



Canadian Food
Inspection Agency

Agence canadienne
d'inspection des aliments

Canadian Food Inspection Agency



Our vision:

To excel as a science-based regulator, trusted and respected by Canadians and the international community.

Our mission:

Dedicated to safeguarding food, animals and plants, which enhances the health and well-being of Canada's people, environment and economy.

Tracking, Sorting and Distributing SPS notifications: The Canadian Experience

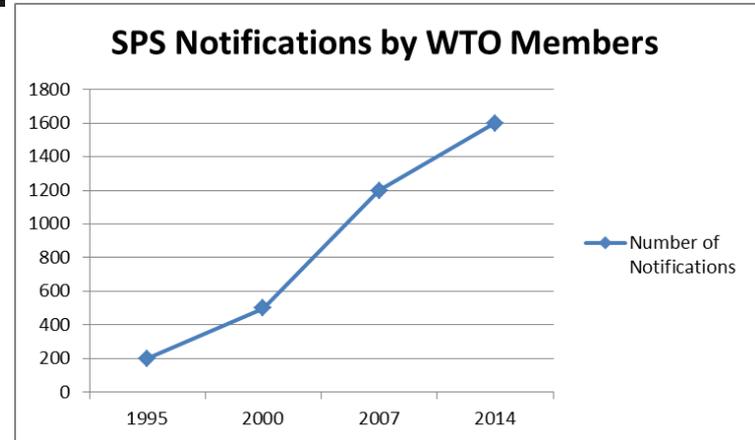
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Canada

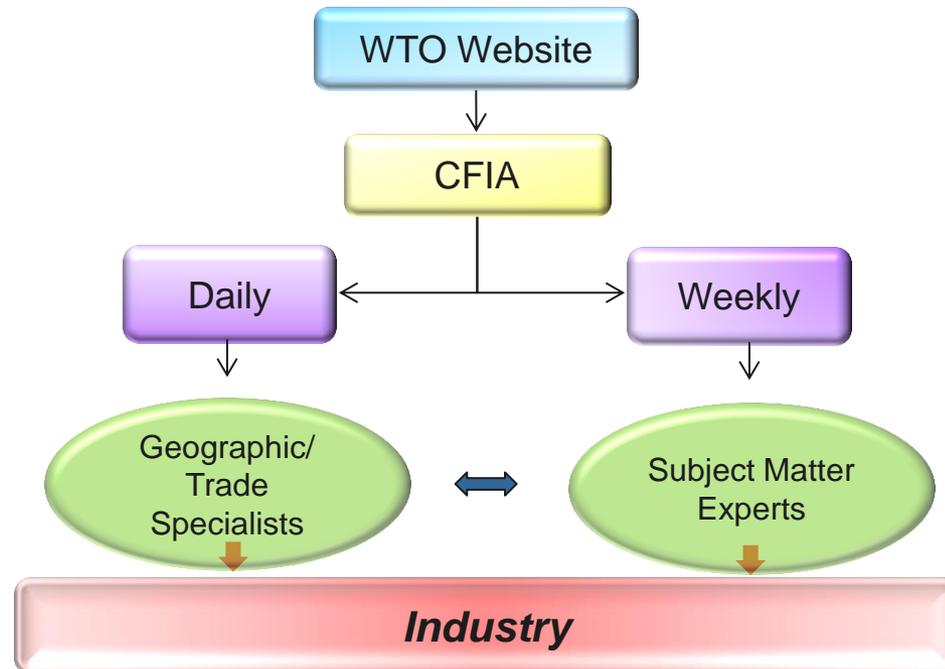
Transparency at the WTO

- The SPS Agreement requires WTO Members to notify WTO Secretariat of proposed or amended requirements that may have a significant effect on trade.
- Since 1995, WTO Members have submitted nearly 18,000 notifications, with the annual number of SPS notifications rising steadily
- Benefit: Greater transparency means more information is available to regulators, producers, traders and consumers.
- Challenge: Given the volume of notifications, what can Members do to aid the dissemination of key information to relevant stakeholders?



The Canadian Process

- Objective: Early and efficient outreach which results in informed stakeholders who are better prepared to react to notified measures in an effort to minimize negative impacts on trade
- Canada takes a two-phase approach of first daily followed by weekly distribution of notifications via email



Government Outreach

- Daily Distribution:
 - Immediate and wide reaching
 - Primary Audience: Geographic and Trade Specialists
- Weekly Distribution:
 - Less frequent but targeted and grouped according to subject
 - Primary Audience: Subject Matter Experts, Senior-level Specialists

Notifying Member/Notification / Date of Circulation	Region/Country affected (as identified)	Product covered	Objective/Issue	Deadline for submission of comments
A G/SPS/N/A/370 14 September 2015	All trading partners	Foods in general	Food safety Human health Veterinary drugs	13 November 2015
B G/SPS/N/B/108 14 September 2015	All trading partners	Feed additives	Animal health Food additives Food safety	13 November 2015
C G/SPS/N/C/57 - EMERGENCY 14 September 2015	All trading partners	Live poultry (HS Code: 0105), and poultry products including poultry meat (HS Code: 0207), day-old chicks (HS Code: 0105.11), hatching eggs	Animal diseases Animal health Avian Influenza Food safety Human health Zoonoses	20 December 2015

Industry Engagement

- Exporters are responsible for ensuring they meet import country requirements thus industry awareness of WTO notifications is essential
- 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
- To that end, Canada again uses a two-phased approach:
 - Early notification: Government encourages industry stakeholders to sign up for SPS notifications (via WTO SPSNOTIF list)
 - 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 consultations – for both government and industry works best.
- This results in informed stakeholders who are better prepared to react to notified measures thus reducing the risk of negative impacts on trade.