



TECHNICAL COOPERATION HANDBOOK ON NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

AGREEMENT ON TECHNICAL
BARRIERS TO TRADE

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 **AGREEMENT ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE**. It consists of the following five parts:

PART 1

OVERVIEW OF
NOTIFICATION
REQUIREMENTS

PART 2

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PART 4

LIST OF
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PART 5

TEXT OF THE
AGREEMENT

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 REQUIREMENTS¹

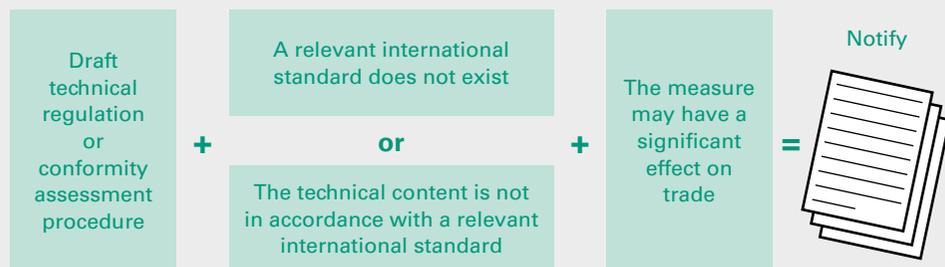
WHAT MUST BE NOTIFIED?

The WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade seeks to ensure that technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures do not create unnecessary obstacles to trade. Transparency through specific notifications obligations is one of the principles under the Agreement to minimize trade barriers. WTO Members are subject to different kinds of notifications requirements:

Technical Regulations (Article 2.9.2) and Urgent Technical Regulations (Article 2.10.1); Conformity Assessment Procedures (Article 5.6.2) and Urgent Conformity Assessment Procedures (Article 5.7.1)

The notification process ordinarily begins by identifying those measures that should be notified to the WTO. Figure 1 illustrates whether to notify technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures in line with Articles [2.9](#) and [5.6](#) of the TBT Agreement.

Figure 1



The notification should include information on products to be covered as well as on objective and rationale of the measure. In addition, it should provide a comment period (normally 60 days), except in urgent circumstances (Articles [2.10.1](#) and [5.7.1](#)).

¹ The [WTO TBT Enquiry Point Guide](#) provides a consolidated and comprehensive list of transparency obligations and recommendations related to the implementation of the TBT Agreement.

Over the years, the TBT Committee has adopted a series of recommendations related to the implementation of notification obligations contained in the TBT Agreement. These can be found under the transparency chapter of [G/TBT/1](#) (see latest Revision) and are also explained in the [TBT Enquiry Point Guide](#).

Statement of Implementation

[Article 15.2](#) of the TBT Agreement commits Members to submit a Statement of Implementation on the measures in existence or taken to ensure the implementation and administration of the Agreement, including the provisions on transparency. This one-time notification requirement should include information covering legislative, regulatory and administrative action taken so as to ensure that the provisions of the Agreement are applied. If the Agreement itself has been incorporated into domestic law, the statement should indicate how this has been done. The statement should also indicate the entities designated as the Enquiry Point(s) (Article 10.1-3) and the Notification Authority (Article 10.10) for that Member.

Agreements with other Members

[Article 10.7](#) Members may reach agreement with other countries on issues related to technical regulations, standards or conformity assessment procedures. These can include mutual recognition agreements, equivalence agreements and other types of regulatory co-operation mechanisms. These agreements, if they may have a significant effect on trade, should be notified, through the Secretariat, by one of the Members party to the agreement, indicating the products to be covered and a brief description of the agreement.

Notifications under Paragraph C and Paragraph J of the Code of Good Practice on the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards (Annex 3 to the Agreement)

The TBT Agreement's "Code", provides, among others (and through [Article 4](#) of the Agreement), that Members shall ensure that their central government standardizing bodies accept and comply with the Code. Also, Members need to take such reasonable measures as may be available to them to ensure that local government and non-governmental standardizing bodies within their territories, as well as regional standardizing bodies, of which they or one or more bodies within their territories are Members, accept and comply with the Code.

PART 1

OVERVIEW OF NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Standardizing bodies that have accepted or withdrawn from the Code ([Annex 3](#)) must notify this fact to the ISO via email tbtcode@iso.org. Those bodies that have accepted the Code are required to publish a work programme every six months, and its existence must also be notified through the same email address.

WHICH MEMBERS MUST NOTIFY?

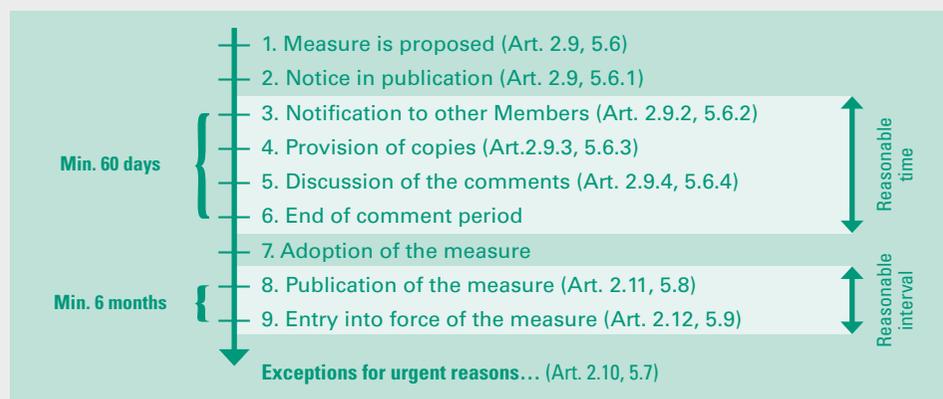
All WTO Members.

WHEN TO NOTIFY?

Technical Regulations and Conformity Assessment Procedures

At an early appropriate stage when amendments can still be introduced, and comments taken into account. Figure 2 below indicates the lifecycle of a measure.

Figure 2: The lifecycle of a measure



Statement of Implementation

[Article 15.2](#) Upon accession to the WTO. Revisions submitted as necessary when there are relevant changes in the regulatory process.

Agreements with other Members

[Article 10.7](#) When a Member has reached agreement with another Member on issues related to technical regulations, standards or conformity assessment procedures.

Acceptance of the Code of Good Practice

Upon acceptance of the code.

Notification of work programmes

Every six months. Alternatively, the website address where work programmes are regularly made available should be provided.

PART 1

OVERVIEW OF NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

HOW TO NOTIFY?²

1. Technical Regulations and Conformity Assessment Procedures, Statements of Implementation and Agreements with other Members.



The ePing [SPS&TBT Platform](#) helps manage and track technical barriers to trade (TBT) and sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures. Members can submit their SPS and TBT notifications via the platform. ePing allows for better national coordination with regulatory agencies, helps keep track of all notifications submitted and gives access to comprehensive TBT and SPS transparency related information across the Membership on one website.

To access the notification submission services, government officials responsible for the preparation and submission of notifications should register on the ePing platform and send a message to ePing@wto.org requesting notification admin rights. A notification admin can, in addition to submitting notifications, also grant notification drafting rights and/or submission rights to other domestic users and update Enquiry Point contact details. Users that already have a WTO account can use these credentials to register on the site and benefit from the single sign-on across WTO websites.

While Members can submit notifications by email to the Central Registry of Notifications (CRN) (crn@wto.org), there is a significantly longer circulation delay as these have to be processed manually by the WTO Secretariat. Notification templates can be downloaded from the [TBT Transparency toolkit](#).

Questions and queries on the ePing SPS&TBT Platform can be sent to the WTO Secretariat (ePing@wto.org).

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](#). TBT notifications may be submitted through online submission systems or as electronic attachments to emails. As it may be practice, a copy of the notification may be sent to the Secretariat unit substantively handling the notification.

The TBT Committee has adopted Guidelines for Notification Procedures for Technical Regulations and Conformity Assessment Procedures as well as a recommendation on coherent use of notification formats ([G/TBT/35/Rev.1](#)).

2. Notifications under Paragraph C and Paragraph J of the Code of Good Practice on the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards (Annex 3 to the Agreement)

Standards-related notifications need to be submitted to the ISO via email tbtcode@iso.org. The [WTO ISO Standards Information Gateway](#) contains the full list of standardizing bodies that have accepted the Code as well as information on their work programmes. The notification formats for acceptance (Form A), withdrawal (Form B) and work programmes (Form C) can also be downloaded through the Gateway. Acceptance and withdrawal notifications are subsequently circulated by the WTO Secretariat. These notifications can be consulted under the Facts & figures [tab](#) on ePing in each Members' profile page.

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 ³	Notification Symbol
1.	Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, Article 2.9 .	Technical regulations.	All WTO Members	<i>Ad hoc</i>		Yes (Submission of notifications)	WTO Secretariat	G/TBT/N/*
2.	Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, Article 2.10 .	Technical regulations (urgent).	All WTO Members	<i>Ad hoc</i>		Yes (Submission of notifications)	WTO Secretariat	G/TBT/N/*
3.	Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, Article 3.2 .	Technical regulations – local government (urgent or non-urgent).	All WTO Members	<i>Ad hoc</i>		Yes (Submission of notifications)	WTO Secretariat	G/TBT/N/*
4.	Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, Article 5.6 .	Conformity assessment procedures.	All WTO Members	<i>Ad hoc</i>		Yes (Submission of notifications)	WTO Secretariat	G/TBT/N/*
5.	Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, Article 5.7 .	Conformity assessment procedures (urgent).	All WTO Members	<i>Ad hoc</i>		Yes (Submission of notifications)	WTO Secretariat	G/TBT/N/*
6.	Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, Article 7.2 .	Conformity assessment Procedures – local Government (urgent or non-urgent).	All WTO Members	<i>Ad hoc</i>		Yes (Submission of notifications)	WTO Secretariat	G/TBT/N/*

³ 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](#). TBT notifications may be submitted through online submission systems or as electronic attachments to emails. As it may be practice, a copy of the notification may be sent to the Secretariat unit substantively 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 ³	Notification Symbol
7.	Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, Article 10.7 .	Bilateral agreements; technical regulations; conformity assessment procedures; standards.	All WTO Members	<i>Ad hoc</i>		Yes (Submission of notifications)	WTO Secretariat	G/TBT/10.7/N/*
8.	Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, Article 15.2 .	Administrative arrangements; laws/regulations measure in existence or taken to ensure the implementation and administration of the TBT Agreement.	All WTO Members	One time	Upon entry into force of the WTO Agreement. Subsequent revisions as necessary.	No (There is no specific format. All 15.2 statements are available on ePing under Facts & Figures - Member profiles)	Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade	G/TBT/2/*
9.	Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, Annex 3 paragraph C .	Acceptance of/ withdrawal from a code (Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards).	Standardizing Bodies accepting the Code/ withdrawing from the code.	One time		Yes (Acceptance (Form A) Withdrawal (Form B))	ISO (More information)	G/TBT/CS/N/*

³ 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](#). TBT notifications may be submitted through online submission systems or as electronic attachments to emails. As it may be practice, a copy of the notification may be sent to the Secretariat unit substantively 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 ³	Notification Symbol
10.	Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, Annex 3 paragraph J.	Work programmes on standardization activities.	Standardizing Bodies accepting the Code.	Regular – Semi-annual	Every 6 months. Alternatively, a direct link to a website address where work programmes are published regularly can be provided.	Yes (Form C WTO ISO Standards Information Gateway)	ISO (More information)	

³ 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](#). TBT notifications may be submitted through online submission systems or as electronic attachments to emails. As it may be practice, a copy of the notification may be sent to the Secretariat unit substantively handling the notification.

PART 3

RELEVANT DOCUMENT(S) CONCERNING GUIDELINES AND FORMATS

Recommendation of the TBT Committee on Coherent Use of Notification Formats [G/TBT/35/Rev.1](#).

Decisions and recommendations adopted by the Committee since 1 January 1995 [G/TBT/1/](#) latest Revision, in the Transparency chapter.

TRANSPARENCY RESOURCES



In March 2022, the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#) went live merging into one, the TBT Notification Submission System, the TBT Information Management System and ePing. To benefit from the range of services on ePing, it is necessary to be registered. Those who already have WTO credentials (e.g. to access Interprefy, eAgenda etc), should register using that email address so as to benefit from the single sign on feature.

- The "Search" tab contains all notifications circulated since 1 January 1995, information on trade concerns discussed in the WTO SPS and TBT committees and other documents.
- The "Enquiry points/Notification authorities" tab contains the contact details for Enquiry points and notification authorities.
- The "Facts and figures" tab contains Members profiles and data on notifications.
- The "More info" tab contains FAQs and links to resources including the TBT Enquiry Point Guide.

ePing also allows users to sign up to receive email alerts and to follow notifications on products and/or markets of interest and to reach out to national and international counterparts.

[WTO Members' transparency toolkit](#): The TBT webpage containing information on notification obligations, formats to be used, decisions and recommendations adopted by the TBT Committee since 1 January 1995, handbooks, step-by-step manuals, links to Members' TBT Enquiry Points websites, and other aids for Members' transparency work in TBT.

[WTO Agreement Series – The TBT Agreement](#): The 2021 updated and revised edition includes an overview of the TBT Agreement, work of the TBT Committee, disputes invoking provisions of the Agreement, frequently asked questions, the full legal text of the Agreement, as well as the decisions and recommendations adopted by the TBT Committee from January 1995 to November 2021.

PART 4

LIST OF NOTIFICATIONS SINCE 1995



All notifications circulated since 1995 can be found in the "search" tab on ePing.

PART 5

TEXT OF THE AGREEMENT

Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade [LT/UR/A-1A/10](#).