



the dti

Department:
Trade and Industry
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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The South African Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Early Warning System for exporters

The World Trade Organisation (WTO) Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement has a transparency obligation that requires countries to publish and notify to the WTO draft technical regulations at least 60 days in advance of adoption.

The South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) operates as the notification point for South Africa on WTO proposed technical regulations. It is understood that few people are aware of the opportunity for comments.

The SABS has created a website in which exporters can view these regulations. An early warning system will inform exporters about draft technical regulations developed by other countries that may create technical barriers to trade. It is important to note that subscription to the email alerts is not limited to South African operators. We therefore take this opportunity to invite operators across the region to subscribe to this service on the website; details follow below.

This is a request that this website link be uploaded to the NTB Online Mechanism in order to make tripartite exporters aware of the possibility to be alerted in good time of proposed technical regulations. The proposed regulations if unopposed can become NTBs. Therefore, awareness is important. Please note though that, although there is provision for operators to comment on proposed regulations, the SABS can accommodate such comments only from South African operators. Operators from other Tripartite countries are advised to contact their national TBT enquiry points regarding the possibility to submit comments.

The notification website is <http://www.sadcstan.co.za/wto/index.asp>.

For subscription to the Early Warning System you can contact the South African TBT Enquiry Point at:

SABS

Telephone: +2712 428 6561

Fax: +2712 428 6928

Email: wto@sabs.co.za

Online: <http://www.sabs.co.za/forms/standards/wtomailssubscribe.php>