal Instruments: Standards Act 18 of 1997
 Metrology Act 18 of 2004*

- The regulation of Food, Drugs and Cosmetics is the responsibility of the Ministry of Health, Chemistry Food and Drugs Division.

Obligations

- TTBS attempts to fulfill the obligations of its Government as laid out in the:
 - TBT Agreement; and
 - Code of Good Practice.

Obligations

TTBS:

- Set up its Enquiry Point (1996)
- Amended its Regulations to allow 60 days comments period
- Disseminates standardization programme
- Uses International Standards to prepare National Standards
- Actively participates in the preparation of international standards.
- A Member Body of ISO, COPANT, CROSQ, OIML, IAAC, ILAC.

Notification Obligation

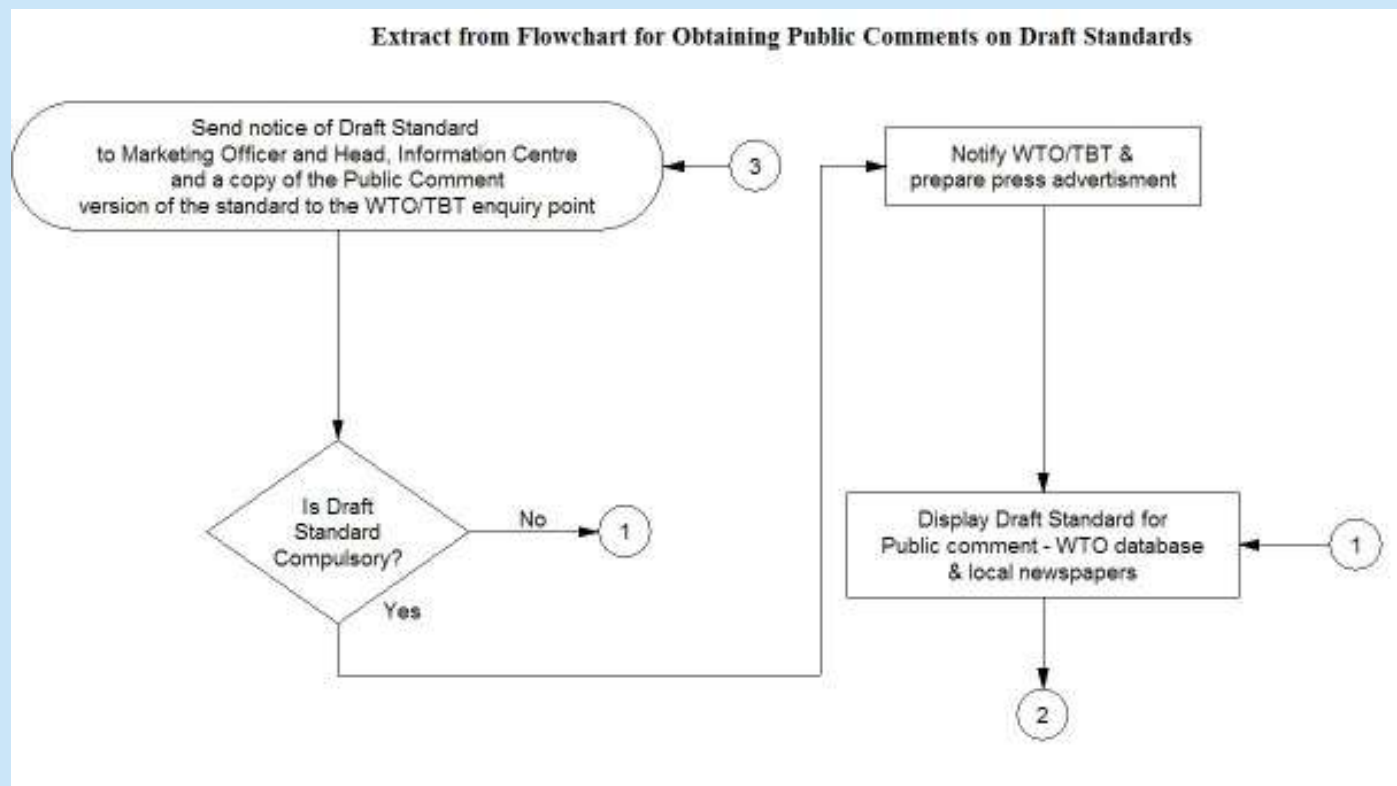
- TTBS also complies with its Notification Obligation by sending notifications to WTO on standards proposed for **compulsory** status

Compulsory/Voluntary Standards

STANDARD	DECLARED BY
Voluntary	TTBS Board
Compulsory	Minister of Trade & Industry

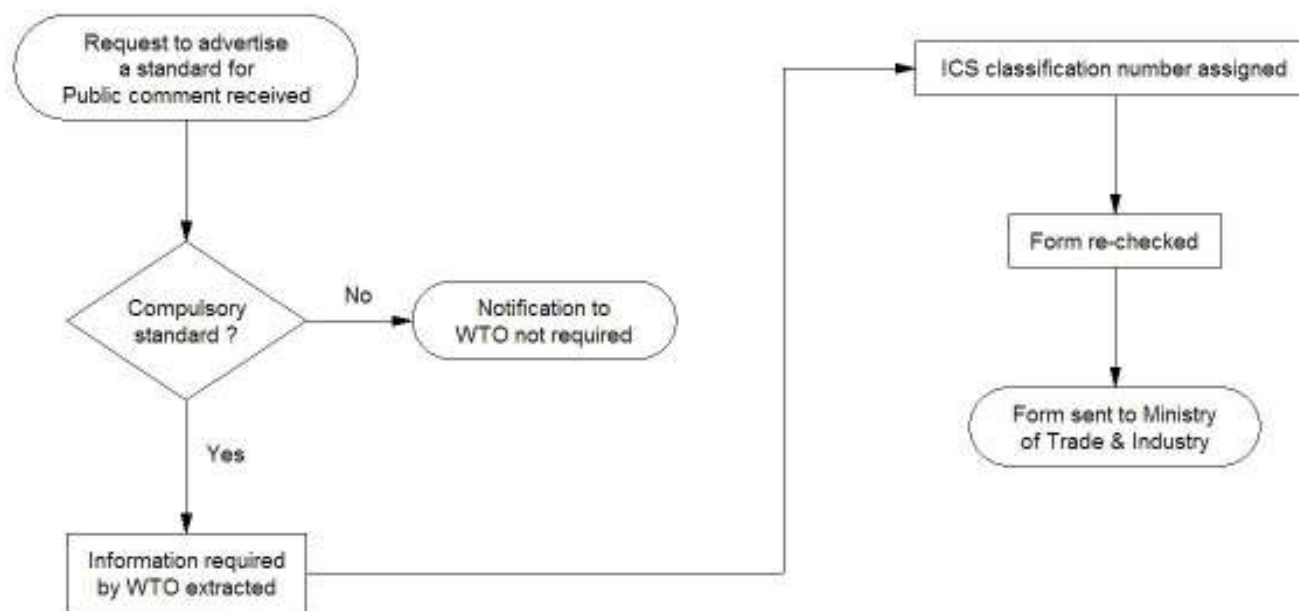
Draft Standard for Public Comment

Extract from Flowchart for Obtaining Public Comments on Draft Standards



WTO Notification Process

Flowchart for WTO Notification by TTBS



Notifications – Electronic Tools

- Notifications are checked at the Ministry of Trade and Industry and then forwarded to the Mission in Geneva via e-mail, who sends it onto WTO.
- The Enquiry Point staff checks the WTO Website for posting.
- Due to the number of steps necessary before the Notification reaches WTO, The Enquiry Point uses a variety of available technology to speed up the process.

TBT Enquiry Point – Future

- It was agreed that Regulations from Chemistry Food and Drug will be sent through the TBT Enquiry Point for notification and comment before they are sent to the Ministry of Legal Affairs.
- Posting of available Technical Regulations on the TTBS Website.