

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

TBT/W/37

9 October 1981

Special Distribution

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES

Note by the Secretariat

1. The results of the first annual review of the operation of the Agreement regarding notification were included in document TBT/6. The present note prepared by the secretariat for purposes of the Second Annual Review of the operation of the Agreement replaces section 3 of that document. It includes information on notifications made by signatories of the Agreement from its entry into force on 1 January 1980 until 1 October 1981.
2. The following provisions of the Agreement relate to notification: Articles 2.5.2, 2.6.1, 7.3.2, 7.4.1 and in cases of urgency set out in those Articles, Articles 3.1, 4.1, 8.1 and 9.2.
3. Since the First Annual Review, the Committee has adopted a revised format and guidelines for notifications (TBT/M/7, paragraphs 23-28 and TBT/W/35). As from 17 August 1981, signatories of the Agreement began to notify in accordance with this revised format and guidelines and the secretariat has issued all notifications received on and after that date in the new format.
4. At its seventh meeting, the Committee also agreed to
 - (a) urge all signatories to make notifications where this is called for under the Agreement,
 - (b) request signatories to transmit the text of their notifications to the secretariat rapidly, e.g. by telex, and
 - (c) formally request the secretariat to ensure that notifications are processed within three working days and that the attention of developing signatories is drawn to notifications of interest to them within the same time limit, (TBT/M/7, para. 29).

5. From 1 January 1980 to 1 October 1981, 363 notifications have been made by twenty signatories out of thirty-two. The total number of notifications made by each is as follows:

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u> (as of 1 October)	<u>Total</u>
Austria	1	7	8
Canada	15	11	26
Denmark	1	1	2
EEC	10	17	27
Finland	3	10	13
France	-	9	9
Germany, Fed. Rep.	-	4	4
Hungary	-	3	3
Ireland	4	-	4
Italy	-	1	1
Japan	21	21	42
Netherlands	-	3	3
New Zealand	6	11	17
Norway	5	6	11
Romania	-	4	4
Spain	-	24	24
Sweden	11	22	33
Switzerland	4	2	6
United Kingdom	2	4	6
United States	<u>47</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>120</u>
Total	<u>130</u>	<u>233</u>	<u>363</u>

6. The distribution of notifications under the relevant articles of the Agreement is as follows:

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u> (up to 1 October)	<u>Total</u>
Article 2.5.2	101	170	271
Article 2.6.1	13	22	35
Article 7.3.2	11	14	25
Article 7.4.1	5	-	5
Article 2.5.2 and 7.3.2	-	4	4
Article 4.1	-	23	23

7. Products covered by the notifications can be classified under the following broad categories:

agricultural products and food stuffs (Chapters 1 to 24 of the CCCN)

live animals
meat and edible meat offals
fish
dairy products
raw materials of animal origin
vegetables

fruits and nuts
coffee
cereals
oil seeds and oleaginous fruit

meat preparations
cereal, flour or starch preparations, pastry cooks' products
fruit preparations
miscellaneous food preparations
beverages, spirits and vinegar
prepared animal fodder
tobacco and cigarettes

industrial products (Chapters 25 to 99 of the CCCN)

gypsum
cement
mineral fuel, mineral oils and products of their distillation

chemicals
pharmaceutical products including medicaments
fertilizers
paints and varnishes
perfumery, cosmetics and toilet preparations
soap, organic surface-active agents, washing preparations
glues
miscellaneous chemical products

artificial resins and plastic materials and articles thereof

cotton
articles of apparel and clothing
carpets, mats
footwear

articles of asbestos
glass containers

precious metals
iron and steel and articles thereof
articles of copper
articles of aluminium
articles of tin
tools of base metal

machinery and mechanical appliances
electrical machinery and equipment

motor vehicles, motor cycles and cycles
ships, boats

measuring, checking precision medical and surgical instruments
and apparatus

furniture and parts thereof
toys and sports requisites

8. The objective and rationale of proposed or adopted technical regulations, standards and rules of certification systems notified to date are mainly:

Protection of human health (allergenic, toxic, carcinogenic, corrosive substances, radiation exposure., etc.)

Protection of animal health

Protection of human safety (general, workers' or infants')

Motor vehicle safety (occupational safety, road safety, crashworthiness)

Air navigation safety

Safety of life at sea

Safe transport of hazardous substances

Protection of the environment (water protection, noise impact, radiation exposure etc.)

Energy conservation

Consumer protection information (classification, packaging, marking labelling and advertising)

Ensuring efficacy, maintaining and improving quality standard, design and operation requirements.

9. Six notifications in 1980 and nine notifications in 1981 indicated that the technical regulations and rules of certification systems were based on relevant international standards.

10. The Committee has recommended six weeks as a suggested minimum length of time to be allowed for the presentation of comments. For purposes of this paper six weeks are equivalent to 45 calendar days. The comment period has varied from signatory to signatory, from a minimum of 3 calendar days after the date of issue of the notification by the secretariat to a maximum of 8 months. Signatories have allowed an average of 40 calendar days in 1980 and 46 calendar days in 1981 for comments. The breakdown by signatory is as follows:

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u> (as of 1 October)
Austria	34	6
Canada	39	29
Denmark	n.s.	81
EEC	74	56
Finland	37	37
France	-	51
Germany, Fed. Rep.	-	50

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u> (as of 1 October)
Hungary	-	53
Ireland	52	-
Italy	-	35
Japan	14	31
Netherlands	-	44
New Zealand	11	51
Norway	34	29
Romania	-	27
Spain	-	103
Sweden	35	25
Switzerland	33	57
United Kingdom	76	41
United States	46	47

In 1980, the comment period had lapsed for 7 notifications and 22 notifications had not indicated a comment period. In 1981, the comment period has lapsed for 8 notifications and the number of notifications that have not indicated a comment period was 17.