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# Standardization Strategy:

# National adoptions of standards

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## National adoptions of standards



- International Standards are widely adopted at the regional or national level and applied by manufacturers, trade organizations, purchasers, consumers, testing laboratories, authorities and other interested parties.
- Since these standards generally reflect the best experience of industry, researchers, consumers and regulators worldwide, and cover common needs in a variety of countries, they constitute one of the important bases for the removal of technical barriers to trade.
  - This has been explicitly acknowledged in the WTO/TBT Agreement .

## National adoptions of standards



- Principles, as set out by the WTO TBT Committee should shape the standards systems and processes in an NSB, ensuring that it is:
  - Open;
  - Transparent;
  - Inclusive;
  - Impartial;
  - Effective;
  - Relevant;
  - Coherent.

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## National adoptions of standards

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- The NSB should adhere to the Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards published by the WTO as Annex 3 to the WTO TBT agreement;
- The NSB should demonstrate a commitment to adopting International Standards as their own, withdrawing conflicting national standards and facilitating the implementation of standards in their markets.
- NSB adoption policies and procedures, and the involvement of regulatory bodies varies globally;
  - The UK adopts all ENs and almost all ISO/IEC standards and follows the 'Single standard' model: withdrawal of conflicting existing National standards.
  - National deviations/Annex's if necessary.

## National adoptions of standards



- The relevant substantive provisions under Annex 3 of the WTO TBT Agreement are:

(para F) …*Where International Standards exist or their completion is imminent, the standardizing body shall use them, or the relevant parts of them, as a basis for the standards it develops, except where such International Standards or relevant parts would be ineffective or inappropriate…*

(para G) … *shall, in an appropriate way, play a full part, within the limits of its resources, in the preparation by relevant International Standardizing bodies of International Standards regarding subject matter for which it either has adopted, or expects to adopt, standards…*

## National adoptions of standards



- ISO/IEC Guide 21 – Regional or National Adoption of International Standards , defines adoption ⟨of an International Standard in a regional or national standard⟩ as:

*"publication of a regional or national normative document based on a International Standard, or endorsement of the International Standard as having the same status as a national normative document, with any deviations from the International Standard identified."*

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# National adoptions of standards

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## National adoptions of standards



- Standards offer technical solutions to specific problems;
- It is up to each country to decide which standard it will adopt and develop in order to meet their specific requirements and environmental conditions;
- On examination of an International Standard by the NSB and its national stakeholders, the standard may be adopted as it stands (an identical adoption) or may be changed (a modified adoption), in accordance with the criteria set out in Guide 21 Regional or national adoption of International Standards and other International Deliverables — Part 1: Adoption of International Standards.

## National adoptions of standards



- Ideally the country should be involved in the development of the standard to ensure that the document reflects its needs and also to ensure that it is a 'standards maker not just a standards taker'.

## National adoptions of standards



- The adoption of a standard requires the involvement, participation and support from stakeholders (including regulators if necessary) in the adoption process in order to avoid standards which are unsuitable for the country or are not used.
- In most countries, NSBs are directly involved and, in several cases, responsible for some or all of the activities related to country obligations under the TBT Agreement.
- Generally voluntary, but might demonstrate compliance with legislation, and WTO disputes consider use of international standards.

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