

4. If, by the end of the time fixed under paragraph 1 of this Article, an amendment is ratified or accepted by or on behalf of the Governments holding all of the votes of producing countries and by or on behalf of the Governments holding two-thirds of the votes of consuming countries:

(a) the amendment shall become effective for the participating countries by whom or on whose behalf ratification or acceptance has been signified at the end of three months next following the receipt by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of the last ratification or acceptance necessary to comprise all of the votes of producing countries and two-thirds of the votes of consuming countries;

(b) the Council shall determine as soon as possible after the coming into effect of an amendment whether the amendment is of such a nature that consuming countries which do not ratify or accept it shall be suspended from the Agreement from the date upon which it becomes effective under sub-paragraph (a) above, and shall inform all participating Governments accordingly. If the Council determines that the amendment is of such a nature, consuming countries who have not ratified or accepted it shall inform the Council within one month following this determination whether the amendment is still unacceptable and those consuming countries which do so shall automatically be suspended from the Agreement: provided that, if any such consuming country satisfies the Council that its ratification or acceptance of an amendment could not be secured by the time the amendment became effective under sub-paragraph (a) above by reason of constitutional difficulties, the Council may postpone suspension until such difficulties have been overcome and the consuming country has notified its decision to the Council;

(c) The Council may reinstate a consuming country which has been suspended under paragraph (b) above on such terms and conditions as it may consider equitable.

5. If a consuming country considers that its interests will be adversely affected by an amendment, it may, before the expiry of the period fixed under paragraph 1 of this Article, or the expiry of any period until the suspension of a consuming country is determined under the provisions of paragraph 4 (b) of this Article, give notice to the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of its withdrawal from the Agreement, and this shall take effect on the same date as the amendment, or on the date upon which such suspension is determined, in the discretion of and as notified by such country.

6. Any amendment of this Article shall come into effect only if it is ratified or accepted by or on behalf of all participating countries.

7. The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland shall notify all interested Governments and the International Tin Council of the receipt of instruments of ratification or acceptance in accordance with paragraph 1 of this Article and of the entry into force of an amendment in accordance with paragraphs 2, 4 (a) or 6 of this Article.