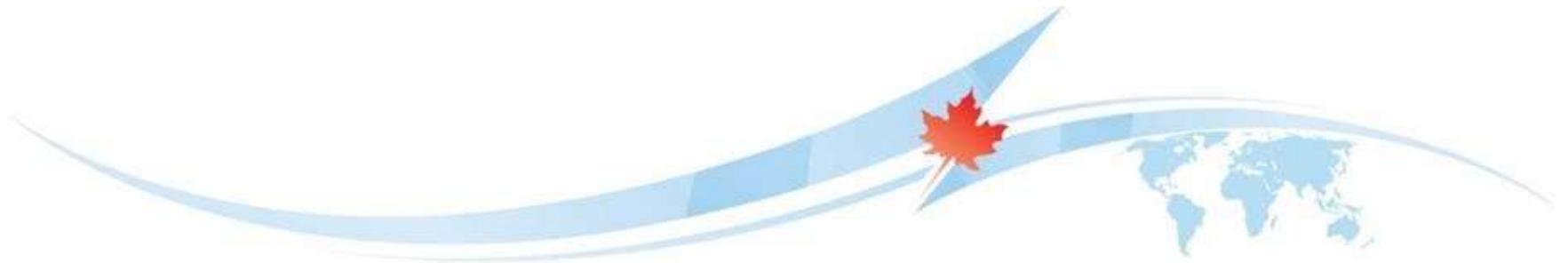




Government
of Canada

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Canada



Consultations with government and non- government stakeholders on foreign SPS notifications

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Purpose

- Provide an overview of Canada's approach to consultations with stakeholders regarding foreign notifications:
 - Within the Government of Canada;
 - With Canadian Industry.

Canada's SPS Approach

- The WTO is the cornerstone to Canada's approach to international trade.
- Transparency is central to these commitments to foster safe and predictable trade that is based on international rules and scientific principles.
- Communication between Canadian departments and industry is key.
- Canada has a well-established interdepartmental approach to develop coordinated positions that reflect technical, geographic, and trade perspectives.

Transparency Through Collaboration

Trading Partners	Federal Departments	Industry	Consumers
<p>Set import requirements and export requirements</p> <p>Determine comparability and acceptance of systems</p> <p>Support global agricultural and agri-food supply through fair market and trade requirements</p>	<p>Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)</p> <p>Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)</p> <p>Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO)</p> <p>Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)</p> <p>Global Affairs Canada (GAC)</p> <p>Health Canada (HC)</p> <p>Natural Resources Canada (NRCan)</p> <p>Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA)</p> <p>Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)</p> <p>Provide oversight of food safety, plant and animal health</p> <p>Investigate outbreaks of foodborne illness, animal and plant diseases</p> <p>Facilitate market access of Canadian goods and services to priority markets</p>	<p>Produces safe food</p> <p>Complies with regulatory requirements related to food safety, plant and animal health</p> <p>Develops and implements best management practices</p>	<p>Responsible for:</p> <p>-safe food handling and preparation</p> <p>-awareness of risks to plant and animal resource base (e.g. transportation of plant and animal materials from abroad and within Canada)</p>

Foreign Member Notifications

- On a daily basis, notifications are downloaded from the WTO website and distributed to interested technical and trade officials within the Government of Canada.
- For example:

Notifying Member/Notification/Date of Circulation	Region/Country affected (as identified)	Product covered	Objective/Issue	Deadline for Submission of Comments
G/SPS/N/A/370 30 March 2017	All trading partners	Foods in general	Food safety Human health Veterinary drugs	30 May 2017
G/SPS/N/B/183 30 March 2017	All trading partners	Feed additives	Animal health Food additives Food safety	30 May 2017

- Officials review notifications and advise of any items of interest which may result in a comment letter:
 - Industry is consulted on items of interest;
 - Translations are sought when necessary.
- An internal procedural document is distributed as needed, containing guidelines and templates for developing a comment letter:
 - Comments must be vetted by country and subject matter experts and are signed by Canada's Head of Delegation to the SPS Committee before being submitted by Canada's Enquiry Point.

Industry Engagement

- Industry awareness of WTO notifications is critical
 - Exporters are responsible for ensuring they meet importing country requirements.
- In Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada works with industry to maximize their awareness of WTO notifications so that they can:
 - Evaluate impact of proposed measures;
 - Provide input that may be incorporated into Canadian comments; and,
 - Adapt to measures that could impact their exports.
- Canada again uses a two-phased approach:
 - Early notification: Government encourages industry stakeholders to sign up for SPS notifications (with the WTO and with ePing);
 - Ongoing and targeted outreach: Disseminate notifications of interest relating to key markets and products of particular interest to industry stakeholders.

Lessons Learned

- The increased volume of WTO notifications has resulted in the need for an efficient process to sort, track and distribute notifications to ensure those who need the information have the maximum amount of time available to react.
- Canada believes a two-phased approach – immediate outreach followed by targeted stakeholder consultations.
- This results in informed stakeholders who are better prepared to react to notified measures thus reducing the risk of negative impacts on trade.