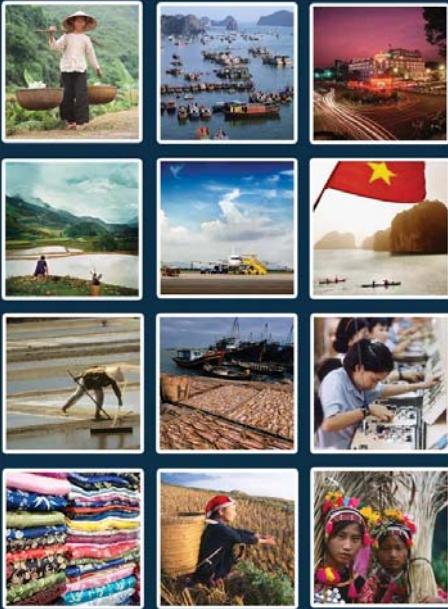


U.S. - Vietnam Standards Training Program



Cooperation between ANSI and STAMEQ
Sponsorship by the United States Trade and Development Agency

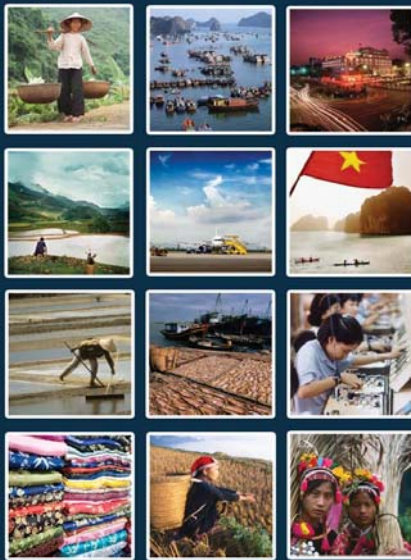


Intensive Session 4:
World Trade Organization

March 13, 2008



Cooperation between ANSI and STAMEQ
Sponsorship by the United States Trade and Development Agency



Lecture 2:

National Center for Standards and Certification Information (NCSCI) and the U.S. TBT Enquiry Point/Notification Authority



Our Foundation - U.S. Congressional Mandate

In 19 U.S.C., the Department of Commerce is delegated responsibility for:

- ❑ Establishment of the U.S. national standards information center (GATT 1979)

- ❑ Establishment of the U.S. national technical offices (WTO 1995)
 - WTO TBT Enquiry Point
 - WTO TBT Notification Authority

Two Roles

- U.S. National Standards Information Center
- U.S. National Technical Office
 - World Trade Organization Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (WTO TBT)
 - Enquiry Point and Notification Authority

A Few Basic Facts ...

- ❑ **NCSCI** provides free, expert, custom standards information services
 - U.S. industry, foreign, and international *documentary standards*
 - technical regulations
 - conformity assessment procedures
 - U.S. and global standards information needs

- ❑ **NCSCI** resources include research collections in online repositories, databases, and print publications

... and Goals

- ❑ Coordinating with U.S. trade agencies on international standards-related activities
- ❑ Ensuring that U.S. private and public sector participation in international standards activities is effective

Our Customers

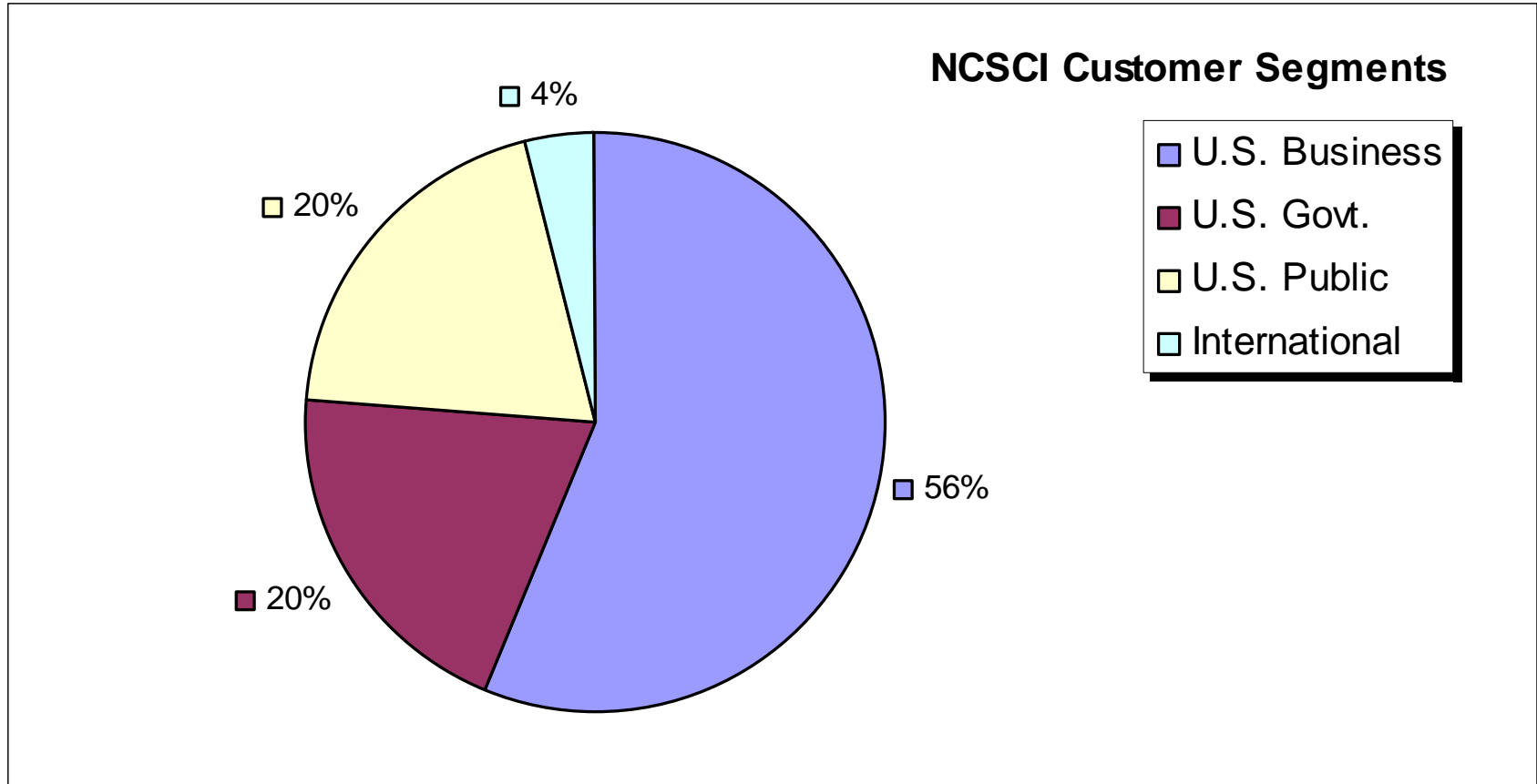
U.S.

- Industry
- Standards Developers
- American National Standards Institute
- Federal Regulatory Agencies
- Federal Trade Agencies
- NIST
- Citizens

International

- Government Officials
- Citizens
- WTO TBT Enquiry Points

Customers Profile



Customer Satisfaction Factors

□ Increasing Need for Standards and Regulatory Information

- More
- Electronic
- Customized
- Fast
- Free
- Self-Service
- Value for Exporters

Our Information Delivery Models

- Focus on Preferred Delivery Methods
- Notify U.S.: A Major Advancement
- 2008 - New Procurement Model

Our Information Demands

- Increased Technical Complexity
- Increased Volumes
- Increased Support for U.S. Trade Agencies and Exporters

Example:

Questions From the Past

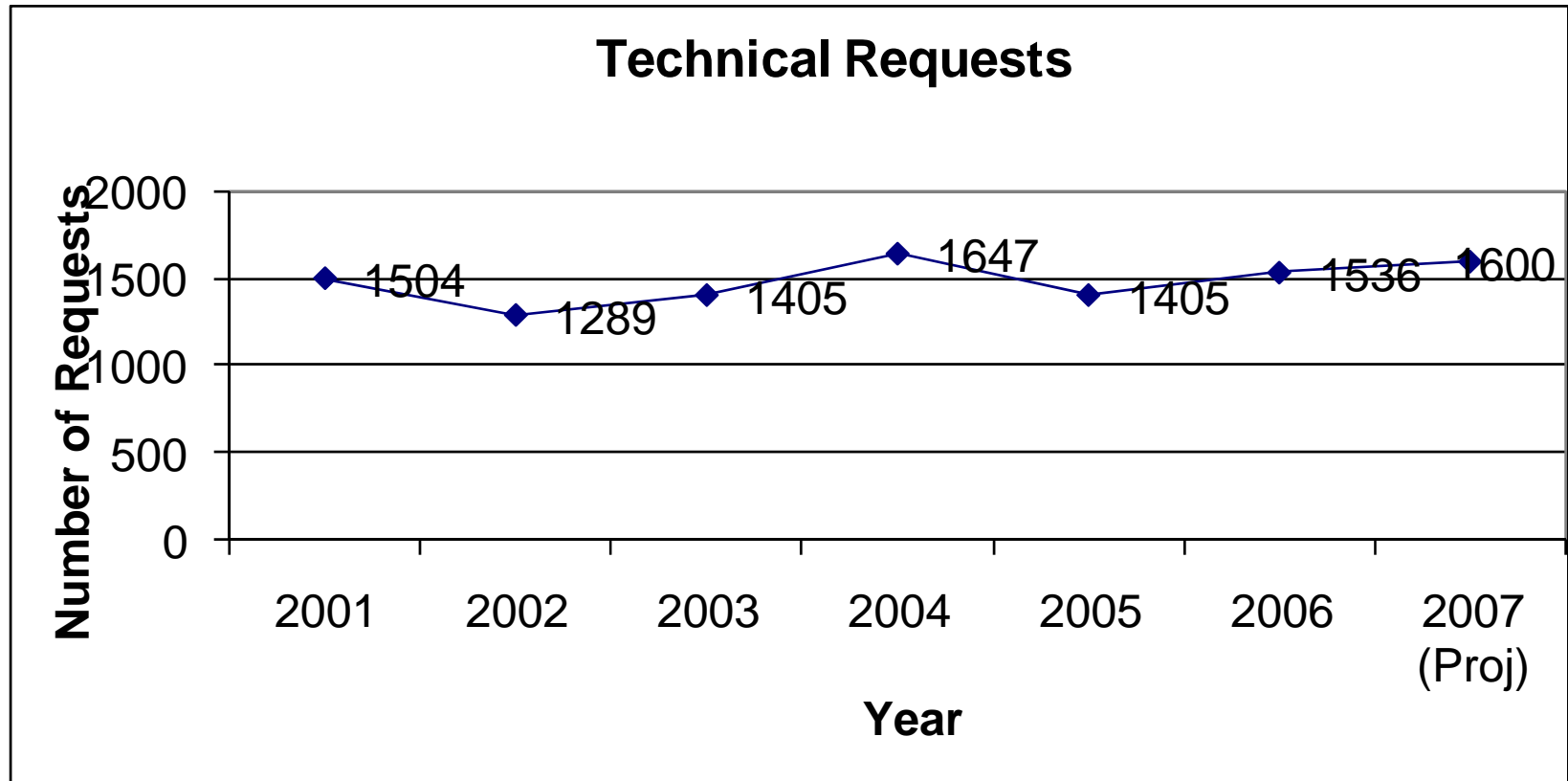
- Are there standards for clothing sizes in the U.S.?
- What is the CE mark and where can I learn about it?
- May I get a copy of U.S. Voluntary Product Standard PS15-69?

Example:

Questions From Today

- What are the standards in the U.S. and internationally for specifying the environmental conditions for “clean” rooms?
- Are there standards and accreditation for disaster preparedness plans?
- What are the U.S. government degaussing standards for sanitizing hard drives containing non-classified material and disposing of computer equipment in general?

Our Information Volume



Our Information Resources

- ❑ **Full Texts of Standards**
 - **U.S. Industry, Federal, and Military**
 - **Foreign Country, Regional, and International**
- ❑ **U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations***
- ❑ **Standards Indexes, Catalogs, Directories, Handbooks, Dictionaries, Encyclopedias, Newsletters and Periodicals**
- ❑ **Websites**
- ❑ **NIST Staff**

U.S. Inquiry Point

For these organizations



NAFTA Secretariat
Secrétariat de l'**ALÉNA**
Secretariado del **TLCAN**



Providing Technical Support for

Office of the **United States Trade Representative**

U.S. Bilateral and Multilateral Free Trade Agreements

WTO TBT Obligations

□ U.S. Enquiry Point

- for non-agricultural products and for agricultural products when their labeling, marking, or packaging is regulated.
- NCSCI responds bibliographically – not technically.
- 40,000 TBT requests annually.

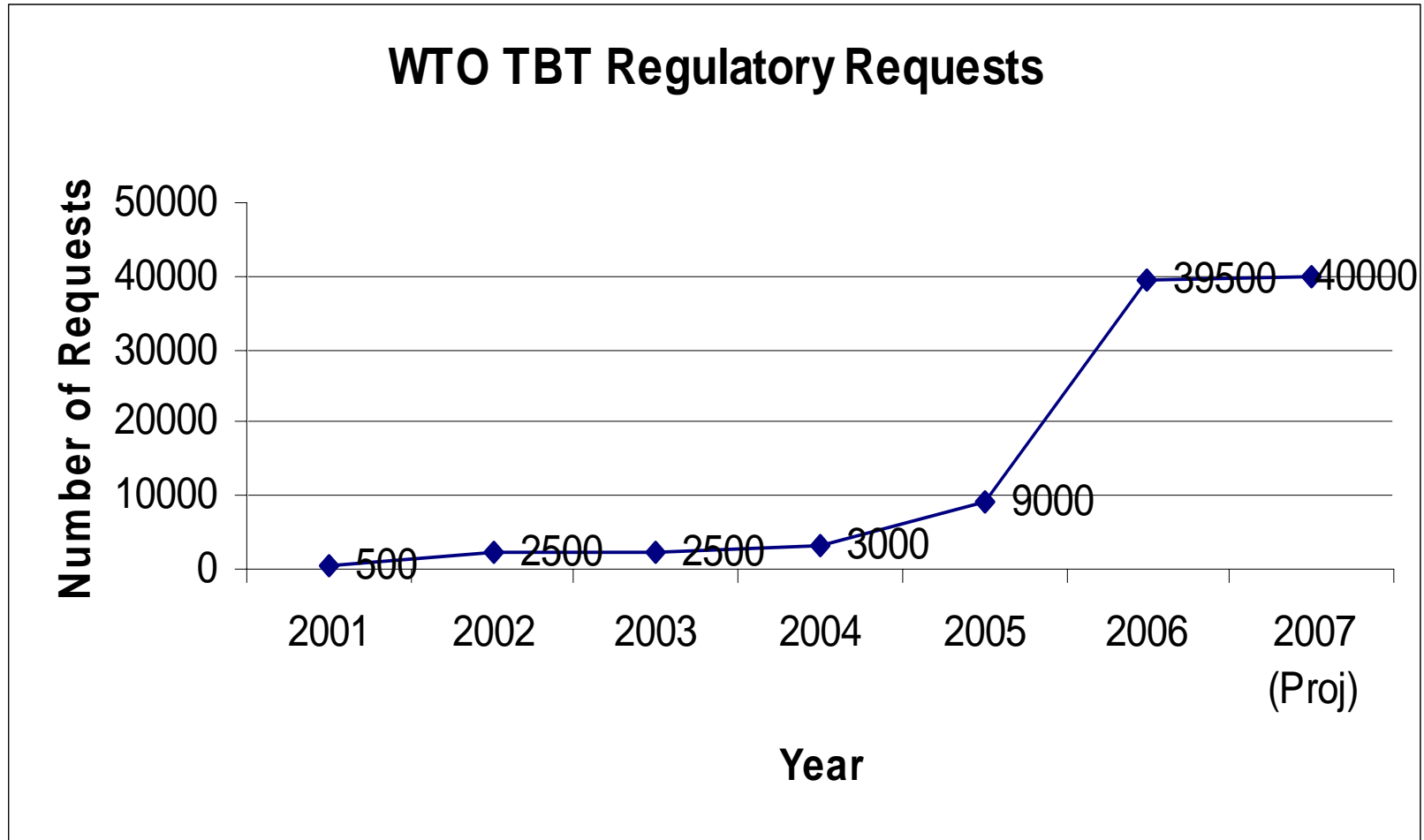
USA WTO SPS Inquiry Point and Notification Authority

Our SPS partners are located at the:

**U.S. Department of Agriculture
Foreign Agricultural Service
Food Safety and Technical
Services Division**

**Which operates as the technical center for
agricultural products under the
WTO Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS)
Agreement.**

Enquiry Point Volume



WTO TBT Obligations

U.S. Notification Authority

- ❑ **U.S. proposed technical regulations at the central government (Federal) level and at the sub-central government level (50 U.S. States) are “notified” to the WTO Central Registry of Notifications (CRN).**

Daily Operations

1. U.S. must publish its proposed regulations

- ❑ Central government level: Federal
 - *Federal Register* – a daily review

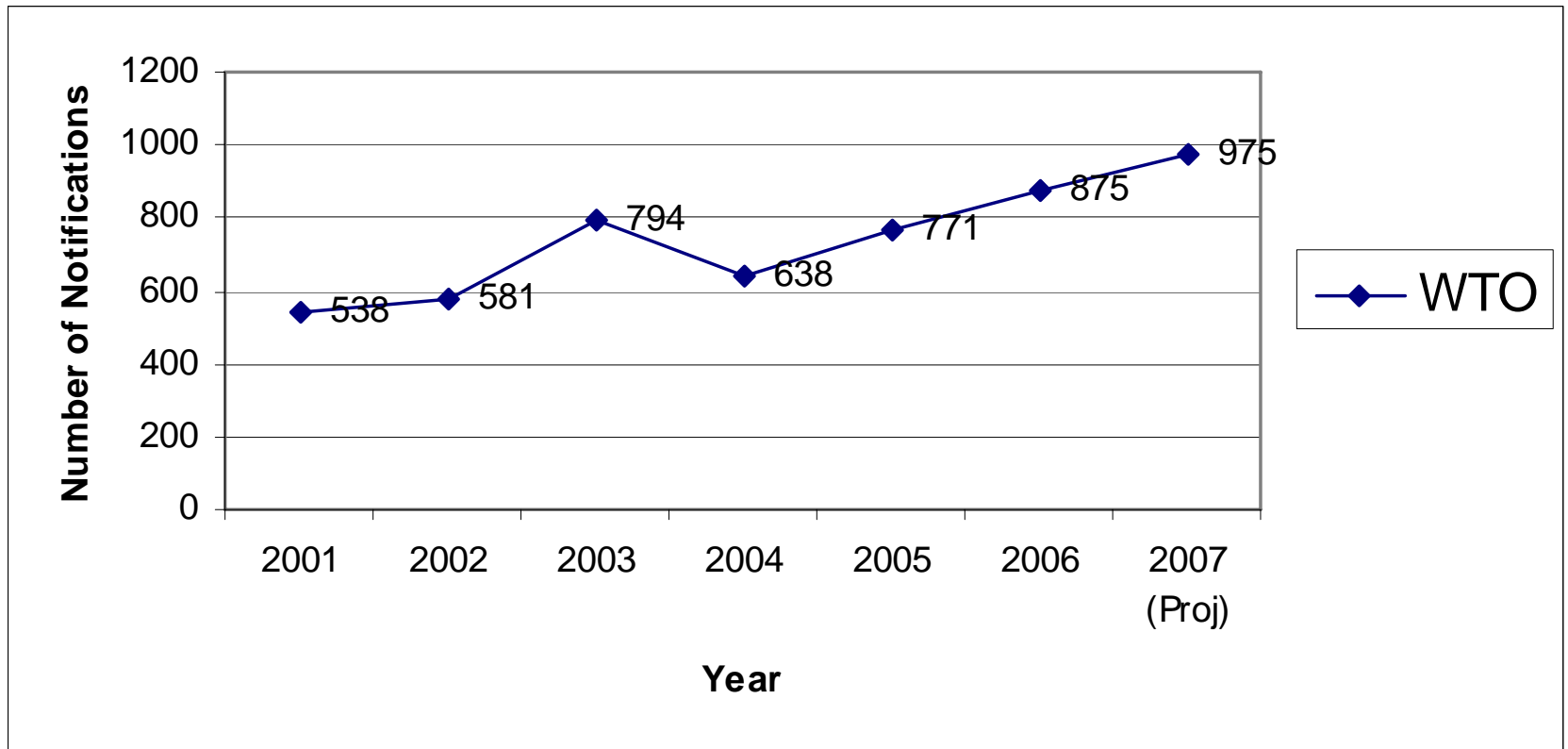
- ❑ Sub-central government level: U.S. States
 - commercial database – a daily review of legislation and regulations

2. U.S. must notify its proposed regulations

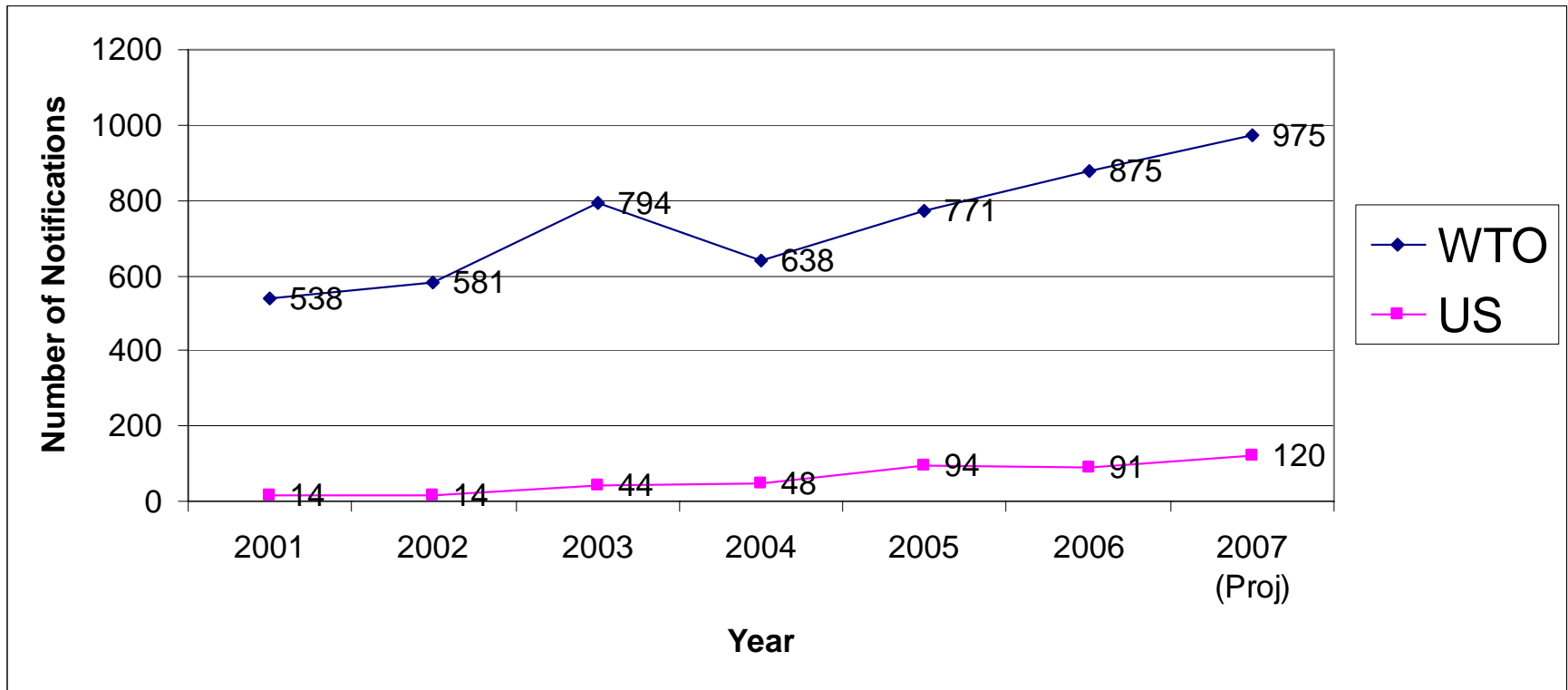
- Uniform notification template

- Simultaneous distribution of notifications to:
 - WTO CRN
 - USDA - USA WTO SPS Enquiry Point
 - NAFTA partners - Canada and Mexico
 - U.S. Free Trade Agreement partners

WTO Notifications Volume



U.S. Notifications Volume



3. U.S. must provide full texts of proposed regulations to WTO Members

Internet access online:

- *Federal Register*
- U.S. State Government Publications

Internet access at NCSCI website: all U.S. notifications and full texts

Comments

4. U.S. must process comments on notifications

Incoming:

- **NCSCI processes comments from WTO Members on U.S. proposed regulations**
- **NCSCI processes replies to U.S. comments from WTO Members on Members' proposed regulations**

Outgoing:

- **NCSCI processes comments from U.S. stakeholders on WTO Members' proposed regulations**

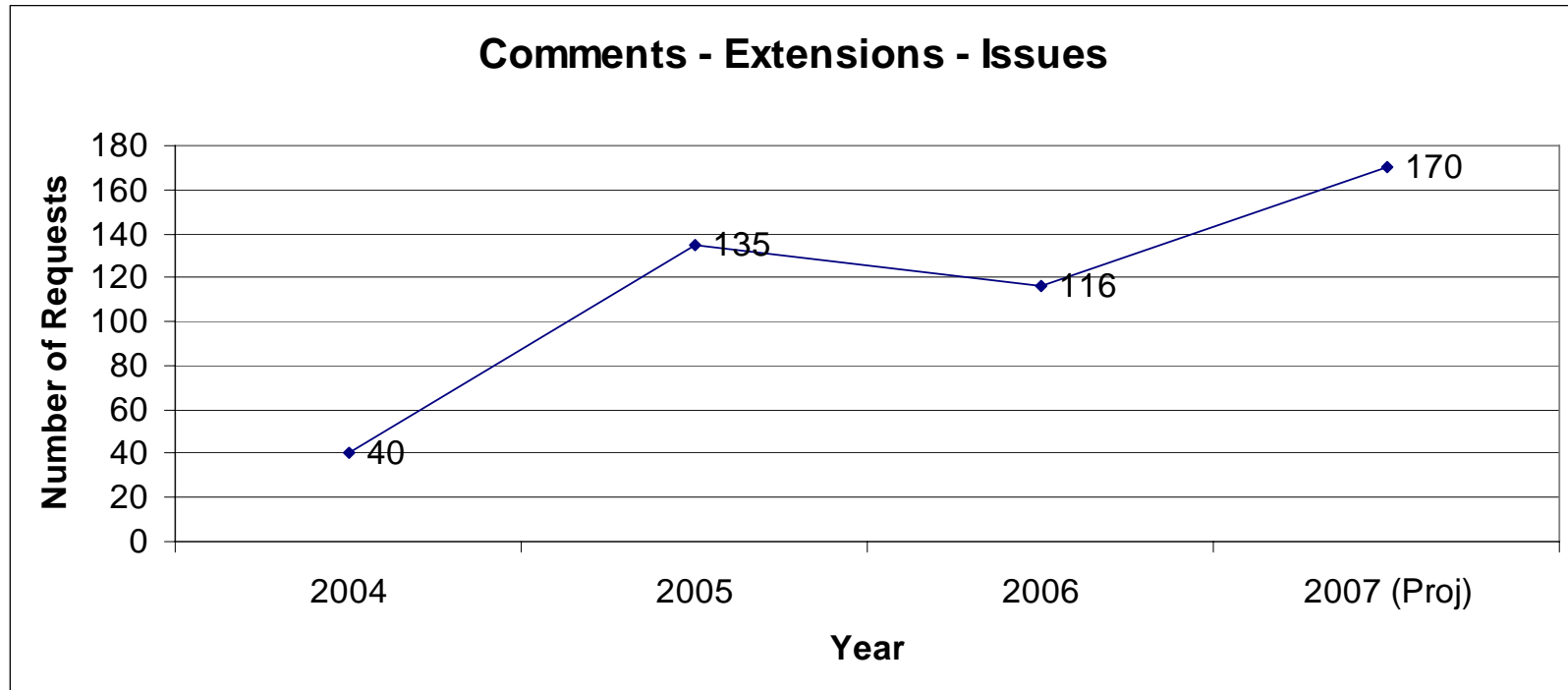
Extensions

- NCSCI coordinates requests between U.S. stakeholders and WTO Members for comment period extensions.**

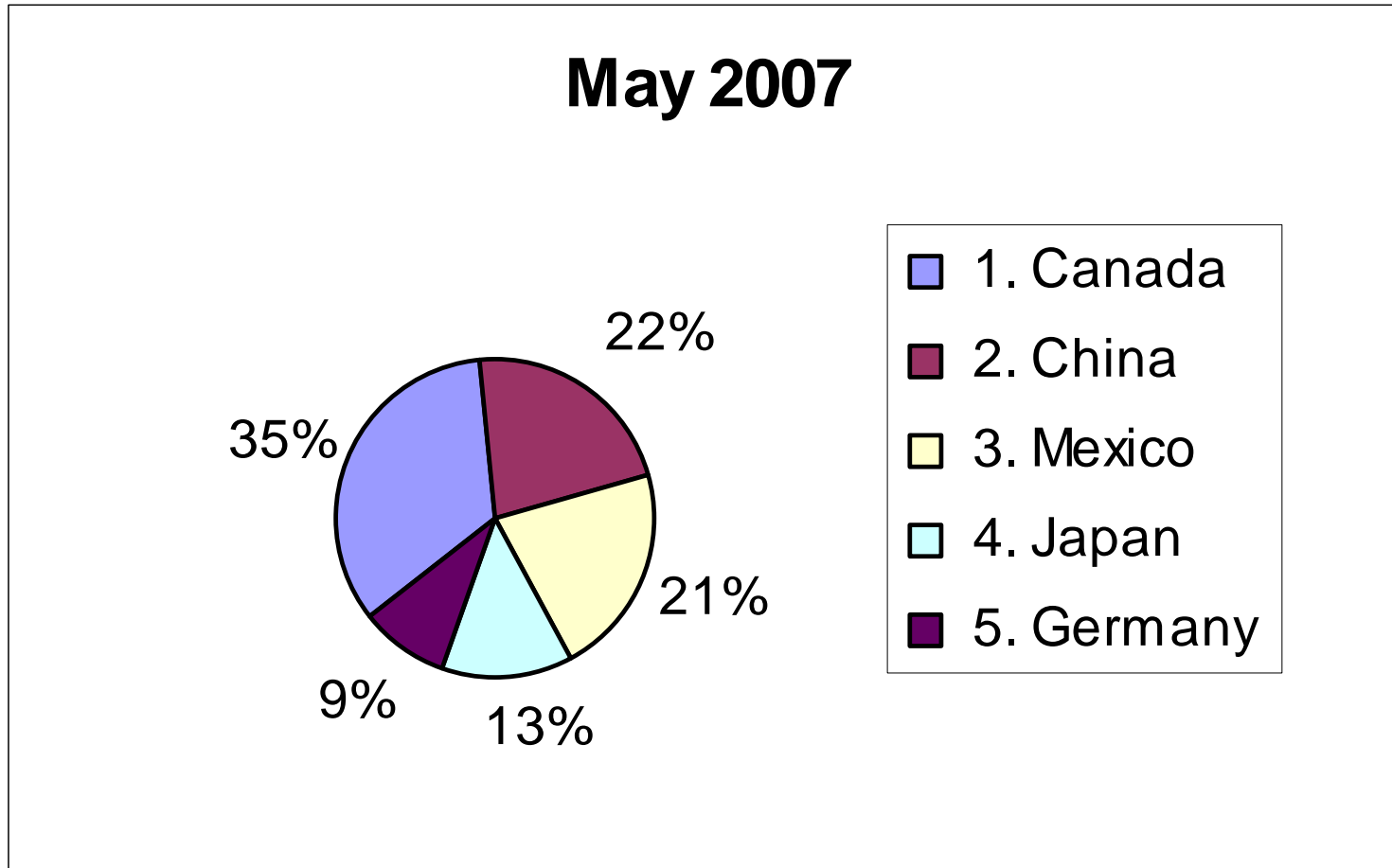
Issues

- **NCSCI coordinates requests between U.S. stakeholders and WTO Members for**
 - **additional information**
 - **intent to notify**
 - **technical clarification.**

Technical Support Volume



Top Five U.S. Trading Partners



Examples:

Technical Support Issues

- Batteries in Argentina
- Electrical plugs in Brazil
- Leather and fur in China
- Infant formula in Israel
- Cosmetics in New Zealand
- Human tissue in Russia
- Wine and liquor in Turkey

Technical Assistance Activities

□ Standards in Trade Workshops

2004

In Peru for the Andean Community

In the U.S. for the ASEAN Community

2005

In the U.S. for the Caribbean Community

2008 (Proposed)

In the U.S. for India, Middle East, North Africa

Benchmarking Inquiry Points

Site visits made to:

2004 – Canada, Peru

2005 – Mexico

2006 – Brazil

IPs in staff comparison

<input type="checkbox"/> China	=	30
<input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam	=	30
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada	=	10
<input type="checkbox"/> Mexico	=	10
<input type="checkbox"/> Peru	=	10
<input type="checkbox"/> Taiwan	=	10
<input type="checkbox"/> Brazil	=	8
<input type="checkbox"/> U.S.	=	4
<input type="checkbox"/> Trinidad & Tobago	=	2

The Future

□ What's Next?

- More Electronic Information Delivery
- Higher Visibility and Use of Notify U.S.
- Customer Data Collection Continues

□ Continuous Improvement

- Service in the “Information Age”
- Value to Exporters
- Support for TS and SSD Goals

NCSCI Tools

□ Role 1: Standards Information Center

- Knowledge and Information Management Database (“KIM”)
- Commercial Standards Databases (IHS, SAI-Global ILI, Techstreet)

KIM Database

- ❑ Used in daily operations to:
 - Record customer information
 - Record incoming information requests
 - Search for request types already answered
 - Record information request responses
 - Produce reports for statistical analysis and trends for management and strategic planning purposes

Commercial Standards Databases

❑ Used in daily operations to:

- Identify specific standards or sets of standards needed by non-NIST customers. Customers are referred to a standards document vendor to purchase.
- Identify and provide full texts of standards or sets of standards needed by NIST customers for research and development projects. NIST customers receive delivery of standards by email.

NCSCI Tools

- Role 2: WTO TBT Inquiry Point and Notification Authority
 - *Federal Register* online
 - Commercial Legislative and Regulatory Information Databases (Netscan LegAlert, RegAlert and StateNet)
 - Notify U.S.

Federal Register Online

- Used in daily operations to identify Federal-level proposed rules (regulations) that could have a significant impact on WTO Member trade access to U.S. markets
- Regulatory Agencies only
- Procedures in place for identification
- Agency officials advise

LegAlert and RegAlert

- ❑ Used in daily operations to identify U.S. State-level proposed rules (regulations) that are more strict than the Federal level and that could have a significant impact on WTO Member trade access to U.S. markets
- ❑ State Regulatory Agencies only
- ❑ Procedures in place for identification
- ❑ State Agency officials advise

Notify U.S. – Service for Exporters

- ❑ Used in daily operations to communicate to the U.S. export community and other trade stake-holders:
 - the content of WTO TBT notifications
 - access to the full texts of proposed WTO TBT Member regulations
 - a portal to communicate with the U.S. WTO TBT Inquiry Point on issues of concern



**“Early Warning System”
for U.S. Stakeholders on International Technical
Regulations**

URL: <http://www.nist.gov/notifyus/>

Benefits

- ❑ U.S. stakeholders are informed of proposed regulations in global markets before they become final.**
- ❑ U.S. stakeholders can comment on proposed regulations which increases U.S. competitiveness in global markets.**

Customers Demand...and Receive

- 1. Current information**
- 2. Unique information**
- 3. 24/7 information access**
- 4. More information electronically**
- 5. Self-service**
- 6. Fast service**
- 7. Free service**

Notify U.S. Provides

1. Customized websites
2. 151 WTO Members' information
3. 41 industry sectors information
4. Custom alerts on match to interests

Notify U.S. Demonstration

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <http://tsapps.nist.gov/notifyus/data/index/index.cfm>. The page header includes "Technology Services" and "National Center for Standards and Certification Information" on the left, and the "NIST National Institute of Standards and Technology" logo on the right. The main content area is titled "Notify U.S." and contains the following sections:

- Sign In:** A form with fields for "My Email Address" (containing "anne.meiningner@nist") and "My Password" (masked with asterisks). A "Sign In" button is present, along with links for "Subscribe" and "Forgot Password".
- Topics:** A vertical menu with links for "About", "Help", "FAQs", "Resources", "News", "Contact Us", "Feedback", "Comment Guidance", and "Translation Services".
- Welcome:** A text block stating: "Welcome to the **Notify U.S.** Web site. **Notify U.S.** is a free, web-based e-mail subscription service that offers U.S. entities (citizens, industries, organizations) an opportunity to review and comment on proposed foreign technical regulations that can affect their businesses and their access to international markets. This service and its associated web site is managed and operated by the [National Center for Standards and Certification Information \(NCSCI\)](#) an organization within the [National Institute of Standards and Technology \(NIST\)](#). NIST is part of the [U.S. Department of Commerce's \(DOC\) Technology Administration](#)." Links for "NCSCI" and "NIST" are underlined.
- Purpose:** A text block stating: "The purpose of **Notify U.S.** is to collect and fulfill subscriber requests for information on [World Trade Organization \(WTO\)](#) Agreements relating to **Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)**. Member countries of the [World Trade Organization \(WTO\)](#) are required under the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement) to report to the [WTO](#) all proposed technical regulations that could affect trade with other Member countries. The [WTO](#) Secretariat distributes this information in the form of "notifications" to all Member countries." Links for "WTO" are underlined.
- Subscribers:** A text block stating: "By subscribing to the **Notify U.S. Service**, [U.S.](#) entities receive, via e-mail, notifications of drafts or changes to domestic and foreign technical regulations for manufactured products. Included in the subscribers e-mail is a link to the [Notify U.S.](#) web site where they can read more information and order complete texts of the regulations for review and comment. At this time, the **Notify U.S. Service** is only available to subscribers who are [U.S.](#) citizens and individuals that are part of [U.S.](#) based organizations and industries." Links for "U.S." are underlined.
- Friday September 7, 2007:** A date stamp with a "Notify U.S." logo featuring an American flag.

Contact Information

Notify U.S. at NCSCI

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100 Bureau Drive, Mail Stop 2100

Gaithersburg, MD USA 20899-2100

Telephone: 301-975-4040

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Email and Internet:

notifyus@nist.gov <http://www.nist.gov/notifyus/>

Thank you.

Any questions?