WTO sources of SPS & TBT information

2019 SPS Workshop on Transparency and Coordination
15-16 July 2019
Geneva, Switzerland
Choose wisely...

- WTO Documents Online
- SPS & TBT Gateways
  - *Transparency Manual for SPS NNAs & NEPs – 2018 edition*
- SPS & TBT Information Management Systems (SPS IMS & TBT IMS)
- ePing: SPS/TBT notification alert system & coordination forum
WTO Documents Online

http://docs.wto.org
WTO Documents Online
http://docs.wto.org

- Database of all WTO official documents
- Public or Restricted access
- Main sources of information for other systems – SPS IMS & TBT IMS
- Broader searches for SPS information
Documents Online provides access to the official documentation of the World Trade Organization. The database contains over 140,000 documents in the three official languages from 1995 onwards and is updated daily. All WTO documents are posted in PDF and WORD format. The application provides a descriptive catalogue record for every document stored in the archive. It is possible to consult all of these documents online and also to download selected documents from the site.

Documents Online comprises seven different search interfaces:

- Recent documents provides access to the latest documents posted.
- Commonly-consulted offers a selection of searches which enable the easy retrieval of regularly requested documents.
- Documents for meetings displays a list of formal and informal meetings of WTO bodies and their associated documents.
- By topic offers the possibility of searching for WTO documents by broad subject category.
- The Notifications interface allows for the searching of notification documents by notifying members and WTO legal requirements, using the Central Registry of Notifications database. The Advanced search provides additional search criteria, such as symbol, requirement topic and classification. Full-text search capabilities for searching within the document text itself are also available in the Advanced search.
- The Search module provides advanced searching capabilities enabling the user to retrieve all WTO official documents on the basis of specified criteria, such as symbol, country, topic, or full-text search capabilities for searching within the document text itself.
- The GATT module provides access to the official documents issued under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). The General Council decided to make these documents public on 15 May 2006. These have been scanned to create a digital archive. Currently only the documents belonging to the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations have been uploaded.

Contact: docsonline@wto.org
E-Subscriptions

- Service through Docs Online for delegates only (personal WTO account needed)
- Receive daily e-mails listing new documents corresponding to your interest
- For queries on E-Subscriptions: docsonline@wto.org
- Personal WTO account and access: contact your Delegation Coordinator
SPS and TBT Gateways

http://www.wto.org/sps

http://www.wto.org/tbt
http://www.wto.org
Sanitary and phytosanitary measures

Problem. How do you ensure that your country’s consumers are being supplied with food that is safe to eat — “safe” by the standards you consider appropriate? And at the same time, how can you ensure that strict health and safety regulations are not being used as an excuse for protecting domestic producers?

An agreement on how governments can apply food safety and animal and plant health measures (sanitary and phytosanitary or SPS measures) sets out the basic rules in the WTO.

- **SPS Notification Submission System**
  National Notification Authorities can now use the SPS Notification Submission System (SPS NSS) to fill out and submit SPS notifications online.

- **SPS Information Management System**
  A database of WTO information on SPS (notifications, concerns raised, other documents, enquiry points, etc).

- **ePing SPS & TBT Notification Alert System**
  By registering on ePing, users can receive daily or weekly email alerts containing SPS/TBT notifications covering products/markets of interest to them.
Work on SPS in the WTO, and official documents

Work on this subject is handled by the SPS Committee, which reports to the Goods Council. The work is officially recorded in the committee’s annual reports to the General Council and in summary reports (equivalent to minutes) of the committee’s meetings. The current chair is Ms. Noncedo YUTULA (South Africa).

> Search here for SPS documents

Members’ transparency toolkit

Notification formats, handbooks, links to members’ SPS websites and other aids for members’ transparency work in SPS.

Events, workshops and training

Find information on planned and recently held activities.

Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF)

A joint initiative of the World Trade Organization, World Health Organization, World Bank, World Organization for Animal Health and Food and Agriculture Organization for enhancing developing countries’ capacity to meet SPS standards. Work includes sharing information on technical cooperation, and finance for projects.

External links

Find links to relevant standard setting bodies, observer organizations, etc.

STDF and the private sector: partnering to deliver SPS outcomes

More News

SPS TA activities

SPS NOTIFICATION SUBMISSION SYSTEM

The SPS NSS allows for more accurate and complete notifications, and a substantial reduction in the time required for the WTO to process and circulate them. The system has been available to Members since 1 June 2011 upon request. Interested Members are requested to send an e-mail to the Secretariat (spsccommittee@wto.org) so that their National Notification Authorities can receive login names and access passwords.
Members’ transparency toolkit

Notification formats, handbooks, links to members’ SPS websites and other aids for members’ transparency work in SPS.

SEE ALSO
- Technical assistance/training
- WTO training courses
- WTO E-Campus
- Building trade capacity

Find documents
- Recommended Transparency Procedures
- Transparency in special treatment for developing countries
- Transparency level of implementation
- The SPS work and documents page contains a range of links for searching documents
- The SPS Information Management System, offers a wide range of search criteria for notifications, trade concerns and other SPS information. (What is SPS-IMS?)

Notification formats

Download:
- The complete set

Separately:
- Regular notification — Addendum — Corrigendum — Revision
- Emergency notification — Addendum — Corrigendum — Revision
- Notification of determination of the recognition of equivalence
- Notification on availability of translations
- Notification on Special and Differential Treatment

Fill out and submit SPS notifications online

- SPS Notification Submission System
  National Notification Authorities can now use the SPS Notification Submission System (SPS NSS) to fill out and submit SPS notifications online.
Technical barriers to trade

The Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement aims to ensure that technical regulations, standards, and conformity assessment procedures are non-discriminatory and do not create unnecessary obstacles to trade. At the same time, it recognises WTO members’ right to implement measures to achieve legitimate policy objectives, such as the protection of human health and safety, or protection of the environment. The TBT Agreement strongly encourages members to base their measures on international standards as a means to facilitate trade. Through its transparency provisions, it also aims to create a predictable trading environment.
SPS Information Management System (SPS IMS)  
http://spsims.wto.org

TBT Information Management System (TBT IMS)  
http://tbtims.wto.org
Why an SPS/TBT IMS?

- Since 1995
  - > 60 000 notifications SPS & TBT
  - > 9 000 other SPS & TBT documents
  - 456 SPS STCs & 593 TBT STCs
  - National Notification Authority (NNA) and Enquiry Point (NEP) contact info (constantly changing)

SPS/TBT IMSs – Allow for easy access to SPS/TBT documents and related information
What can you do with it?

- Multi-criteria searching for notifications, STCs and other SPS documents
- Export results into other formats (*.docx, *.xlsx, *.png, *.jpg, etc.)
- Browse interactive dashboards
- Create customized reports
http://tbtims.wto.org

Technical Barriers to Trade Information Management System

How many measures have been notified?

Regular notifications: 26,941
Revisions: 329
Addenda/Corrigenda/Supplements: 8,020
Specific Trade Concerns: 501

What are Technical Barriers to Trade?

Technical Barriers to Trade are measures adopted by governments establishing product requirements for fulfillment of public policy objectives, such as human health and safety, environmental protection, consumer information, or quality. These measures apply to both domestically produced and imported goods.

The Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement (TBT) aims to ensure that these measures (technical regulations, standards, testing and certification procedures) do not create unnecessary obstacles to trade.

More information on the TBT Agreement can be found here.

What is the Technical Barriers to Trade Information Management System (TBT IMS)?

The TBT IMS is a comprehensive database allowing users to search all TBT notifications and Specific Trade Concerns raised in the TBT Committee (STCs). Users can also browse information on TBT Enquiry Points, Statements on Implementation, Agreements between Members and other TBT-related documents.

Information on standards-related notifications under the Code of Good Practice, can be found on the WTO ISO Standards Information Service.
http://spsims.wto.org

Sanitary and Phytosanitary Information Management System

How many measures have been notified?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regular</th>
<th>Emergency</th>
<th>Addenda</th>
<th>Corrigenda</th>
<th>Translation supplement</th>
<th>Recognition of equivalence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>16,682</td>
<td>2,192</td>
<td>5,427</td>
<td>424</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How many STCs have been raised?

Specific Trade Concerns: 452

What are sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures?

SPS measures are adopted by governments to ensure that food is safe for consumers, and to prevent the spread of pests or diseases among animals and plants. These measures apply to both domestically produced and imported goods.

The Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) aims to ensure these measures protect human, animal, plant life or health while avoiding unnecessary barriers to trade.

More information on the SPS Agreement can be found here.

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Click on help for more information on how to use the system.
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Interactive dashboards - STCs

SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Overview

Select
- Year range: 1995 - 2019

Number of new issues raised

Trade concerns by subject

Participation by WTO Members

Number of issues raised by Members

Developed Economies
Developing and Emerging Economies
Least-developed countries
ePing

http://www.epingalert.org
Thank you!

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

TBT Gateway
http://www.wto.org/tbt