

ELIMINATING TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE (TBT) FOR GREATER GROWTH IN ASEAN

Non-tariff barriers including technical barriers posed by standards, technical regulations, and conformity assessment procedures can limit the flow of goods and the growth of businesses.

ASEAN, through the ASEAN Consultative Committee for Standards and Quality (ACCSQ), is continuously working towards addressing these barriers to ease movements of goods across the region, and with the other trade partners.

Benefits of TBT Elimination



Government

- Increased GDP
- Better international trade relations



Business

- Lower trade costs
- Increased business opportunities



Citizens

- Increased variety of consumer choices
- Competitive price, quality



HOW ACCSQ ADDRESSES TBT

ACCSQ has the mandate to eliminate TBT across priority integration sectors*.

The elimination of TBT in ASEAN is being undertaken through:

- 1 HARMONISATION OF STANDARDS AND TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS**
Harmonise national standard of the ASEAN Member States with relevant international standards, e.g. safety, specification and/or performance requirements of electrical and electronic equipment.
- 2 MUTUAL RECOGNITION ARRANGEMENTS (MRAS)**
MRAs provide for recognition of test results and product certifications. MRAs allow the product to be tested and certified by laboratories and certification bodies listed by ASEAN. This will save cost and reduce time to deliver the products without compromising consumer safety and product quality.
- 3 HARMONISATION OF REGULATORY REGIMES**
Going beyond harmonisation of standards and technical requirements and MRA, ASEAN seeks to establish coherent regulatory regimes in ASEAN.

*) The identified priority integration sectors are agro-based products, automotive, healthcare products, wood-based products, rubber-based products, electrical and electronic equipment, building and construction materials as well as digital trade, and other sectors as mutually agreed.

For further information, visit <https://connectivity.asean.org>
“Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 Strategic Area of Regulatory Excellence seeks to contribute to the work of ACCSQ, to improve the way we live, work, and travel.”

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