



Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Government of India



Confederation of Indian Industry

Partnered by



Bureau of Indian Standards



Centre for WTO Studies

STANDARDS CONCLAVE

Role of Standards in International Trade: Challenges, opportunities & issues

16-17 April, 2014

Hotel Shangri-La: New Delhi

Programme

Day 1: 16th April 2014

0930-1000 hrs	Registration
1000-1100 hrs	Inaugural Session: Role of standards in international trade and use as non-tariff measures challenges, opportunities & issues

The standards conclave is being held in the context when internationally the tariffs are going down and there is a urgent need to create strong standards regulatory framework which would help domestic industry in increasing the exports by measuring up to standards and conformity assessment procedures which are vital links in the global trade both in quantitative terms and also getting higher value of exports. It would also help preventing flooding of domestic market with sub-standard imports at the expense of our domestic industry. In addition the idea is to create a regime where adoption of appropriate standards leads to a sense of pride and has inbuilt incentive as well as do simplification of procedure for demonstrating compliance standards & regulations.

This will require identification of the sectors which require technical regulation/ standards and identification of international standards of the identified sectors and corresponding position at the national level. This will give an assessment of gaps in

regulations. After gap assessment, future roadmap for legislative/administrative/regulatory reforms has to be arrived.

Welcome Address	Mr Chandrajit Banerjee DG, CII
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Inaugural Address:	Mr. Anand Sharma Union Minister Ministry of Commerce & Industry
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Theme Address:	Mr. Rajeev Kher Secretary, Department of Commerce
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1100-1130 hrs	Tea/Coffee
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1130-1300 hrs	Session 1: Role of standards in the context of WTO Agreement on SPS/TBT and international perspective
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The concerns over the impact of non-tariff measures (NTMs) on global trade are well-documented and numerous attempts have been made in institutions such as the WTO, World Bank, EU, OECD, UNCTAD and ASEAN to mitigate their effects. Among the NTMs the most important are the technical regulations/standards has grown worldwide as a consequence. Implementation of these standards has seen growth of variety of conformity assessment procedures as implementation of standards needs measurement either by testing or inspection or certification or any combination thereof. The *WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade*, the *Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures* are the mother agreements on standards and conformity assessment at the international level.

1300-1400 hrs	Lunch
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1400-1600 hrs	Session 2: Existing ecosystem on TBT related Standards/ Technical Regulations/ Regulatory framework/ Conformity Assessment/ Enquiry points and assessment of gaps
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The existing ecosystem has a range of standards like Voluntary, mandatory standards (Technical regulations), Private standards and International standards. The international standards are made by international standards bodies- ISO, ITU, IEC etc and at the national level by the National Standards Body- BIS and some other sector specific

bodies like TEC for telecom. Technical regulations are framed by individual ministries or regulatory bodies with each agency having its own conformity assessment procedures. Many regulators have prescribed BIS standards and rely on BIS certification. In the WTO context there are 01 TBT enquiry points in BIS.

The objective of this session is to understand the status of standardization/regulation/ conformity assessment activities in India in the context of global demands and assessing the gaps. There are other related issues linked with it like 3rd party conformity assessment, role of accreditation in the national quality infrastructure, Mutual Recognitions Agreements (MRAs), transaction cost to exporters, , and whether regulations through separate legislations of individual ministries/regulators is better or whether regulations through common The Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986 is better, etc. In addition there are two additional objectives, namely (1) to assess performance of TBT enquiry point and arrive at roadmap for reforms required and (2) industry awareness about how standards constitutes non tariff barriers, awareness about how to redress it at WTO platform and mechanism of communication of industry.

1600-1630 hrs	Tea/Coffee
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1630-1730 hrs	Session 3: Private Standards
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Global brand producers and retailers increasingly require their suppliers from developing countries to comply with certain social, environmental and safety norms, called 'private standards'. Over the last 10 to 20 years, private standards have emerged as an important mode of market governance in many developed countries. In turn, the evolution of private standards has raised question about the legitimacy of private modes of governance in areas that have historically been the preserve of public regulation.

Private standards raise a number of issues due to the nature of their ownership and their development process, which is seldom sufficiently participatory, transparent and based on scientific evidence. As a result, some standard requirements and indicators may not be suitable to all producers, especially for those who are outside the area where the standard was originally developed. Complying with some private standards and demonstrating compliance requires substantial capital, time and skills. This problem is particularly acute for developing countries due to the lack of infrastructure and public finance to help

domestic producers implement these standards. There is a need to explore options and arrive at optimal solutions for overcoming challenges being posed by market driven private standards and to increase exports.

1730-1900 hrs

Session 4: Sectoral case studies related to **TBT**

The case studies will broadly range across following 04 scenarios:

- Case studies by Industry/Industry Associations about **loss** to industry on **exports** side due to lack of domestic technical regulations
- Case studies by Industry/Industry Associations about **loss** to industry due to sub-standard **imports** due to lack of domestic technical regulations
- Case studies by Industry/Industry Associations about **gain** to industry on **exports** side due to provision of domestic technical regulations
- Case studies by Industry/Industry Associations about **gain** to industry in preventing sub-standard **imports** due to provision of domestic technical regulations.

Day 2: 17 April 2014

0930-1130 hrs	Session 5: Existing ecosystem on SPS related Standards/ Technical Regulations/ Regulatory framework/ Conformity Assessment/Enquiry points and assessment of gaps
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The existing ecosystem has a range of standards like domestic regulatory food standards or SPS measures, Voluntary/Private standards, importing countries' regulations that Indian exporting industry has to comply with and International standards. The international standards are made by international standards bodies- CODEX, OIE etc and at the national level, regulatory standards are made by regulators- FSSAI, NPPO, AHD&V, and sometimes voluntary standards of BIS and Agmark are referred to in the regulations. In addition, there is a regulatory regime for exports under EIC. Each agency is having its own conformity assessment procedures. In the WTO context, there are 03 SPS enquiry points in FSSAI, NPPO & AHD&V department.

The objective of this session is to understand the status of food regulations and compliance mechanisms in India in the context of global demands and assessing the gaps. Another objective is to assess performance of 03 SPS enquiry points and arrive at roadmap for reforms required.

1200-1330 hrs	Session 6: Sectoral case studies related to SPS
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The case studies will broadly range across following 04 scenarios:

- Case studies by Industry/Industry Associations about **loss** to industry on **exports** side due to lack of domestic technical regulations
- Case studies by Industry/Industry Associations about **loss** to industry due to sub-standard **imports** due to lack of domestic technical regulations
- Case studies by Industry/Industry Associations about **gain** to industry on **exports** side due to provision of domestic technical regulations
- Case studies by Industry/Industry Associations about **gain** to industry in preventing sub-standard imports due to provision of domestic technical regulations.

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1330-1430 hrs	Lunch
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1430-1600 hrs	Session 7: Sectoral Experience in Regulation and other miscellaneous issues like awareness in industry about SPS/TBT platform in WTO and economic cost of gap in standards
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It will be useful to draw learning's from recent sectoral experience of standards/ technical regulations in 03 sectors, namely IT sector/Steel industry/ Medical Devices/Pharmaceutical and devise a roadmap for future regulation. The session is aimed at developing Good Regulatory Practice and the process to be followed by any Ministry wishing to bring in regulation of industry.

1600-1630 hrs	Tea/Coffee
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1630-1800 hrs	Session 8: Way Forward
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- Roadmap to bridge gap in standards, regulatory framework and conformity assessment infrastructure
 - For Department of Commerce
 - For Other government ministries
 - For standard setting & regulatory bodies
 - For industry