

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

Article 15.1 **Joint Commission**

1. The Parties hereby establish the Malaysia – New Zealand Free Trade Agreement Joint Commission (“Joint Commission”) which may meet at the level of Ministers or senior officials, as mutually determined by the Parties. The Joint Commission shall be co-chaired by senior Government officials of the Parties, unless the Parties agree to convene the meeting at ministerial level. Each Party shall be responsible for the composition of its delegation.
2. The functions of the Joint Commission shall be to:
 - (a) review the implementation and operation of this Agreement;
 - (b) consider any matters relating to the implementation of this Agreement;
 - (c) supervise and coordinate the work of all Committees established under this Agreement;
 - (d) adopt any decisions and recommendations of the Committees if necessary; and
 - (e) carry out any other functions as the Parties may agree.
3. The Joint Commission may:
 - (a) refer matters to a Committee for advice, and consider matters raised by any committee established under this Agreement,
 - (b) establish *ad hoc* Working Groups to address specific issues where these are not more appropriately dealt with by an existing Committee or Working Group;
 - (c) further the implementation of the Agreement’s objectives through Implementing Arrangements;
 - (d) explore measures for the further expansion of trade and investment among the Parties and identify appropriate areas of commercial, industrial and technical cooperation between relevant enterprises and organisations of the Parties;

- (e) seek to resolve differences or disputes that may arise regarding the interpretation or application of this Agreement including matters referred to it pursuant to Article 16.7 (Referral to the Joint Commission); and
 - (f) consult third parties on any matter falling within its responsibilities where this would help it make an informed decision.
4. The Joint Commission may establish its rules and procedures and financial arrangements, if necessary.
5. The Joint Commission shall convene its inaugural meeting within one year after the entry into force of this Agreement. Its subsequent meetings shall be held at such frequency as the Parties may agree. The Joint Commission shall convene alternately in Malaysia and New Zealand, unless the Parties agree otherwise. Special meetings of the Joint Commission may be convened, as mutually agreed by both Parties, within 30 days upon the request of either Party.

Article 15.2 Committees

1. The following Committees shall be established on the date of entry into force of this Agreement:
- (a) Committee on Trade in Goods;
 - (b) Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade;
 - (c) Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures;
 - (d) Committee on Investment;
 - (e) Committee on Trade in Services; and
 - (f) Committee on Economic Cooperation.

2. Committees may set up Working Groups to deal with specific issues referred to them by the Joint Commission. Other procedures and functions of the Committees are to be specified in the Chapters where they are established.

Article 15.3 Communications

1. Communications between the Parties on any matter relating to this Agreement shall be facilitated through the following Contact Points:

- (a) in the case of Malaysia, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry of Malaysia; and
- (b) in the case of New Zealand, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand.

2. On the request of one Party, the Contact Point of the other Party shall identify the office or official responsible for the matter at issue and assist, as necessary, in facilitating communications with the requesting Party.

Article 15.4 **General Reviews**

1. The Parties shall undertake a general review of the Agreement, with a view to furthering its objectives, at ministerial level, within five years of the entry into force of this Agreement and at least every three years thereafter.
2. The conduct of general reviews shall normally coincide with regular meetings of the Joint Commission.