

# International standard essay



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Literature Review on International Standards and the TAB Agreement This literature review talks about three articles dealing with understanding what are these international standards recognized by the TAB Agreement, but also on their implementation by member nations of the World Trade Organization (WTO). Through these articles, we will try to define these International standards and their objective for international trade (I), we will then explain how they are adopted and why their adoption process involves gaps (II).

I/ International Standards : definition and objectives Definition of the Concept 'International Standard' in the TAB Agreement (1), by Humblers Gauzing Schroeder provides an interpretation of this concept whose no definition was never really given by the TAB Agreement, whereas Improving Regulatory Governance : International Standards and the WTO TAB Agreement (21 by Erik Wisdom and Divine McDaniel, and Harmonistic of International Standards(31 by John Sugar, focus on the purposes of international standards.

According to Schroeder, International standards are not created by the WTO but by recognized International organizations (such as the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) which implement rules, recommendations adopted to facilitate trade relations among member nations of the WTO. The WTO members recognize an international organization as such, if this latter has acquired a fully accepted reputation. Wisdom and McDaniel also add that member nations have to use these standards as a basis for setting their own regulation, which gives them a lot of leeway.

They thus specify as Schroeder that countries may not apply these standards.

Indeed, due to the diversity of all member nations, it can sometimes happen that an International standard is not considered sufficiently relevant or appropriate for a country due to different reasons, such as technological or geographical problems. Furthermore, joining Schroeder in his point of view, Wisdom, McDaniel and Sugar maintain the significant idea that international standards can be defined as rules affording greater flexibility for both the exporting and importing countries.

They argue the existence of these standards can reduce trade barriers, because each member country tries to establish its own regulation under international regulation, which prevents a gap too big between regulations of two different countries (1) Schroeder, Humblers Gauzing, Definition of the concept 'International Standard' in the TAB Agreement, Journal of World Trade, volume 43(6), pappy (32), 2009. (2) Wisdom, Erik and McDaniel, Divine, Improving Regulatory governance : international standards and the WTO TAB Agreement, Journal of World trade, volume 47(5), pappy (34), 2013. 3) Sugar, John G, Harmonistic of International Standards, heaper 20 from Ensuring Global Food Safety, IPPP-351, 2010. In addition, horizontal of regulations promotes the establishment of a common benchmark.

Schroeder and Sugar explain that this common benchmark allows to reduce significant 1 OFF imported product in compliance with their own laws.

International standards are thus well established to improve trade and reduce unnecessary barriers.

II/ The process of their implementation : Schroeder explains that the decision-making process starts with a proposal stage where an international organization recognizes that an international standard is needed in a particular area. A preparatory stage is then implemented, which means a working group is formed to prepare a working draft that will be the basis of future international standard.

After that, members get together to review the working draft.

Before being submitted to all organization members to the final vote in the approval stage, the working draft circulate among members for further comments and improvements: it is the inquiry stage. Once the final draft international standard is adopted by all organization members, it is published by the organization's Secretariat. While Schroeder focuses on its technical decision-making process, Wisdom, McDaniel and Sugar delve their analysis of what is international standard by explaining basic principles used to create it.

Indeed, the founding organizations of international standards rely on principles such as transparency, openness, impartiality and consensus, effectiveness, relevance and coherence.

As an example, the authors explain transparency principle means information used in the decision-making process are available for consultation by all WTO members, whereas openness principle promotes participation in an international standardizing organization to all WTO members and not only to one type of country.

In their articles, they then highlight impartiality and consensus are also privileged because international standards should be not established to favor only one country. Finally, in order to respond to market needs, international standards have to be effective, relevant but also coherent, which means being in accordance with pre-existing standards. Furthermore, whereas Sugar only focuses on the advantages produced by Romanization of international standards, Wisdom, McDaniel and Schroeder delve their analysis by raising the gaps in the process.

First, Schroeder, Wisdom and McDaniel notes that the implementation of international standards can lead to an imbalance between developing countries and other countries. Indeed, because of their low representation within international organizations, developing countries participate very weakly to the creation of international standards. Their requirements and their needs are not taken into account. They then point out that despite the fact that experts have to use only their neutral knowledge to establish international standards, their self-interested national interest can sometimes be stronger.