



Trinidad and Tobago
Bureau of Standards

Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards facilitating trade

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Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of
Standards



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Legislative Mandate

- The Bureau was established in 1974 and now operates under the Standards Act No.18 of 1997 and the Metrology Act No 18 of 2004.
- TTBS operates under the Ministry of Trade and Industry.



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Exceptions

- Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS) does not develop standards for food, drugs and cosmetics.
- This is the responsibility of the Chemistry Food and Drugs Division of the Ministry of Health.



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Responsibility

The Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS) is responsible for -

- Implementing the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement (TBT)

- Trade facilitation



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Authority

- (TTBS) was designated to be the WTO/TBT Enquiry Point on behalf of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago as of January 30, 1996.
- In 1998, MTI notified the WTO that TTBS was responsible for the implementation and administration of the WTO TBT Agreement



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THE WTO/TBT AGREEMENT

- The WTO/TBT Agreement recognizes that no country should be prevented from taking measures to ensure:



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THE WTO/TBT AGREEMENT

- The quality of its exports
- The protection and safety of human life
- The protection or health of animal or plant life
- The protection of the environment
- The prevention of deceptive practices
- The protection of its essential security interests



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Services offered by TTBS

- Standards Development
- Inspection and Monitoring
- Certification
- Laboratory Testing
- Metrology
- Laboratory Accreditation
- Standards Information – Export Alert
- Training in Quality Systems & Facilities Rental



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TTBS (National Standard Level)

- TTBS has more than 500 national standards out of which approximately 10 % are compulsory standards.



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Areas of standards development

- National Technical Committees including:
 - Textiles and clothing
 - Engineering technologies
 - Construction materials and building codes
 - Consumer products
 - Health, safety and environment
 - Tourism
 - Quality
 - Agriculture



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Compulsory Standards

Standards Act 18 1997 para.18(1) A compulsory standard is intended to:

- protect the consumer or user against danger to health or safety;
- protect public or industrial health, welfare or safety;
- protect the environment;
- ensure acceptable quality in products;
- ensure acceptable quality in cases where there is a restriction in choice of source or supply;
- require adequate information to be given to the consumer or user;
- prevent fraud or misrepresentation arising from misleading advertising or labelling.



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Implementation of compulsory standards/Technical regulations

The organizations and goods inspected are:

- ✓ Chemistry Food and Drugs Division, Ministry of Health – foods, drugs, cosmetics, medical devices, pesticides
- ✓ Plant Quarantine, Ministry of Food production, Land and Marine Affairs – agricultural products (fruits, vegetables, flowers and seeds)
- ✓ TTBS – all other goods



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Monitoring Arm of TTBS

The Implementation Division Sub-Divisions

- **Automotive Unit (Tyres)**
- **Electrical Products Unit**
- **Textile Products & Footwear Unit**
- **Prepackaged Goods Unit**
- **Construction Goods Unit**
- **Outstations Unit** – Examination at Ports of Entry and processing of documents



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Products Covered

Prepackaged Goods

Textiles

Footwear

Cables

Steel

Pneumatic tyres

Household Automotive Cleaning Chemicals

Hand Dishwashing Detergent

Powdered Laundry Detergent

Liquid Chlorine Bleach

Garments

Household Electrical

Circuit Breakers

Cement

Lead Acid Starter Batteries



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Where does Inspection take place?

- Ports of entry (POS, Pt Lisas and Piarco)
- Importers premises
- Retail outlets



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Procedure for Inspection

- Document Processing
- Payment for Services (Art 5.2 TBT and para 15(3) Std Act)
- Inspection/Verification
- Modification (para. 25(7) Stds Act)
- Release



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Trade Facilitation

- TTBS' *present* commitment to facilitating trade is evidenced by-
- Operation of a WTO Enquiry Point
- Adherence to the Code of Good Practice
- TTBS Website – Standards database
- Acceptance of recognized international certification marks
- Accredited laboratories



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Trade Facilitation

- TTBS' *future* commitment to facilitating trade will be evidenced by-
 - Single Window document processing (AIMS) September 09
 - E-Commerce
 - Negotiating Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs)
 - Coordinated border agency contact point



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Contact information

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Thank You!