Thematic Session on Transparency: Product coverage in Notifications

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Identification of products covered in TBT notifications
• 80% of notifications are drafted by officials responsible for preparing draft TBT measures using ePing SPS&TBT Platform
  – 20% drafted by NEP
• Officials identify products covered when drafting measures using ICS codes – specified in draft measures/notifications
• NEP verifies if ICS codes specified in draft measures/notifications are accurate
  – Incorrect ICS codes are replaced with correct codes
• NEP adds HS codes in draft notifications
• ICS & HS Codes are supplemented with products names
• In cases where there are no precise ICS & HS codes, products names are used
• Tools/resources used to identify ICS & HS Codes:
  – HS 2017 integrated with ePing SPS&TBT Platform
  – EAC Harmonized Commodity Description & Coding System, Version 2022: Joint notifications
  – Google (for HS codes)
Challenges in identification of HS Codes
• In all sectors, for some products there are no precise HS codes,

• Identification of appropriate HS codes for some products when scientific names are not included in draft measures,

• Lack of adequate skill & knowledge of use of HS,

• Identification of precise HS codes for draft measures that cover a wide range of products in many sectors (e.g. on next slide).
Measure covering a wide of products

- Toys
- Electrical and electronics
- Automotive products and inputs
- Chemical products
- Mechanical materials and gas appliances
- Textile, leather, plastic and rubber
- Furniture (wood and metal articles)
- Paper and stationery
- Protective safety equipment
- Food and food products
- Used products including used motor vehicles
Coordination with customs in identifying specific products subject to regulatory measures & border controls
• After TBT measures enter into force to identify applicable HS codes

• Customs system & Quality ePortal for imports are integrated

• Consignments tagged red by customs for quality verification are not released until other border agencies have cleared the consignments
Expectations from WTO Secretariat training workshop on HS and ICS Codes
▪ Detail training on how to identify relevant HS codes across products sectors

▪ Training workshop should be organized in cooperation with World Customs Organization (WCO)
  – Draw experts from WCO to facilitate practical sessions of the training
THANK YOU