FOLLOW US ON:

@tradedivisonseychelles

source:
www.wto.org,
The WTO Agreement Series, August 2014, Trade Policy Review, 2022.

TRADE DIVISON

Ministry of Finance, National Planning and Trade

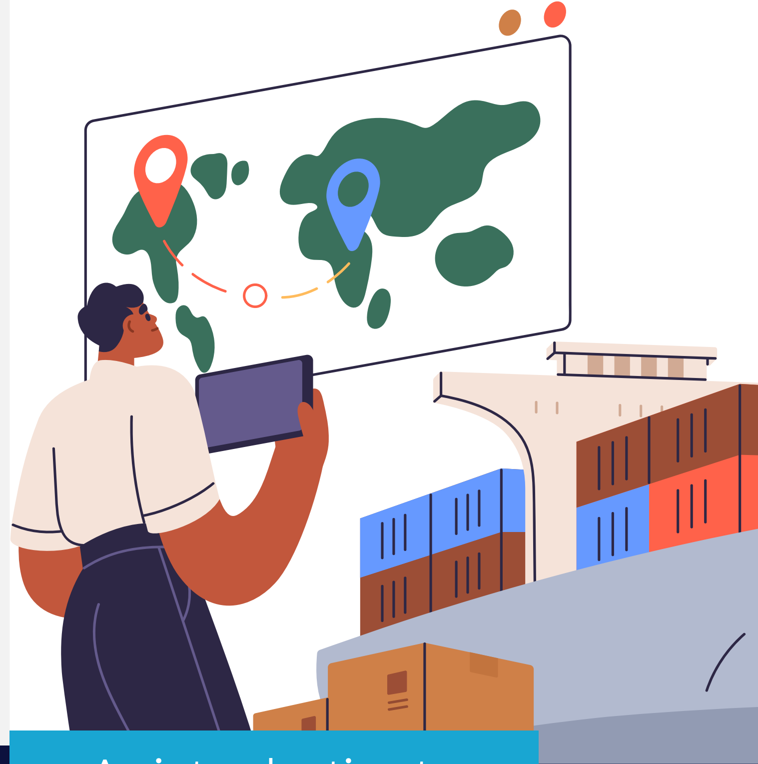
Contact Us

(+248) 4382135

Our Website

www.tradeportal.sc

Breaking Barriers & Facilitating Trade



An introduction to

TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE (TBT)

Understanding TBT and its Importance for Trade

WHAT IS TBT?

Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) agreement aims to ensure that technical regulations, standards, and conformity assessment procedures are non-discriminatory and do not create unnecessary obstacles to trade.

At the same time, it recognizes The World Trade Organization (WTO) members' right to implement measures to achieve legitimate policy objectives, such as the protection of human health and safety, or protection of the environment.

Seychelles being the 161st member of the WTO must ensure measures put in place conforms to international standards, as per the requirements of the WTO, so as to facilitate trade for all members.

THE TRHEE MEASURES

- **Technical Regulations (TR):** lays down product characteristics or their related processes and production methods. Compliance is mandatory. They may also deal with terminology, symbols, packaging, marking and labelling requirements.

- **Standards:** unlike technical regulations standards set are not necessarily mandatory. However, standards are used as the basis for both TRs and conformity assessment procedures and in such cases the requirements set out in the standards become mandatory by virtue of Government Interventions.

- **Conformity Assessment procedures:** used to determine whether goods such as toys, electronics, food and beverages fulfil the requirements established by relevant technical regulations or standards. They give consumers confidence in the integrity of products and add value to manufacturers' marketing claims. Such conformity assessment procedures include testing, inspection and certification procedures.

IMPORTANCE OF THE TBT AGREEMENT FOR TRADE

- protect consumers interests and ensure product quality and safety.
- seeks to remove bottlenecks in custom procedures at point of entry.
- It seeks to expedite the movement, release and clearance of goods across borders and reduce the trade transaction costs.
- It aims to reduce the impact of TBT by promoting the harmonization of standards across countries. By aligning domestic regulations with international standards the barriers created by differing technical requirements can be minimized, facilitating smoother international trade.
- It ensures measures put in place do not discriminate against foreign products (in favor of domestic products) (for example by favoring one country over the other).
- It aims to reduce the cost of living by reducing the level of costly procedures associated with the importation, production and exportation of goods.
- promotes competition across the Seychelles market by facilitating trade for all businesses.

HOW DOES TBT WORK IN SEYCHELLES?

The Seychelles Bureau of Standards (SBS) is the country's national standardisation body, responsible for developing standards in Seychelles. It also provides key conformity assessment services, such as inspections, certifications, calibrations, and testing, as well as metrology services.

The standardisation and conformity system in Seychelles is primarily governed by the Seychelles Bureau of Standards Act, 2014. This Act outlines the responsibilities of the SBS and the procedures for developing both voluntary and mandatory standards. In addition to the Act, other legal provisions related to standards are found in various laws, including the Food Act, 2014, the Environment Protection Act, 2016, and the Public Health Act, 2015. These laws ensure compliance with the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement.

Through its services, the SBS helps ensure that products and services meet required standards, improving quality and safety in Seychelles. It also plays a vital role in fostering confidence in both local and international markets.