



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

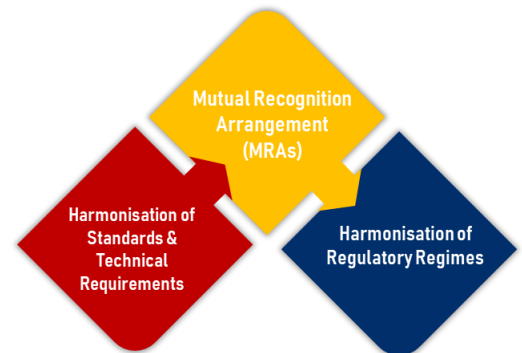
Non-tariff barriers including technical barriers to trade posed by standards, technical regulations, and conformity assessment procedures can limit the flow of goods and the growth of businesses.

ASEAN Consultative Committee for Standards and Quality (ACCSQ) on TBT Elimination

Established in 1992 to eliminate technical barriers to trade (TBT) related to Standards, Technical Regulations and Conformity Assessment Procedures (STRACAP). This is being undertaken through:

- Information exchange on Laws, Rules, Regulatory Regimes On Standards And Conformity Assessment Procedures;
- Harmonization of standards, technical requirements and conformity assessment procedures, including legal metrology;
- Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRA);
- Harmonization of Regulatory Regimes;
- Cooperation with Dialogue Partners (DP);
- Implementation of TBT Chapter of ASEAN +1 Free Trade Area (FTA) Agreement.

Addressing Technical Barriers To Trade



Benefits of TBT Elimination

	Government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase GDP ▪ Better international trade relations
	Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lower trade costs ▪ Increased business opportunities
	Citizens <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased variety of consumer choices ▪ Competitive price, quality

Digital Trade Standards and Conformance Working Group (DTSCWG)



Established in March 2020, under ACCSQ to:

- Exchange information on standards, regulations, procedures, policies, best practices, technical requirements and governance;
- Identify areas for harmonization of standards, regulations, technical requirements, procedures and best practices;
- Capacity building and technical assistance;
- Engage industry, relevant regulatory institutions, private sector organizations, ASEAN sectoral bodies (ADGSOM, ACCEC, etc.);
- Develop and implement its work programme.



Three Pillars – Digital Trade Standards



STRATEGIC THRUSTS

ACTIVITY PROGRAMS

STI: Enhance the standards and conformance infrastructure through development of policies and initiatives to meet the present and future needs of ASEAN.

AP 1: Strengthening the framework for cooperation in standards development to ensure relevant harmonised standards are available to support market integration, building upon the “ASEAN Guidelines for Harmonisation of Standards”.

STII: Achieve a highly integrated and cohesive ASEAN economy through a comprehensive and progressive reduction of technical barrier related to Standards Technical Regulations & Conformity Assessment Procedure (STRACAP).

AP 1: Promote and facilitate the ASEAN Good Regulatory Practice Guide (GRP) in the preparation and implementation of harmonized regulations in ASEAN as well as the Guidelines for Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) and Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS).

STIII: Strengthen joint ASEAN approaches on issues related to STRACAP for effective representation and participation in international and Asia-Pacific regional bodies and associated recognition arrangements.

AP 1: Enhance effective participation in, and coordination for, a common regional position in the identified international standards organisations with a view to safeguard and promote regional interests and to utilise the platforms for the development of standards and related conformance matters relevant to the region.

AP 2: Coordinate and cooperate with regard to representation on new and developing issues in international and in Asia Pacific regional bodies.

STIV: Strengthen private sector participation in standards and conformity assessment to accelerate development and enhance availability of services to industry and businesses.

AP 1: Engage with trade and other relevant associations to consult on development and to review trade related implementation issues on standards, conformity assessment and technical regulation.

AP 2: Enable and support the increased use of services provided by the private sector whenever feasible.

AP 3: Collaborate to enhance the delivery of information on standards and conformity assessment in ASEAN to industry and businesses with a special focus on MSME’s.

STV: Enhance the effectiveness of ACCSQ, its Working Groups/ Product Working Groups, and its collaboration with other relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies.

AP 1: Regular review of terms of reference to make it relevant.

AP 2: Establish structured mechanisms for cooperation between ACCSQ and related ASEAN bodies in areas of mutual interest. These bodies include the ACCEC, ADGSOM, ACCMSME, ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI), ASEAN Committee on Consumer Protection (ACCP), Working Committee on Payment Settlement System (WC-PSS) and others.

STVI: Support the capacity building and human capital development of Member States for the implementation of ASEAN initiatives and policies related to STRACAP

AP 1: Identify needs and support initiatives for the enhancement of the human capital and institutional capacity to support the delivery of professional services in the field of standards and conformance.

AP 2: Enhance cooperation among ASEAN Member States in capacity building and promote the sharing of professional resources in the field of STRACAP.

AP 3: Strengthen and expand cooperation with dialogue partners and other external development partners to ensure these are appropriate and effective in meeting development needs of ACCSQ and its working groups/product working groups with a focus on narrowing the STRACAP development gap among AMS.