



U.S. WTO TBT and SPS Enquiry Points and Notification Authorities

EAC Public-Private Sector Workshop
on the WTO TBT and SPS Agreements

Diane C. Thompson
March 21-22, 2016 - Nairobi, Kenya

Topics

- U.S. TBT and SPS Enquiry Points and Notification Authorities
- TBT Enquiry Point and Notification Authority Activities
- SPS Enquiry Point and Notification Authority Activities
- U. S. Notification Alert Services
- U. S. TBT and SPS Notifications
- Contact

U.S. TBT and SPS Enquiry Points and Notification Authorities

TBT Agreement

- Standards Coordination Office
 - National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)
 - Department of Commerce
- for non-agricultural products or for labeling, marking, or packaging of agricultural products

SPS Agreement

- Foreign Agricultural Service
 - Department of Agriculture
- for agricultural products

U.S. TBT Enquiry Point Activities

- *Enquiries*

- Responds to technical enquiries about standards, technical regulations, and conformity assessment procedures for products manufactured or imported for sale in the U.S.

U.S. TBT Enquiry Point Activities

- *Notifications*

- Distributes TBT notifications from WTO members to interested parties in the U.S.
- Requests and provides full text of the notified standards, technical regulations, and conformity assessment procedures

NotifyUS

www.nist.gov/notifyus

U.S. TBT Enquiry Point Activities

- *Comments*

- Distributes U.S. comments on measures proposed by WTO members (through TBT notifications) to appropriate WTO member and to U.S. government trade and export agencies
- Forwards WTO member comments on proposed U.S. measures to U.S. regulators, and trade and export agencies

U.S. TBT Notification Authority

- *Activities*

- Reviews U.S. *Federal Register* and State regulatory actions
- Identifies Federal (central) and State (sub-central) proposed new or revised technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures which
 - deal with products
 - have a significant effect on trade
 - have no international standards or do not conform to international standards where they exist
- Submits notifications to the WTO

U.S. SPS Enquiry Point Activities

- *Enquiries*

- Responds to enquiries from WTO members concerning U.S. SPS and agriculture-related TBT measures
- Coordinates with government and industry stakeholders and submits U.S. official comments on notifications of SPS measures notified by WTO members

U.S. SPS Notification Authority

- *Activities*

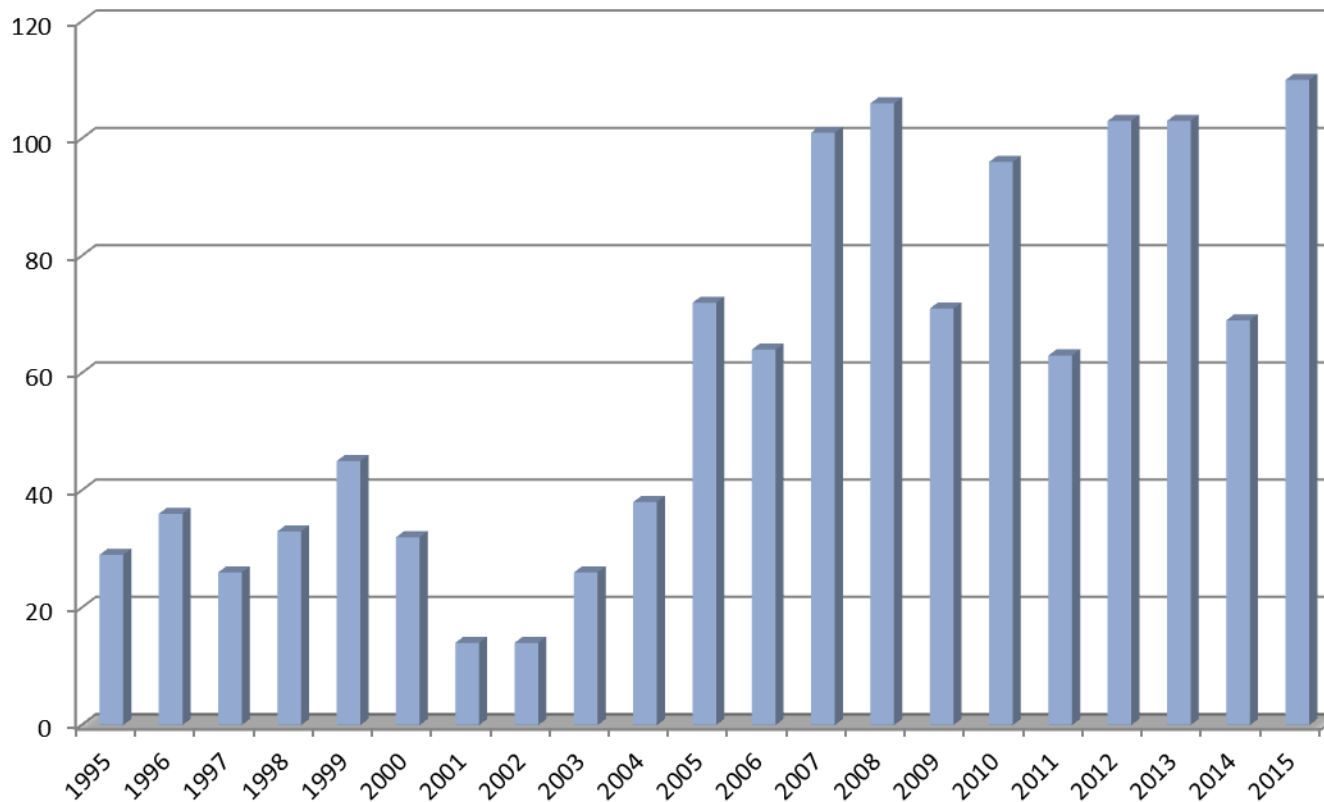
- Reviews U.S. *Federal Register* to identify proposed SPS measures that may have an impact on imported products
- Reviews the proposal with the issuing agency
- Requests responsible agency to prepare the notification
- Submits notifications to the WTO Secretariat

U.S. Notification Alert Services

- Notify U.S.
 - TBT notifications
- System for Tracking Agricultural Regulations (STAR)
 - SPS notifications
- free e-mail services for U.S. stakeholders
- opportunity to review and comment on proposed foreign technical regulations that can affect U.S. businesses and their access to international markets

U.S. TBT Notifications

1,257 regular* TBT notifications were issued by the U.S. between 1995 and 2015



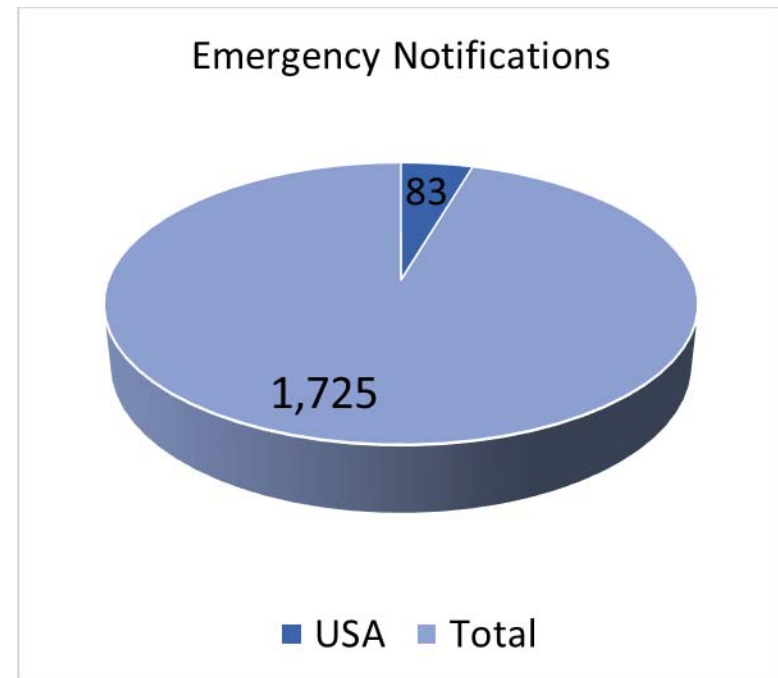
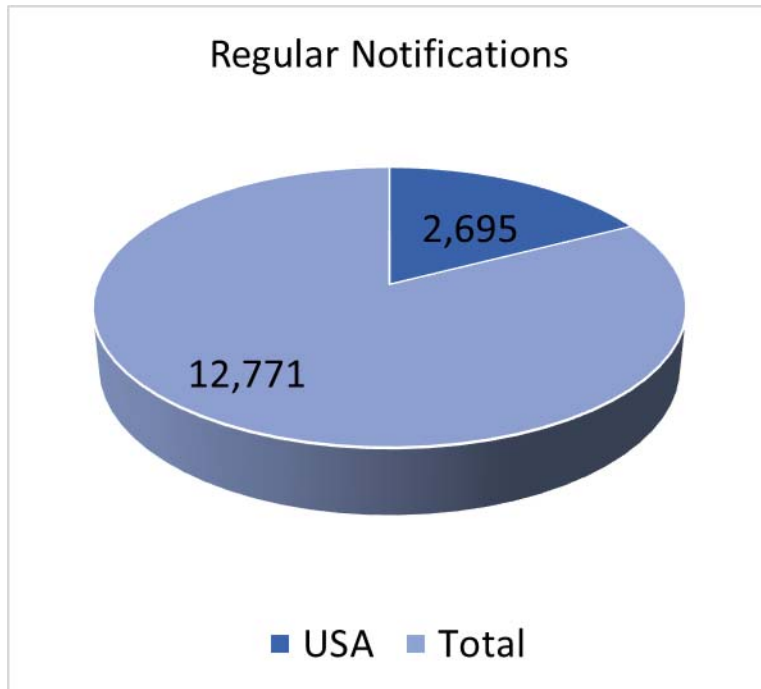
*does not include addenda, corrigenda, etc.

Source: WTO TBT Committee annual reviews of the implementation and operation of the TBT Agreement

U.S. SPS Notifications

- As of April 1, 2015 the United States has notified to the WTO
 - 3,195 SPS measures and amendments
 - 355 agriculture-related TBT measures and amendments

WTO SPS Notifications – 1/1/1995 to 9/15/2015



SPS and Agriculture-Related TBT Measures Notified to the WTO

- As of April 1, 2015, the U.S. Foreign Agricultural Service has reviewed
 - 13,147 foreign SPS measures
 - 5,199 foreign TBT measures

Contact

U.S. TBT Enquiry Point and Notification Authority

- usatbtep@nist.gov
- +1 301 975 2918

U.S. SPS Enquiry Point and Notification Authority

- US.SPSenquirypoint@fas.usda.gov
- +1 202 720 9124