

9. The Parties shall exchange, no later than upon the entry into force of this Agreement, information on their respective conditions for the recognition of conformity assessment bodies, including applicable accreditation requirements and procedures that a conformity assessment body must fulfill to apply for recognition.

10. If a Party recognizes a conformity assessment body in the territory of the other Party, it shall promptly inform the other Party that it recognizes that conformity assessment body and of the scope of the body's accreditation.

11. Nothing in this agreement prevents each Party from retaining the powers established under their respective domestic laws to take all permissible measures with respect to products that may compromise the health or safety of persons in its respective territory, or which otherwise fail to conform to their respective technical regulations.

12. If a Party does not accept the results of a conformity assessment procedure conducted by a recognized conformity assessment body in the territory of the other Party, it shall, on the request of the other Party, provide the reasons for its decision.

13. Nothing in this Chapter prevents a Party from undertaking conformity assessment in relation to specific products solely by government bodies that are located in its territory, subject to the Parties' obligations under the TBT Agreement.

Article 7.7: Transparency

1. The obligations in this Article supplement those set out in Chapter 14 (Transparency). In the event of an inconsistency between this Article and the obligations in Chapter 14 this Article prevails.

2. Each Party shall ensure that transparency procedures regarding the development of technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures allow interested persons to participate at an early appropriate stage, when amendments may be introduced and comments may be taken into account, unless urgent problems of safety, health, environmental protection or national security arise or threaten to arise. If a consultation process for the development of technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures is open to the public, a Party shall permit persons of the other Party to participate on terms no less favourable than those accorded to its own persons.

3. Each Party shall recommend that standardization bodies in its territory observe paragraph 2 in the consultation processes for the development of standards or voluntary conformity assessment procedures

4. Each Party shall allow a period of at least 60 days following its notification to the WTO's Central Registry of Notifications of proposed technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures for the public and the other Party to provide written comments, unless urgent problems of safety, health, environmental protection or national security arise or threaten to arise.