



TRADE COMMITTEE



WFSGI TRADE WEBINAR MINUTES: COMPULSORY USE OF STANDARD MARK FOR FOOTWEAR IMPORTS TO INDIA

Date: Thursday, 22 July, 2021

Location: Phone / Internet

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Confidentiality: For WFSGI members only

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

On April 14, 2021, the WFSGI did send out a letter drafted by the WFSGI Trade Committee to different countries' missions to the WTO. The purpose of the letter was to express the concerns over the Indian regulation for compulsory use of standard marks for footwear imports. Please refer to this letter for further details, the letter is sent along with these minutes.

1.2. Status Quo

Indian authorities have agreed to postpone the entry into force of this regulation by one year to July 1, 2022.

1.3. Next Steps

Participants agree that the postponement is helping to prepare for the new requirements. However, there is still the need to engage and outline especially the importance of aligning this marking requirement to other similar requirements.

Conclusion 1.

Participants agree to undertake the following consolidated industry approaches:

1. Send a letter to the Indian Government focusing on the following points:
 - a. Some brand companies also produce in India and are also exporters and these two angels must be presented in the letter;
 - b. Outlining the importance of India as a sourcing market for footwear for the SGI and the industry's commitment;
 - c. Present the industry as a trusted source of support to provide large experience with standard licensing and marking;
 - d. Recognize and flexibility to postpone the entry into force of the regulation;
 - e. Setting the SGI industry apart from other industries and be specific on the SGI's own standard.
2. Another letter should go out again to the missions to the WFSGI of especially South Asian countries which are relevant as sourcing markets for the SGI:
 - a. Request the signature and ratification of MRAs (Mutual Recognition Arrangements) for ASEAN agreements.
 - b. India should align standards and testing requirements with other countries.
 - c. India should align standards and accept test reports under MRAs with countries/regions that have preferential/free trade agreements with India.
3. The letters should be shared with SGEPC to ensure that the local industry association is accordingly briefed about the WFSGI actions.
4. The same goes for the national Indian retail association.

Action Plan 1.

#	Deadline	Topic	Who
1.1.	TBD	Provide first rough draft letters.	MMS
1.2.	TBD	Review letters to be finalized.	All
1.3.	TBD	Send out letters.	MMS