1946: WWII; QRs were considered one of the most important obstacles to trade

1947: GATT Article XI, but many carve-outs and exceptions; Protocol of Provisional Application (PPA)
Main reasons for retaining QRs

1. “Residual restrictions” contrary to GATT47
   Grandfather clause in para. 1(b) of the PPA: “to the fullest extent not inconsistent with existing legislation”

2. Balance of payments (Art. XII and XVIII)

3. Waivers (e.g. to retain QRs on agricultural products)

4. Textiles & Clothing (trade managed through quotas)
Several notification initiatives

1. **1950s** - Identify the *inconsistent* measures based on notifications with a view to terminate them

2. **1971** - Annual notification to inventory by the Joint Work Group on Import Restrictions, including justifiable measures (C/M/139)

3. **1977** - List of QRs maintained by contracting party (e.g. MTN/NTM/W/112; NTM/W/6/Rev.1)

4. **1985** - Agreed to improve quality of the data, including tariff line and symbols (L/5713, L/5888)

*Group on QRs and Other Non-Tariff Measures*
• Complete notification by April 1986 and two year intervals thereafter

• Relatively simple notification requirements:
  • Full description of products and TLs
  • Type of restriction (using symbols)
  • GATT justification
  • Assessment of trade effects

• “Basic data on QRs” prepared by the Secretariat

• Periodic multilateral reviews to eliminate them
  (see L/5713)
ANNEX 1

Quantitative Restrictions Notifications

Notifications of quantitative restrictions should contain:

(i) a full description of the products and tariff lines (or parts of tariff lines) affected together with the relevant heading or sub-heading in the customs tariff concerned and, in cases in which this is not based on the Customs Cooperation Council Nomenclature, the corresponding CCCN heading (L/5713, paragraph 44(a));

(ii) a precise indication of the type of restriction using the symbols in Annex 2 (L/5713, paragraph 44(a), and L/5888, paragraph 7);

(iii) an indication of the grounds and GATT justification for the measures maintained, including the precise provisions which they cite as a justification (e.g. the relevant section of Article XVIII or sub-paragraph of Article XX or XXI) (L/5713, paragraph 44(a));

(iv) an assessment, to the extent possible, of the trade effects of the measures and any progress made towards the objectives laid down by Ministers (L/5888, paragraph 8).
1. Change of institutional and legal frameworks
2. No more grandfather clause
3. New WTO notification requirements
Very similar to GATT notification:

- Complete notification by 1996, then at 2 year intervals
- Full description of products and TLs
- Type of restriction (using symbols)
- WTO Justification
- Statement of trade effects
- Database by the Secretariat
- Possibility of reverse notifications

Problems: Unclear objective; no format; information only available upon request; bad record of compliance and quality of information; confusion on what to notify.
DECISION ON NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES FOR QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS

Adopted by the Council for Trade in Goods on 1 December 1995

The Committee, in pursuance of its mandate (paragraph (d) of document WT/L/47*), herein:

that:

- Members shall make complete notifications of the quantitative restrictions which they maintain by 31 January 1996 and at two-yearly intervals thereafter, and shall notify changes to their quantitative restrictions as and when these changes occur;

- such notifications shall contain:
  - a full description of the products and tariff lines (or parts of tariff lines) affected together with the relevant heading or sub-heading in the Harmonised System nomenclature;
  - a precise indication of the type of restriction, using the agreed symbols (BISD 328/108) as annexed;
  - an indication of the grounds and WTO justification for the measures maintained, including the precise provisions which they cite as a justification;
  - a statement on the trade effects of the measure, in order to ensure full transparency, the notification should include a description of the administrative mechanism associated with the measure unless this mechanism has been notified under the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures or another WTO Agreement. Also, under trade effects, the notification should include information on the quantity of permissible imports, on the degree of quota utilization (in the case of existing quotas) and, where available, on the level of production or consumption;

- Members which have made, under other WTO provisions, notifications of quantitative restrictions (including notifications to the GATT Technical Committee on Quantitative Restrictions and Other Non-Tariff Measures) which fulfill the requirements for quantitative restrictions notifications under the 1984 and 1985 decisions and which are up-to-date, shall notify the fact, therefore, the Secretariat shall input such notifications into the quantitative restrictions data base;

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*The statement or understanding contained in document PC/WT/L.9, paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 applies also to this Decision.
G/L/59/Rev.1 (22 June 2012)

Similar in many aspects to old notification procedures, but:

- Provides a format
- Improved transparency, e.g. notifications are circulated and reviewed; database is publicly available https://qr.wto.org
- Link to other notifications, e.g. cross-reference
- Explicitly excludes some measures that are not QRs (e.g. TRQs and automatic import licensing) and measures with complex notification requirements
ANNEX 1
Format for the Notification of Quantitative Restrictions in Force

A. Notifying Member: [__]  
B. Date of notification: [__]  
C. First time notification:  
   ○ Yes: [__]  
   ○ No, last notification was made in (doc. symbol): [__]  
D. Type of notification:  
   ○ 1. Complete (i.e., notification of all quantitative restrictions in force)  
   ○ 2. Changes to a notification previously made in (doc. symbol) [__]  
      which are of the following nature:  
         2.1 Introduction of new restrictions, as listed in Section 1.  
         2.2 Elimination of restrictions, as described in G below.  
         2.3 Modification of a previously notified restriction, as described in Section 1.  
   ○ 3. Reverse notification of restrictions maintained by (Member): [__]  
E. The notification provides information for the following biennial period (e.g., 2012-2014) [__] and relates to restrictions in force as of (date) [__].

F. This notification contains information relating to:  
   ○ Section 1: List of quantitative restrictions that are currently in force.  
   ○ Section 2: Cross-reference to other WTO notifications with information on quantitative restrictions that are currently in force.

G. Comments of a general nature, including a description of the elimination of restrictions notified under D.2.2 and the date they ceased to be in force.

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<th>Section 1: List of quantitative restrictions that are currently in force</th>
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Notification Template  
Cross-references
Thank you!