CHAPTER 7

TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

ARTICLE 7.1

Objectives

The objectives of this Chapter are to facilitate and to increase trade in goods between the Parties by:

(a) ensuring that technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures do not create unnecessary obstacles to trade;

(b) enhancing joint cooperation between the Parties, including on the implementation of the TBT Agreement; and

(c) pursuing appropriate ways to reduce unnecessary negative effects on trade by measures within the scope of this Chapter.

ARTICLE 7.2

Scope

1. This Chapter applies to the preparation, adoption and application of technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures of central government bodies, as defined in the TBT Agreement, that may affect trade in goods between the Parties.

2. Each Party shall take such reasonable measures as may be available to it to encourage the observance of the provisions of Articles 7.5 to 7.11 by local government bodies within its territory on the level directly below that of the central government, which are responsible for the preparation, adoption and application of technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures.

3. This Chapter does not apply to:

(a) purchasing specifications prepared by a governmental body for its production or consumption requirements; or

(b) sanitary and phytosanitary measures as defined in Annex A to the SPS Agreement.