The Working Mechanisms of China on TBT Transparency

1. TBT System of China
2. Notifying TBT Measures of China
3. Handling Notifications from Other Members
4. Dealing with Enquiries
5. Difficulties faced
1. TBT System of China

**Government authorities involved**

- Ministry of Commerce
- General Administration of Customs
- State Administration for Market Regulation
- Ministry of Industry and Information Technology
- Ministry of Ecology and Environment
- …
1. TBT System of China

National Enquiry Point
Established in General Administration of Customs to coordinate the notification, enquiry and comment issues domestically

The Notification Authority
Established in the Ministry of Commerce to manage notification-related affairs and submit notifications
2. Notifying TBT Measures of China

What to notify

- Laws and regulations at national level
- Decrees and rules at ministerial level
- National compulsory standards
2. Notifying TBT Measures of China

How to notify

Drafting of a new TBT measure - the competent authority

Deciding whether to notify or not - the competent authority

Filling out the notification form in both English and Chinese - the competent authority

Submitting the notification and full text to the Enquiry Point

Reviewing the notification – the Enquiry Point

Submitting to the Notification Authority

Submitting to WTO - through the Permanent Mission of China in Geneva

Using WTO online notification submitting system
2. Notifying TBT Measures of China

- Coordination on notification affairs
- Whether to notify
- TBT or SPS
- Comment period
After notifying, TBT Enquiry Point has the responsibility of:

- Providing full text to members so request
- Receiving comments from other members
- Transferring comments to the competent authority to seek responses
- Receiving, translating and sending responses

2. Notifying TBT Measures of China
2. Notifying TBT Measures of China

- By the end of 2018, 1375 TBT notifications, including:
  - 1340 notifications on new TBT measures, and
  - 35 addendum notifications
2. Notifying TBT Measures of China
3. Handling Notifications from Other Members

**Working procedures**

- Receiving and translating notifications - Enquiry Point
- Selecting notifications to comment - Enquiry Point
- Distributing notifications to relevant authorities – mainly by e-mail
- TBT Notification Newsletter – including all notifications, published every month
- Notifications and their Chinese translation also available on the website of Technical Measures of China
- Encourage stakeholders to use ePing system
3. Handling Notifications from Other Members

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**Working procedures (cont. 1)**

- Studying and making comments on notifications - Expert group established by all Chinese government authorities related to TBT issues
- Examining comments - competent authorities
- Collecting comments - Enquiry Point
- Translating the final comments into English and submitting to the notification Member - Enquiry Point
- Coordination: Important notifications or Disagreement on comment
3. Handling Notifications from Other Members

Working procedures (cont. 2)

- Receiving responses - Enquiry Point
- Feedback for reference or further comment
- Considering to raise a Specific Trade Concern
3. Handling Notifications from Other Members

Participants of commenting:  
- Experts in the Customs
- Experts from other government authorities
- Associations and industries
- University and research institute
3. Handling Notifications from Other Members

- Research and comment centers
  - Household appliance
  - Automobile
  - Toy
  - Textile
  - Fireworks
  - .......
4. Dealing with Enquires

- The TBT Enquiry Point is responsible to answer reasonable questions asked by domestic and foreign government authorities, industries and other stakeholders.
- After the Accession, we have received and answered more than 10000 enquiries.
5. Difficulties faced

**Translation**

1. Large amount – notifications and full texts
2. Costly for both money and time
3. Unpopular languages
5. Difficulties faced

- Some notifications less than 60 days
- Request for extending with no answer
5. Difficulties faced

- The activeness to make comments
  - The awareness of the importance of making comments is not satisfactory. Especially small and medium-sized enterprises should be encouraged to comment.
  - Training of industries should be strengthened.
  - The enquiry point takes the responsibility of leading the stakeholders to comment and provide help.
5. Difficulties faced

- How to choose the notifications to be commented
- Assessment of the notifications
- How to evaluate the impact of a notification on trade
- The enquiry point
5. Difficulties faced

Some email addresses do not work

Could not receive response
Thank You