

WTO/TBT Seminar on GRP

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Israel's Experience in Cooperation between Regulators

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Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor

ISRAEL

Israel's Population – 2008
7.2 million

Annual rate of growth of population
1.8 %

Israel's Foreign Trade with the Rest of the World \$ Billion

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
Total imports	47.6	56.1
Total exports	39.7	45.9
Total trade volume	<hr/> 87.3	<hr/> 102.0

Cooperation Agreement between the
Government of [Country Name] and
the Government of the State of Israel
in the Fields of Standardization,
Conformity Assessment and Metrology.

Parties, Authorities and Contact Points

Constructive Interaction

- The *parties* initiate preparation of an agreement.
- The *authorities* consult and develop a useful framework for cooperation and coordination.
- *Contact points* are created at the senior level.

Article 2

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4. Each cooperating Authority shall inform the other of the designation of its Contact point.

The Contact Point shall provide relevant documents, ensure smooth flow of information between the Parties, answer all reasonable inquiries and endeavor to find prompt solutions to problems encountered by producers or exporters concerning technical barriers to bilateral trade.

Article 7

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2. In order to ensure the safety of products subject to bilateral trade, the Parties agree to exchange all necessary information through Contact Points and take the necessary measures to the possible extent.

Building informal cooperation between individuals into formal agreements between countries

Article 7

The Parties agree to cooperate in the field of market surveillance.

In the event the Cooperating Authority of a Party has a reasonable concern regarding the certificate for a product imported from the other Party, it may do one or more of the following:

Make its own investigations and inquiries in its market

Approach the manufacturer ... exporter ... or the body which provided the certificate with inquiries regarding the tests and/or the certificates of the product in question. Such inquiries shall be made *with a copy sent to the Contact Point of the other Party.*

Request through its Contact Point, relevant information from the other Party's Contact Point regarding, inter alia:

- The product, applicable standards, required certificates etc.
- The laboratory which performed the tests, its status (whether it is a manufacturer's facility or an independent laboratory).
- The scope of designation or accreditation of the laboratory

The receiving Contact Point shall make the relevant inquiries and reply to the questioning Contact Point with the relevant information within a suitable period, preferably within one month.

Contact Points to the Rescue !!

- Delay of shipment at destination.
- Exporter seeks assistance from his Foreign Trade official.
- Foreign Trade Administration approaches exporting Contact Point.
- Consultation between Contact Points.
- Rapid identification of source of problem.
- Solution agreed by Contact Points .
- Shipment released.
- Source of problem removed by joint action of the Parties.

**Personal
Contacts**

**Informal
Consultations**

**Harmonization
of Regulations**

Mutual Recognition

Equivalency

**Reduction of TBT's and
improvement of trade conditions**