

## DISCLAIMER

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The Handbook on Notification Requirements does not constitute a legal interpretation of the notification obligations under the respective Agreement(s) or relevant legal provision(s). It has been prepared by the Secretariat to assist Members in complying with their notification obligations.

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# TECHNICAL COOPERATION HANDBOOK ON NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

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ARTICLE XVII OF GATT 1994  
AND THE WTO UNDERSTANDING  
ON THE INTERPRETATION OF  
ARTICLE XVII OF GATT 1994  
(STATE TRADE ENTERPRISES)

This section of the Handbook on Notification Requirements covers the notification obligations under the **ARTICLE XVII OF GATT 1994 AND THE WTO UNDERSTANDING ON THE INTERPRETATION OF ARTICLE XVII OF GATT 1994 (STATE TRADE ENTERPRISES)**. It consists of the following five parts:

**PART 1**

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**PART 2**

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**PART 3**

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**PART 4**

LIST OF  
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**PART 5**

TEXT OF  
THE LEGAL  
PROVISIONS

**For Members which acceded pursuant to Article XII of the Marrakesh Agreement, their respective Protocols of Accession may contain notification obligations in addition to those set out in the WTO Agreements, and may govern the deadlines for the submission of their initial notifications.**

## PART 1

## OVERVIEW OF NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

### WHAT MUST BE NOTIFIED?

Members are to notify all state trading enterprises in accordance with the definition provided in [paragraph 1](#) of the WTO Understanding on Article XVII. Enterprises of the kind described in paragraph 1 cover governmental and non-governmental enterprises, including marketing boards, which have been granted exclusive or special rights or privileges, in the exercise of which they influence through their purchases or sales the level or direction of imports or exports.

### WHICH MEMBERS MUST NOTIFY?

The notification requirement under Article XVII applies to all Members, whether or not a Member maintains state trading enterprises in accordance with the definition provided in [paragraph 1](#) of the WTO Understanding on Article XVII, and whether or not any state trading enterprises have engaged in trade during the period under review.

### WHEN TO NOTIFY?

A call for notifications is issued every two years by a proposed deadline (normally 30 June of that year). For acceding countries, the deadlines for the submission of their notifications will be governed by their respective Protocols of Accession.

### HOW TO NOTIFY?<sup>1</sup>

Notifications should be made to the Working Party on State Trading Enterprises in accordance with the decision adopted by that Working Party ([G/STR/3/Rev.1](#)). Notifications should enable a clear understanding of the manner of operation of the enterprises notified and the effect of their operations on international trade.

Members may find it useful to consult the Illustrative List of relationships between governments and state trading enterprises and the kinds of activities engaged in by these enterprises ([G/STR/4](#)) in preparing their notifications. The Illustrative List does not represent a definition of what constitutes a state trading enterprise but reflects the past practice of individual Members.

<sup>1</sup> All notifications, regardless of their subject content or the requirement under which they are being submitted, must be directed to the administrator of the Central Registry of Notifications (CRN), as indicated in document [WT/INF/25/Rev.1](#). Notifications may be submitted through online submission systems, as electronic attachments to emails, by fax or on paper. As it may be practice, a copy of the notification may be sent to the Secretariat unit substantially handling the notification.

## PART 2

## LISTING OF THE NOTIFICATION OBLIGATIONS

	WHAT MUST BE NOTIFIED?		WHICH MEMBERS MUST NOTIFY?	WHEN TO NOTIFY?		HOW TO NOTIFY?		
	Notification requirements	Type of measure	Members notifying	Periodicity	Comments on Periodicity	Format	To whom <sup>2</sup>	Notification Symbol
1.	State Trading GATT 1994, <a href="#">Article XVII:4(a)</a> and Understanding on the Interpretation of Article XVII of GATT 1994 <a href="#">paragraph 1</a> (Biennial).	State Trading activities.	All WTO Members	Regular – Biennial	The deadline for notifications is normally 30 June of the year in which the notification is due.	Yes ( <a href="#">G/STR/3/Rev.1</a> )	Council for Trade in Goods	G/STR/N/*

<sup>2</sup> All notifications, regardless of their subject content or the requirement under which they are being submitted, must be directed to the administrator of the Central Registry of Notifications (CRN), as indicated in document [WT/INF/25/Rev.1](#). Notifications may be submitted through online submission systems, as electronic attachments to emails, by fax or on paper. As it may be practice, a copy of the notification may be sent to the Secretariat unit substantially handling the notification.

# PART 3

## RELEVANT DOCUMENT(S) CONCERNING GUIDELINES AND FORMATS

Questionnaire on State Trading (Notifications under Article XVII:4(a) of GATT 1994) [G/STR/3/Rev.1](#).

## PART 4

## LIST OF NOTIFICATIONS SINCE 1995

### LIST OF NOTIFICATIONS UNDER ARTICLE XVII: 4(a) OF GATT 1994

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Notifications under [Article XVII: 4 \(a\)](#).

Further information on the status of state trading notifications since 1995 is set out in document [G/STR/20](#).

## PART 5

## TEXT OF THE LEGAL PROVISIONS

Text of [Article XVII](#) of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994.

WTO Understanding on the Interpretation of Article XVII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 [LT/UR/A-1A/1/GATT/U/2](#).