(b) increase the rate of customs duty on the originating good to a level not to exceed the lesser of:

(i) the most-favoured-nation applied rate of customs duty in effect on the day when the bilateral safeguard measure is taken; and

(ii) the most-favoured-nation applied rate of customs duty in effect on the day immediately preceding the date of entry into force of this Agreement.

3. (a) A Party may apply a bilateral safeguard measure only after an investigation has been carried out by the competent authorities of that Party in accordance with the same procedures as those provided for in Article 3 and subparagraph 2(c) of Article 4 of the Agreement on Safeguards in Annex 1A to the WTO Agreement (hereinafter referred to as "the Agreement on Safeguards").

(b) The investigation referred to in subparagraph (a) shall in all cases be completed as early as possible and in no case later than one year from the date of initiation.

(c) In the investigation referred to in subparagraph (a) to determine whether increased imports of an originating good have caused or are threatening to cause serious injury to a domestic industry under the terms of this Article, the competent authorities of the Party who carry out the investigation shall evaluate all relevant factors of an objective and quantifiable nature having a bearing on the situation of that domestic industry, in particular, the rate and amount of the increase in imports of the originating good in absolute and relative terms, the share of the domestic market taken by the increased imports of the originating good, and the changes in the level of sales, production, productivity, capacity utilisation, profits and losses, and employment.

(d) The determination that increased imports of an originating good have caused or are threatening to cause serious injury to a domestic industry shall not be made unless the investigation referred to in subparagraph (a) demonstrates, on the basis of objective evidence, the existence of the causal link between increased imports of the originating good and serious injury or threat thereof. When factors other than the increased imports of the originating good are causing injury to the domestic industry at the same time, such injury shall not be attributed to the increased imports of the originating good.

4. The following conditions and limitations shall apply with regard to a bilateral safeguard measure:

(a) A Party shall immediately deliver a written notice to the other Party upon:

(i) initiating an investigation referred to in subparagraph 3(a) relating to serious injury, or threat thereof, and the reasons for it; and

(ii) taking a decision to apply or extend a bilateral safeguard measure.

(b) The Party making the written notice referred to in subparagraph (a) shall provide the other Party with all pertinent information, which shall include:

(i) in the written notice referred to in subparagraph (a)(i), the reason for the initiation of the investigation, a precise description of the originating good subject to the investigation and its subheading of the Harmonized System, the period subject to the investigation and the date of initiation of the investigation; and