

SULTANATE OF OMAN
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

MINISTERIAL DECREE

No. /99

- * By virtue of the Royal Decree No. 39/76 establishing the Directorate General for Specifications and Measurements, and**
- * The Royal Decree No. 1/78 Specifying the duties of the Directorate General for Specifications and Measurements, and**
- * The Royal Decree No. 61/96 approving the Organization Structure of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry , and**
- * The Ministerial Decree No. 13/99 approving the organizational divisions of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and their detailed duties. and**
- * In accordance with the requirements of accession to the World Trade Organization, (WTO), and**
- * In pursuance of the public interest.**

Decided

- Article (1)** An Information Center to be established at the Directorate General for Specifications and Measurements within the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, will be responsible to answer all reasonable inquiries received from the interested parties in other Members as well as to provide information and the relevant documents about Technical Regulations, Conformity Assessment Procedures and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures . Its duties and responsibilities are specified in Annex (1) enclosed herewith.
- Article (2)** The Directorate General for Specifications and Measurements will implement the articles of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade and will apply the necessary procedures as indicated in Annex (2) enclosed herewith.
- Article (3)** This Decree shall enter into force as from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

Maqbool Bin Ali Bin Sultan
Minister of Commerce and Industry

Issued on :
Corresponding to :

ANNEX (1)

THE INFORMATION CENTRE FOR TECHNICAL REGULATIONS, CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES AND SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

The Information Center is responsible for the following notification procedures and its duties are :

- I- To provide information services in respect to standards, technical regulations, testing, conformity assessment procedures; and to answer all enquiries in relation to such services from concerned bodies in other Members of the World Trade Organization (WTO), in cooperation and coordination with the government and non-government parties in the Sultanate , like Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Exporters, Importers & Manufacturers.

- II- To provide the relevant documents related to the following, when requested by concerned parties from the other Members, at the same price, excluding the cost of distribution and mailing:
 - a) The Omani Standards, technical regulations, conformity assessment procedures, either adopted, or proposed by bodies which have legal power to enforce such regulations, and any information about the articles of such standards, technical regulations or conformity assessment procedures.
 - b) The procedures of the control and inspections, the approved permissible limits of the food additives, residues of veterinary drugs, pesticides and contaminants and methods of sampling and analyses .
 - c) Any risk assessment procedures, affecting factors to be taken into consideration as well as the appropriate measures of food safety.
 - d) All relevant laws, decrees and regulations, either applied or proposed for agricultural and veterinary quarantine treatments and Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures.

- C- To notify the other Members through the Secretary of the W.T.O of any plan for preparing new standards or technical regulations or proposed conformity assessment procedures and allow the other Members to present their comments, and ensures to take such comments into consideration, within a period of sixty days from the date of the release of the notice on the internet; and publish or make available copies of the draft standards or technical regulations in English, at the same price excluding the cost of mailing.

- IV- Cooperation with relevant organizations in other Member countries by sending views and comments on the standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures that may have a significant effect on trade, and to notify the other Members through the Secretariat of the W.T.O of any agreement to be reached with any country on issues related to technical regulations or conformity and the products covered by such agreement and include a brief description of the agreement. Members are encouraged to enter into consultation for the purposes of concluding similar agreements with them.
- V- To receive notices and enquiries from concerned parties in the other Members , circulate them to the concerned parties in the Sultanate, receive answers and information , and then respond to the concerned parties
- VI- To provide advice and technical assistance to other Members, upon request, on issues related to the obligatory local technical regulations in accord to their exports to the requirements of the Sultanate , and also to provide the local community (exporters, importers, manufacturers and commercial authorities) with the necessary information and technical requirements in respect of their exports to foreign markets.
- VII- To cooperate with exporters, importers , consumers and the commercial authorities such as Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry in collection of systematic and objective information about the existence of unjustified technical trade barriers to Omani exports to foreign countries , or about the protection procedures for the Omani products from unfair competition of certain low quality imported products which are not-conforming with the standards or against the deceptive practices and dumping with low price goods and inappropriate quality levels, and submit such information to the competent authority so as to take appropriate actions through the W.T.O specialized committees or through the dispute organization , if necessary.
- VIII- To encourage businessmen, industrialists and concerned persons to participate in the development and updating of the standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures , at the local, regional and international levels , and participate in the activities of the technical committees and open the door for participation and commenting through correspondence.