

The implementing legislation codifies commitments in 37 U.S. states which voluntarily undertook to be covered in the Code specific entities within their jurisdiction. The President is required to consult with states for the purpose of achieving conformity of state laws and practices with the new Code. The legislation also provides for a Federal-state consultation process.

TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE (TBT)

The new Agreement of Technical Barriers to Trade details the rights of countries to establish and maintain standards and technical regulations for the protection of human, animal and plant life and health, the environment, and for protection against deceptive practices.

The changes contained in the U.S. implementing legislation are primarily of a technical or administrative nature. The exception is the amendment to the Federal Seed Act, deleting the requirement that imported seed be stained. The staining requirement is not based on health or safety concerns. Imports from Canada and Mexico already were exempt under NAFTA.

The SAA notes that nothing in the implementation of the TBT limits the ability of a federal agency to determine the appropriate level of safety or protection of standards-related measures.

TITLE IV

AGRICULTURE

The Uruguay Round Agreement brings agriculture under GATT/WTO rules. In addition to reducing tariffs, the Agreement:

- a) provides more secure access to markets;
- b) compels countries to reduce internal support when such programs distort trade;
- c) ensures that support programs that do not distort trade (such as those for regional development, research, environmental protection, and farms income protection), are not subject to countervailing duties;
- d) commits countries to reduce export subsidy expenditures; and
- e) includes an agreement on health and sanitary matters that recognizes the right of countries to take action required to protect the life and health of humans, animals and plants while preventing the misuse of health and sanitary measures as disguised barriers to trade.

Section 22

The legislation contains amendments to Section 22 of