

D. Safety Standards

(1) Motor Vehicles

The Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966 has been considered by some foreign auto producers as a potential nontariff trade barrier because it may have more restrictive effects on foreign cars than on American cars. The concern of exporters of motor vehicles, equipment, and tires to the United States has been that some safety standards might be more appropriate for the type of automobiles generally produced by the large American manufacturers than for imported automobiles, many of which are smaller or of quite different design.

(2) Gas Cylinders

The Department of Transportation presently requires that cargo tanks and cylinders used for transport of compressed gases be tested and analyzed for compliance with Code of Federal Regulations specifications within the limits of the United States. Inspection is required during the process of manufacture and the CFR does not provide for such inspection to be performed outside the United States.

E. Health Standards

(1) Quarantine and Food and Drug Laws and Regulations

Certain provisions of U.S. sanitary and health laws and regulations are sometimes viewed by foreign suppliers as trade barriers. One of the best-known examples is a provision in the Tariff Act of 1930 prohibiting any imports of meat from any country having hoof and mouth disease. In other cases, regulations specify standards of wholesomeness or purity that are equally applicable to imports and to the domestic product but that foreign suppliers may consider unnecessarily strict or burdensome. For example, a regulation of the Food and Drug Administration prevents the use of fish oil in the manufacture of margarine in the United States, though herring oil is used for that purpose in many other countries.