Sub: Non-tariff measure (SPS and TBT) issue being faced by exporters and to be taken up at next WTO meeting

Dear Member,

This is with reference to the non-tariff measures like Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) faced by companies while exporting their products world-wide.

All countries maintain measures to ensure safety of their consumers. Sanitary and phytosanitary measures can take many forms, such as compulsory inspection of products, specific treatment or processing of products, setting of allowable maximum levels of dyes or chemicals etc.

Sanitary and phytosanitary measures, by their very nature, may result in restrictions on trade. However, countries are sometimes pressurised to go beyond what is needed for health protection and to use sanitary and phytosanitary restrictions to shield domestic producers from economic competition.

Similarly, TBTs are used as a protectionist device, and because of its technical complexity becomes a difficult barrier to challenge as well as a barrier to gain market entry.

In future, non-tariff barriers like SPS and TBT will play a more significant role in trade than a tariff-based regime.
In this context, the Council has received an office memorandum (click here) from the Ministry of Commerce wherein inputs on the above issues have been sought to be suitably taken up at the next WTO SPS / TBT committee meeting in November.

Members are urged to send any such issue on SPS / TBT faced by them in gaining market access latest by 10th October to info@texprocil.org so that these can be collated and sent to the Ministry in time.

Regards,

Dr Siddhartha Rajagopal
Executive Director

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