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**1 ARTICLE 1 OF THE AGREEMENT ON TRADE FACILITATION**

**1.1 Text of Article 1**

***Article 1: Publication and Availability of Information***

1 *Publication*

1.1 Each Member shall promptly publish the following information in a non-discriminatory and easily accessible manner in order to enable governments, traders, and other interested parties to become acquainted with them:

- (a) procedures for importation, exportation, and transit (including port, airport, and other entry-point procedures), and required forms and documents;
- (b) applied rates of duties and taxes of any kind imposed on or in connection with importation or exportation;
- (c) fees and charges imposed by or for governmental agencies on or in connection with importation, exportation or transit;
- (d) rules for the classification or valuation of products for customs purposes;
- (e) laws, regulations, and administrative rulings of general application relating to rules of origin;
- (f) import, export or transit restrictions or prohibitions;
- (g) penalty provisions for breaches of import, export, or transit formalities;
- (h) procedures for appeal or review;
- (i) agreements or parts thereof with any country or countries relating to importation, exportation, or transit; and
- (j) procedures relating to the administration of tariff quotas.

1.2 Nothing in these provisions shall be construed as requiring the publication or provision of information other than in the language of the Member except as stated in paragraph 2.2.

2 *Information Available Through Internet*

2.1 Each Member shall make available, and update to the extent possible and as appropriate, the following through the internet:

- (a) a description (footnote omitted) of its procedures for importation, exportation, and transit, including procedures for appeal or review, that informs governments, traders, and other interested parties of the practical steps needed for importation, exportation, and transit;
- (b) the forms and documents required for importation into, exportation from, or transit through the territory of that Member;
- (c) contact information on its enquiry point(s).

2.2 Whenever practicable, the description referred to in subparagraph 2.1(a) shall also be made available in one of the official languages of the WTO.

2.3 Members are encouraged to make available further trade-related information through the internet, including relevant trade-related legislation and other items referred to in paragraph 1.1.

### 3 *Enquiry Points*

3.1 Each Member shall, within its available resources, establish or maintain one or more enquiry points to answer reasonable enquiries of governments, traders, and other interested parties on matters covered by paragraph 1.1 and to provide the required forms and documents referred to in subparagraph 1.1(a).

3.2 Members of a customs union or involved in regional integration may establish or maintain common enquiry points at the regional level to satisfy the requirement of paragraph 3.1 for common procedures.

3.3 Members are encouraged not to require the payment of a fee for answering enquiries and providing required forms and documents. If any, Members shall limit the amount of their fees and charges to the approximate cost of services rendered.

3.4 The enquiry points shall answer enquiries and provide the forms and documents within a reasonable time period set by each Member, which may vary depending on the nature or complexity of the request.

### 4 *Notification*

Each Member shall notify the Committee on Trade Facilitation established under paragraph 1.1 of Article 23 (referred to in this Agreement as the "Committee") of:

- (a) the official place(s) where the items in subparagraphs 1.1(a) to (j) have been published;
- (b) the Uniform Resource Locators of website(s) referred to in paragraph 2.1; and
- (c) the contact information of the enquiry points referred to in paragraph 3.1.

## **1.2 General**

1. Transparency notifications under section I of the Trade Facilitation Agreement are to be provided by all WTO Members irrespective of their level of development in four particular areas. They are mandated under Articles 1.4, 10.4.3, 10.6.2, and 12.2.2.

## **1.3 Article 1.4: Notifications**

2. To date, one-hundred and eight (108) Members<sup>1</sup> have presented notifications under this provision. All types of notifications under the TFA can be found in document series: [WT/PCTF/N/\\*](#) and [G/TFA/N/\\*](#). They are also publicly accessible through the Trade Facilitation Agreement database (<https://www.tfadatabase.org/>).

Current as of: July 2022

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<sup>1</sup> This figure includes all European Union member States counted individually, as well as the European Union itself due to the existence of notifications made on behalf of the European Union as a whole.