



Transparency in the **SPS Agreement**

SPS Committee Transparency Working Group

Tuesday, 10 March 2026

Geneva, Switzerland



Theme 1: Improving quality and clarity of notifications

Relevant provisions of the
[SPS Agreement](#)

TRANSPARENCY IN THE SPS AGREEMENT

SPS
Agreement

Article 7



Annex B

“Members shall **notify changes in their sanitary or phytosanitary measures** and shall **provide information on their sanitary or phytosanitary measures** in accordance with the provisions of **Annex B.**”

- Publication of regulations
- Enquiry points
- Notification procedures
- General reservations

Reviews of
the SPS
Agreement

Every 4 years

6th review of the SPS Agreement (adopted March 2025) includes recommendations on:

- Establishing Transparency Working Group

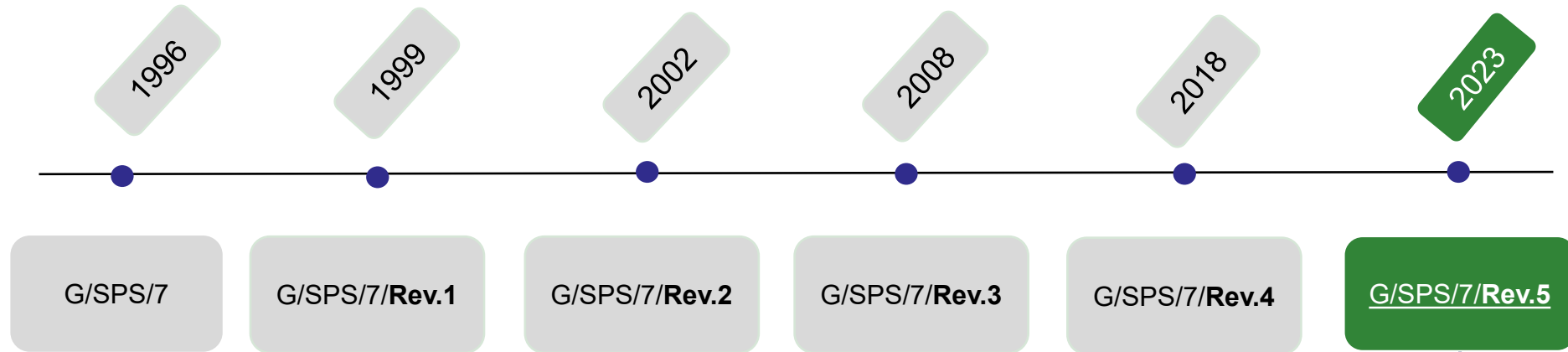
([G/SPS/74](#) and [G/SPS/74/Add.1](#))

SPS Agreement

Recommended
Procedures

Other relevant
decisions

RECOMMENDED PROCEDURES ON TRANSPARENCY



Recommended
Procedures

Other relevant
decisions

- Identification of NNA and NEP
- Recommended notifications procedures
- Guidelines for NEPs
- Publication of regulations
- Notification formats etc.

OTHER RELEVANT DECISIONS

SPS Agreement

Recommended
Procedures

Doha Ministerial
Decision 2001
WT/MIN(01)/17

Implementation-
related issues and
concerns such as:

- Reasonable interval between publication and entry into force
- If measure is trade facilitating, do not delay

Equivalence

G/SPS/19/Rev.2

Recognition of
equivalence

- Measure recognized and products covered
- Implementation of article 4
- Specific notification format (G/SPS/7/Rev.5)

S&D Treatment

G/SPS/33/Rev.1

Enhance
transparency for
developing country
Members

- Facing difficulties with complying with measures
- Specific notification format (G/SPS/7/Rev.5)

Regionalization

G/SPS/48

Practical
implementation of
article 6

- Endeavour to maintain transparency in all aspects of the recognition process
- Request and/or determination

Other relevant
decisions

TRANSPARENCY IN THE SPS AGREEMENT

Transparency

key obligations,
recommendations
and decisions

SPS Agreement

- Article 7 & Annex B
- Reviews of the SPS Agreement

Recommended procedures

- [G/SPS/7/Rev.5](#)

Other relevant decisions

- Doha Ministerial Decision ([WT/MIN\(01\)/17](#))
- Equivalence ([G/SPS/19/Rev.2](#))
- S&D Treatment ([G/SPS/33/Rev.1](#))
- Regionalization ([G/SPS/48](#))

OTHER RELEVANT RESOURCES

SPS webpage:

- [Members' transparency toolkit](#)
- [Dedicated TWG webpage](#)

Timeline and relevant documents (please login to access)

Date	Description	Documents
20 February 2026	Further contribution of the Three Sisters to the work of the TWG	G/SPS/GEN/2391
19 February 2026	Following the second TWG meeting of 3 February, a revised version of the compilation of contributions was circulated	G/SPS/W/377/Rev.1
13 February 2026	Following the second TWG meeting of 3 February, a communication was sent to the TWG participants with advance copies of a new revised version of the work plan and the proposed agenda for the 10 March TWG meeting Guidelines for presenters: The communication also included a call for speakers along with basic guidelines for interventions	G/SPS/W/376/Rev.2 Proposed agenda for 10 March TWG meeting Communication sent on 13 February 2026
20 January 2026	Compilation of contributions: Following the work plan (G/SPS/W/376/Rev.1), the compilation of contributions received by 6 January was circulated on 20 January 2026	G/SPS/W/377 Communication sent on 20th January

SANITARY & PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES: INFORMATION

Members' transparency toolkit

Transparency is a core principle in the WTO. According to Article 7 of the SPS Agreement, members shall notify changes in their sanitary or phytosanitary measures and shall provide information on their sanitary or phytosanitary measures in accordance with the provisions of Annex B. This page contains all the relevant information for members' transparency work in SPS.

See also

The following links contain additional relevant information:

- ▣ [SPS Transparency Working Group](#)
- ▣ [Technical assistance/training](#): contains information on WTO's trade-related technical assistance (TRTA) activities aimed at helping developing countries build their trade capacity so that they can participate more effectively in global trade.
- ▣ [WTO training courses](#): provides information on technical assistance and training courses within the current biannual plan, designed in line with the Procureprocure I learning

Test your knowledge!

Transparency obligations

The SPS Agreement establishes the following four transparency obligations that must be fulfilled by members:

Notification of draft regulations

receive comments, discuss them upon request and take them into account (recommended** minimum 60-day comment period)

Publication of regulations

with a transition period (minimum** 6 months before entry into force)

Establishment of National Enquiry Point (NEP)

responsible for the provision of answers to all reasonable questions as well as the provision of relevant documents

Designation of National Notification Authority (NNA)

responsible for implementing the notification requirements of the SPS Agreement

* Recommended Procedures for Implementing the Transparency Obligations of the SPS Agreement (G/SPS/7/Rev.4)
 ** Ministerial Decision on Implementation-Related Issues and Concerns (WT/MIN(01)17)

Source: [Practical Manual for SPS National Notification Authorities and SPS National Enquiry Points, 2018](#)



Theme 1: Improving quality and clarity of notifications

Theme 1: Improving quality and clarity of notifications

WHAT TO NOTIFY?

ALSO NOTIFY:
If regulation is based on, conform to, or is substantially the same as an international standard
Recommended procedures:
(para. 2.3 of G/SPS/7/Rev.5)

new or changed SPS regulations



no international standard exists
OR different than the international standard



significant impact on trade
(*restricting or facilitating*)

NOTIFY

Theme 1: Improving quality and clarity of notifications

Topic 1: Title of the notified document (item 5 of notification template)

Recommendation for completion of formats (Annexes A-1 and B-1 of G/SPS/7/Rev.5)

5. Title, language and number of pages of the notified document	Title of the proposed or adopted (in the case of late submissions) sanitary or phytosanitary regulation. Number of pages in the notified document. Languages in which the notified document is available. If a translation of the whole document or its summary exists, indicate this here. If a <u>Member</u> submits the text of the draft regulation or a summary or translation thereof in PDF format along with the notification, the WTO Secretariat will facilitate access to this text through a hyperlink in the notification format.
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Theme 1: Improving quality and clarity of notifications

Topic 2: Description of content (item 6) / Likely effects on trade

Notification procedures:

Paragraph 5.b. of Annex B of the SPS Agreement

Notify other Members, through the Secretariat, of the products to be covered by the regulation together with a brief indication of the objective and rationale of the proposed regulation. ...

Paragraph 6.a. of Annex B of the SPS Agreement

Immediately notifies other Members, through the Secretariat, of the particular regulation and the products covered, with a brief indication of the objective and rationale of the regulation, including the nature of the urgent problem(s).

Theme 1: Improving quality and clarity of notifications

Topic 2: Description of content (item 6) / Likely effects on trade

Recommendation for completion of formats (Annexes A-1 and B-1 of G/SPS/7/Rev.5)

6. Description of content	A summary of the proposed or adopted (in the case of late submissions) sanitary or phytosanitary regulation clearly indicating its content and health protection objective. The summary should be as complete and accurate as possible to allow the full understanding of the proposed regulation. To the extent possible, <u>likely effects on trade</u> should be described. Abbreviations should be avoided. Where practicable it should also include an outline of the specific sanitary measures the regulation will apply. The summary should enable trading partners to determine whether the notified measure <u>is likely to have an impact on products they wish to export to the notifying Member</u>. When a regulation contains both SPS and TBT measures, it should be notified according to both the SPS and TBT Agreements, preferably with an indication of which parts of the regulation fall under the SPS Agreement and which parts fall under the TBT Agreement.
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Theme 1: Improving quality and clarity of notifications

Topic 3: Other relevant documents (e.g., past regulations, scientific justification, risk analysis, guidance) (item 9)

Relevant transparency provisions: Enquiry Points, Annex B.3

Each Member must ensure that one enquiry point exists to answer questions and provide documents on:

- **SPS regulations** (adopted or proposed)
- **Control/inspection procedures**, quarantine treatments, pesticide tolerances, food additive approvals
- **Risk assessment procedures** and factors considered, including ALOP
- **Participation in international/regional SPS bodies** and relevant bilateral/multilateral agreements

Theme 1: Improving quality and clarity of notifications

Topic 3: Other relevant documents (e.g., past regulations, scientific justification, risk analysis, guidance) (item 9)

Recommendation for completion of formats (Annexes A-1 and B-1 of G/SPS/7/Rev.5)

9. Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available	Documents referenced here are different from those listed in box 5. Documents which should be referenced include: (a) Publication where notice of the proposed regulation appears, including date and reference numbers; (b) Proposal and basic document to which proposal refers (with specific reference number or other identification), and the language(s) in which the notified documents and any summary of these are available; (c) Publication in which proposal will appear when adopted. If it is necessary to charge for documents supplied, the amount of the charge should be indicated. Provide the website address and hyperlink for these documents where available. If a Member submits texts of referenced documents in PDF format along with the notification to the WTO Secretariat, hyperlinks to these texts will be made available under this item.
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Theme 1: Improving quality and clarity of notifications

Topic 3: Other relevant documents (e.g., past regulations, scientific justification, risk analysis, guidance) (item 9)

Recommendation for completion of formats (Annexes A-1 and B-1 of G/SPS/7/Rev.5)

9. Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available

Documents referenced here are different from those listed in box 5. Documents which should be referenced include:

- (a) Publication where notice of the proposed regulation appears, including date and reference numbers;
- (b) Proposal and basic document to which proposal refers (with specific reference number or other identification), and the language(s) in which the notified documents and any summary of these are available;
- (c) Publication in which proposal will appear when adopted.

■ ■ ■



Theme 2: ePing related issues

Topic 1: Unofficial translation feature

Theme 2: ePing related issues

Topic 1: Unofficial translation feature

Relevant transparency provisions



Notify draft SPS measures at an early stage

Annex B.5(b)

*English,
French
or
Spanish*



Provide a copy of the proposed regulation and other documents

Annex B.3

*Any
language*



Developed Members to provide summaries of documents

Annex B.8

*E, F or S
upon
request*

Theme 2: ePing related issues

Topic 1: Unofficial translation feature

Recommended procedures (section 2.4.4 of G/SPS/7/Rev.5)

Availability of unofficial translations

“Any Member possessing an unofficial translation of a document relating to a notification should inform the notifying Member of the existence of the unofficial translation and should submit to the Secretariat a supplement to the original notification submitted by a Member. The supplement should indicate the address for requesting a copy or the website address where the unofficial translation can be found.”

Para. 2.23 of G/SPS/7/Rev.5

Sharing unofficial translations



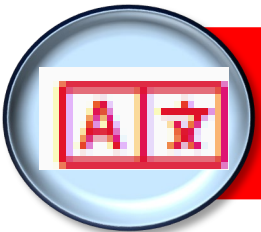
Supplement format



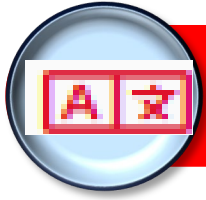
ePing International Forum



Bilaterally upon request



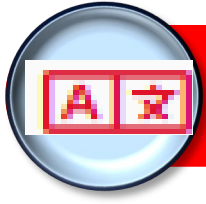
ePing unofficial translation feature



ePing unofficial translation feature



Malaysia	G/SPS/N/MYS/26/Rev.1  Update of the import protocol for live freshwater ornamental fish, live marine ornamental fish and ornamental crustacea (revision to G/SPS/N/MYS/26)	03/03/2026 02/05/2026	Live ornamental aquatic animals	☆ 📄 ✉
Korea, Republic of	G/SPS/N/KOR/841  Proposed amendments to the "Standards and Specifications for Food Additives" (Notice No. 2026-083, 13 February 2026)	03/03/2026 02/05/2026	Food additives	☆ 📄 ✉
	 Notified document (1)			
Japan	G/SPS/N/JPN/1393  Import suspension of raw milk and/or un-heated/un-treated milk products from Cyprus	03/03/2026	Raw milk and/or un-heated/un-treated milk products	☆ 📄 ✉
Brazil	G/SPS/N/BRA/2474  Draft Resolution 1385, 20 February 2026	03/03/2026 02/05/2026	Environment. Health protection. Safety (ICS code(s): 13)	☆ 📄 ✉
	 Notified document (1), Notified document (2), Notified document (3)			



ePing unofficial translation feature

Korean

식품의약품안전처 공고 제2026-083호

식품첨가물의 기준 및 규격 일부개정고시(안) 행정 예고

2026. 2. 13.

식품의약품안전처

식품의약품안전처 공고 제2026-083호

『식품첨가물의 기준 및 규격』(식품의약품안전처 고시 제2025-76호, 2025.11.26.)을 일부 개정함에 있어 국민에게 미리 알려 의견을 듣고자 그 취지, 개정 이유 및 주요 내용을 『행정절차법』 제46조에 따라 다음과 같이 공고합니다.

2026년 2월 13일

식품의약품안전처장

『식품첨가물의 기준 및 규격』 일부개정고시(안) 행정 예고

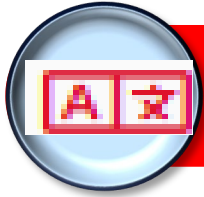
1. 개정 이유

국제기준과의 조화 및 기준 적용의 명확화를 위해 아스파탐 등 감미료의 사용대상식품과 사용량을 구체적으로 정하고, 오용 우려가 있는 향료물질 등에 대한 관리기준을 강화하여 안전관리를 강화하고자 함

2. 주요 내용

가. 감미료의 사용기준 강화(안 III. 품목별 사용기준)

- 1) 감미료의 명확한 사용기준 적용 및 적절한 사용 유도를 위해 국제수준으로 사용기준 정비 필요
- 2) 아스파탐, 스테비올배당체, 효소처리스테비아에 대한 사용대상 식품을 식품공전 상 식품유형별로 세분화하고 사용량을 구체화 하는 등 사용기준 개선



ePing unofficial translation feature

Korea, Republic of	G/SPS/N/KOR/841  Proposed amendments to the "Standards and Specifications for Food Additives" (Notice No. 2026-083, 13 February 2026)	03/03/2026 ⌚ 02/05/2026	Food additives	   
	  Notified document (1)			
Japan	Request for unofficial translation  93 Import suspension of raw milk and/or un-heated/un-processed products from Cyprus	03/03/2026	Raw milk and/or un-heated/un-treated milk products	 

G/SPS/N/KOR/841

Request for unofficial translation

Your request is still being processed. Please wait for the message to be sent to your email.

Measure

Unofficial Translation

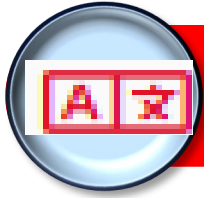
Notified document (1)



 EN FR ES

Unofficial translations into English, French, or Spanish are generated using an automated translation tool. They are provided to facilitate access to notified texts and may not accurately reflect the precise meaning of the original document. The WTO makes no representation or warranty as to the completeness or accuracy of the translation. For official information, please refer to the original version of the document in its official language.

Close



ePing unofficial translation feature

Plataforma ePing SPS&TBT: solicitud de traducción no oficial



eping@wto.org
To  Alcala, Rolando



Sun 08/03/2026 11:56

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and think the content is safe.

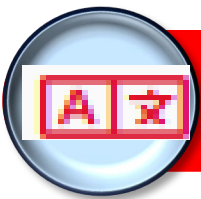
Dear Rolando Alcala,



Please click here to download the unofficial translation of the notified document you've requested from [G/SPS/N/KOR/841](#) via [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#)

Kind regards,
The ePing team

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ePing unofficial translation feature

English

Ministry of Food and Drug Safety
Announcement No. 2026-083

Partial Revision Notice of Standards and Specifications for Food Additives (Draft)

Administrative notice

2026. 2. 13.

Ministry of Food and Drug Safety

Ministry of Food and Drug Safety Announcement No. 2026-083

Standards and Specifications for Product Additives" (Ministry of Food and Drug Safety Notice No. 2025-76,
November 26, 2025.) In partial revision, we would like to inform the public in advance and listen to their opinions.

The purpose, reason for revision, and main contents are announced as follows in
accordance with Article 46 of the Administrative Procedure Act.

February 13, 2026 Director of the
Ministry of Food and Drug Safety

Standards and Specifications of Food Additives" Partial
Revision Notice (Draft) Administrative Notice

1. Reason for the revision

In order to harmonize with international standards and clarify the application of standards, we will specifically
determine the food to be used and the amount of sweeteners such as aspartame, and strengthen safety
management by strengthening management standards for flavoring substances that may be misused.

2. Key Contents

A. Strengthening the use standards for sweeteners (Part III. Item-specific use standards)

- 1) It is necessary to maintain the usage standards at the international level
to apply clear usage standards of sweeteners and guide appropriate use.
- 2) Improvement of usage standards such as subdividing the foods to be used for
aspartame, steviol glycosides, and enzyme-treated stevia by food type and
specifying the amount of use

Theme 2: ePing related issues

Topic 2: Attaching PDF files vs providing links to domestic websites

Recommendation for completion of formats (Annexes A-1 and B-1 of G/SPS/7/Rev.5)
Items 5 and 9

...

5. Title, language and number of pages of the notified document

If a Member submits the text of the draft regulation or a summary or translation thereof in PDF format along with the notification, the WTO Secretariat will facilitate access to this text through a hyperlink in the notification format.

...

9. Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available

Provide the website address and hyperlink for these documents where available.

If a Member submits texts of referenced documents in PDF format along with the notification to the WTO Secretariat, hyperlinks to these texts will be made available under this item.

Theme 2: ePing related issues

Topic 3: Non-conformity with international standards (item 8)

Notification procedures: Paragraph 5 of Annex B of the SPS Agreement

WHAT TO NOTIFY?

ALSO NOTIFY:
If regulation is based on, conform to, or is substantially the same as an international standard
*Recommended procedures:
(para. 2.3 of G/SPS/7/Rev.5)*

new or changed SPS regulations



no international standard exists
OR different than the international standard



significant impact on trade
(*restricting or facilitating*)

NOTIFY

Theme 2: ePing related issues

Topic 3: Non-conformity with international standards (item 8)

8. Is there a relevant international standard? If so, identify the standard:

☐ Codex Alimentarius Commission (e.g. title or serial number of Codex standard or related text):

☒ World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) (e.g. *Terrestrial or Aquatic Animal Health Code, chapter number*): Aquatic Animal Health Code, Chapters 11.1, 11.2, 11.3, 11.4 and 11.7

☐ International Plant Protection Convention (e.g. *ISPM number*):

☐ None

Does this proposed regulation conform to the relevant international standard?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If no, describe, whenever possible, how and why it deviates from the international standard:

Recommendation for completion
of formats (Annexes A-1 and B-1
of G/SPS/7/Rev.5)
Item 8

8. Existence of international standard, guideline or recommendation

If a relevant international standard, guideline or recommendation exists, put a cross in the box provided for the appropriate standard-setting organization and give the appropriate reference of the existing standard, guideline or recommendation, e.g., Codex standard number, WOA (founded as OIE) Code chapter, ISPM number. Indicate whether the proposed regulation conforms to the relevant international standard and if not, describe, whenever possible, how and why the proposed regulation deviates from the international standard, guideline or recommendation.

If no international standard, guideline or recommendation exists, put a cross in the box "None".



WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DU COMMERCE
ORGANIZACIÓN MUNDIAL DEL COMERCIO

Thank you

spscommittee@wto.org

[#WTOsps](https://twitter.com/WTOsps)

SPS Gateway <http://www.wto.org/sps>