



Online introductory course on non-tariff measures and their relevance during the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic

**Second edition
5–30 October 2020**

Prospectus

Background

The ability to gain and to benefit from market access opportunities depends increasingly on compliance with non-tariff measures (NTMs) such as sanitary and phytosanitary measures and technical regulations and norms. These measures represent a major challenge for policymakers, importers and exporters. Many NTMs have primarily non-trade objectives, such as the protection of public health or the environment, yet they may affect trade and can unintentionally become discriminatory against smaller exporters and poorer countries. It is therefore important for developing countries to understand the use of NTMs and their implications for the formulation and implementation of effective development strategies.

Comprehensive, systematic and reliable information about NTMs is scarce and difficult to obtain. UNCTAD coordinates the international effort to improve access and increase transparency with regard to NTMs and trains experts globally to collect and classify information about such measures. UNCTAD also analyses the effects of NTMs on trade and development and provides online and offline platforms for discussions on NTMs.

In this context, the Trade Analysis Branch of UNCTAD has developed an online training course that provides a comprehensive overview of NTMs, namely on the NTM classification of the Multi-Agency Support Team, an NTM data collection approach and the effects of NTMs on trade and development. The course constitutes a useful base of knowledge and skills for policymakers, researchers and trade practitioners working with NTMs. As the world experiences an unprecedented crisis due to COVID-19, various countries have responded by implementing new import and export measures. This makes NTMs more important than ever. The course offers a dedicated discussion forum on this issue.

Objective and target audience

The objective of this introductory course is to increase understanding of NTMs, their connection with the Sustainable Development Goals and the work of UNCTAD on NTMs. The target audience is those working in the trade and/or development field, such as government officials, researchers and representatives from the private sector. In particular, participation is encouraged from those who wish to strengthen their understanding of NTMs, use NTM data and/or who are or may be involved in the design or negotiation of policies related to NTMs.

**Prerequisites**

Candidates should hold a master's degree in economics, law, public policy or international relations. Applications may also be accepted from students enrolled in such programmes who hold a bachelor's degree in one of these fields. Also required are a very good knowledge of English and familiarity with the structures of governments and ministries responsible for setting regulations.

Application information and deadline

To apply, please follow the instructions at https://www.research.net/r/ntm_covid19. The deadline for applications is 20 September 2020 (11 p.m. GMT). Applications received thereafter or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Requests for further information or clarification about the course should be sent to Ms. Chi-Le Ngo, Trade Information Section, Division on International Trade and Commodities, UNCTAD; email: ntm.training@unctad.org.

A selection committee will review each application and select the course participants based on the answers to the selection survey and the relevance of the course to their work. Participants will be advised of their selection by 27 September 2020.

Fees

Thanks to the support of the Trade Information Section of UNCTAD, participants will be exempt from the fees associated with access to the course and the electronic tutoring services provided.

Structure and timetable

The course comprises an online forum in which participants can exchange ideas and pose questions to the course tutors. It also features reading materials, multimedia lectures, exercises and a multiple-choice test. The course will be run entirely from the dedicated website. An Internet connection is required to interact with the course tutors and complete the test and course questionnaire. No hard copies of course materials (printed documents, compact discs or other media) will be provided.

Grading and certificate

In order to pass, participants must receive a grade of at least 70 per cent on the test and complete the course questionnaire. An "UNCTAD Introductory Course on Non-Tariff Measures" certificate will be awarded to participants who have successfully completed the course.