



7 December 2017

(17-6728)

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Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.6

1. Notifying Member: <u>INDIA</u> If applicable, name of local government involved (Article 3.2 and 7.2):
2. Agency responsible: Government of India Name and address (including telephone and fax numbers, email and website addresses, if available) of agency or authority designated to handle comments regarding the notification shall be indicated if different from above: Shri Samir Kumar Biswas Joint Secretary Room No-341 (A) Department of chemicals and Petrochemicals Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi Telephone No. 23383428 Fax: 23073682 Email: samir.biswas@gov.in
3. Notified under Article 2.9.2 [X], 2.10.1 [], 5.6.2 [], 5.7.1 [], other:
4. Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable): Chemical substance - Caustic Soda
5. Title, number of pages and language(s) of the notified document: Caustic Soda Quality Control Order, 2017 (1 page(s), in English)
6. Description of content: Caustic Soda is one of the important chemicals that finds application in products that touch the day to day life of all Indians such as Alumina, Textile, Paper & Pulp, Water Treatment, Soap & Detergents, Glass, Pharmaceuticals, Agro & Crop-care Chemicals, Pipes for Irrigation, Housing and Industrial use etc. In order to reduce the the consumption of inferior grade caustic soda having mercury impurity, quality standards IS-252:2013 is being mandated for caustic soda for both domestic makers as well as imports.
7. Objective and rationale, including the nature of urgent problems where applicable: Reduce the use of mercury in production of caustic soda to ensure the protection of human health and the environment. Mercury is recognized as a substance producing significant adverse neurological and other health effects with particular concerns expressed about its harmful effects on unborn children and infants. Chlor Alkali (Caustic Soda) production using mercury or mercury compounds should be phased out by year 2025 as per the provisions of the Minamata Convention. The mandation of IS 252:2013 will ensure the use of caustic soda with less mercury content.

8.	Relevant documents: Indian Standard Caustic Soda- specification (IS 252:2013)
9.	Proposed date of adoption: 15 days from the expiry of comment period Proposed date of entry into force: 15 days from the expiry of comment period
10.	Final date for comments: 60 days from notification
11.	Texts available from: National enquiry point [] or address, telephone and fax numbers and email and website addresses, if available, of other body: Shri Samir Kumar Biswas Joint Secretary Room No-341 (A) Department of chemicals and Petrochemicals Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi Telephone No. 23383428 Fax: 23073682 Email: samir.biswas@gov.in