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

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

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Topics

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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

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

Regular Notifications

- 12,771 Total
- 2,695 USA

Emergency Notifications

- 1,725 Total
- 83 USA
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

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U.S. SPS Enquiry Point and Notification Authority

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