

Agenda Item 3:**FOLLOW-UP FROM THE 26th ACCSQ MEETING**

The 26th Meeting of the ASEAN Consultative Committee on Standards and Quality (ACCSQ) was held on 4-5 August 2005 in Manila, Philippines.

2. The Meeting reviewed the progress made by the its WGs and PWGs including ACC and discussed measures to accelerate the ASEAN Cooperation on Standards and Conformance. The following are main outcomes of the Meeting which are of interest or relevance to the ACC:

ASEAN Policy on Standards, Technical Regulations and Conformity Assessment

3. The ACCSQ discussed and adopted the final ASEAN Policy on Standards, Technical Regulations and Conformity Assessment. The Policy was then endorsed by the ASEAN Economic Ministers at their 37th Meeting held in 28 September 2005 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. The objective of the Policy is to provide the guiding principles for the implementation of joint efforts of the ASEAN Member Countries on standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment both in regulated and non- regulated sectors as one of the measures for accelerating economic integration towards the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC). The Guideline focuses on harmonization of standards and the implementation of the relevant conformity assessment schemes as well as their adoption and use in technical regulations and it can be summarized as follows:

Harmonization of standards

a) Member Countries should, as the first and preferred option, adopt the relevant international standards when preparing new national standards or revising existing standards.

Technical regulations

b) Member Countries should take into consideration the following issues when developing technical regulations:

- Technical regulations are not adopted with a view to or with the effect of creating technical barriers to trade;
- Reference to international or national standards or guidelines that are harmonized to international practices should be made except where legitimate reasons for deviations exist.
- Treatment accorded to products imported from Member Countries should be no less favorable than that accorded to like products of national origin and to like products originating from any other Member Countries.
- In case urgent problems of safety, health, environmental protection or national security arise or threaten to arise in a Member Country, that Member Country may adopt a technical regulation as it finds necessary and upon the adoption of this technical regulation, a Member Country shall:

- notify other Member Countries through the Joint Sectoral Committee e.g ACC in charge of cosmetics, or if not applicable, the ASEAN Secretariat, the particular technical regulations and the products covered, with a brief indication of the objective and the rationale of the technical regulations, including the nature of the problems;
- Upon request, provide to other Member Countries the draft of technical regulations.
- Except in urgent circumstances, Member Countries should allow at least six months period between the publication of technical regulations and their entry into force in order to provide sufficient time for producers in exporting Member Countries to adapt their products or methods of production to the requirements of importing Member Countries.
- Member Countries are also requested to notify each others as soon as possible in case urgent problem or health, safety, security or environment exists.

Conformity Assessment

- c) In order to reduce the regulatory burden for industry and to avoid delay of market entry, the implementation of registration, licensing or approval of government prior to placing the goods onto market, where possible, are limited to high risk products.

Post Market Surveillance

- d) Member Countries should ensure that appropriate Post Market Surveillance Systems are in place to complement the implementation of the ASEAN harmonized technical regulations and MRAs.
- e) Alert System should be established amongst Member Countries as a part of Post Market Surveillance Systems.

Transparency

- f) Member Countries shall ensure that all national standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment requirements are made publicly available either in print or in other media prior to or upon adoption/ approval and implementation.

Consideration of progress made by ACC

4. The ACCSQ Leaders noted with appreciation the entire efforts of the ACC in moving forward the implementation of the ASEAN Cosmetic Directive. However, they also shared the concern of Cosmetic SMEs in ASEAN on the GMP compliance. In this regard, they requested the ACC to work out a comprehensive and concrete programme to assist industry in this area. They also agreed to extend its continued support by giving funding priority to assist ACC activities.

The Meeting may wish to note the above and discuss the follow-up actions
