DISCLAIMER

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.
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** - OVERVIEW OF NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
- **PART 2** - LISTING OF THE NOTIFICATION OBLIGATIONS
- **PART 3** - RELEVANT DOCUMENT(S) CONCERNING GUIDELINES AND FORMATS
- **PART 4** - LIST OF NOTIFICATIONS SINCE 1995
- **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.
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 every even year, requesting information for the previous two years). For acceding countries, the deadlines for the submission of their first notification may be governed by their respective Protocols of Accession.

HOW TO NOTIFY?¹

Notifications must be made to the Working Party on State Trading Enterprises in accordance with the questionnaire adopted by that Working Party (G/STR/3/Rev.1). Notifications must 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.

¹ 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.2. Notifications may be submitted through online submission systems, as electronic attachments to emails, or on paper. As it may be practice, a copy of the notification may be sent to the Secretariat unit substantively handling the notification.
### Listing of the Notification Obligations

#### Part 2

**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** | **Notification Symbol**
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---

---

2 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.2. Notifications may be submitted through online submission systems, as electronic attachments to emails, or on paper. As it may be practice, a copy of the notification may be sent to the Secretariat unit substantively handling the notification.
LIST OF NOTIFICATIONS UNDER ARTICLE XVII: 4(a) OF GATT 1994

Notifications under Article XVII: 4(a).

Further information on the status of state trading notifications since 1995 is set out in document G/STR/27.

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 (the Understanding).

Note: these are not two separate notification requirements. Rather, notifications must currently be made pursuant to Article XVII:4(a) of the GATT 1994 as clarified by the Understanding. Thus, every two years, Members must notify their state trading enterprises meeting the definition of paragraph 1 of the Understanding, by completing the questionnaire agreed by Members pursuant to paragraph 5 of the Understanding (G/STR/3/Rev.1). Members that do not maintain state trading enterprises meeting the definition of paragraph 1 of the Understanding must also provide a notification, indicating that this is the case.