

Countries must ensure that central government standardizing bodies comply with the Code of Good Practice. As sponsor of Canada's Environmental Choice program, Environment Canada is an example of a central government standardizing body. Apart from a semi-annual notification of its work program to the International Standards Organization, the Environmental Choice program already meets the requirements of the Code.

Conclusions

The Uruguay Round Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade fully protects the right of Canadians, through their federal, provincial/territorial and local governments, to choose the levels of environmental protection that are most appropriate for Canada in light of Canadian conditions, values and priorities. While it provides for the adoption and application of whatever standards-related measures are necessary for the achievement of a country's selected level of environmental protection, the Agreement on TBT requires that these measures not disrupt trade more than is necessary to fulfil their objective. These rights and obligations are consistent with Canadian laws and practices concerning environmental protection and conservation.

What the Agreement does not allow is for one country to impose unilaterally its environmental values and priorities on other countries. This approach would discriminate in favour of the most powerful economies and would be inconsistent with the right of each country to determine its own levels of environmental protection.

As noted in Section XIV of the Review, the work program of the new WTO Committee on Trade and Environment will encompass the use of trade measures for environmental purposes and environmental measures with significant trade effects. For example, the Committee will address "the relationship between the provisions of the multilateral trading system and requirements for environmental purposes relating to products, including standards and technical regulations, packaging, labelling and recycling."