



**Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade**

**NOTIFICATION GUIDELINES**

DECISION

*Adopted at the meeting of 8-10 November 2023*

The WTO Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (the TBT Committee) adopted the following revised guidelines<sup>1</sup> for the inclusion of information in new notifications of draft technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures:

**Guidelines for new notifications of draft technical regulations  
and conformity assessment procedures**

Item	Description
<b>1. Notifying Member</b>	Government, including the competent authorities of the European Union, which has acceded to the Agreement, and which is making the notification; if applicable, name of local government involved (Articles 3.2 and 7.2).
<b>2. Agency responsible</b>	Body elaborating a proposal for or promulgating a technical regulation or procedures for assessment of conformity. The authority or agency designated to handle comments regarding the specific notification shall be indicated if different from above.

<sup>1</sup> In the Ninth Triennial Review, the TBT Committee agreed "to amend the notification format and associated guidelines to enable a more fulsome description of content under Item 6, in particular when notified measures are published in a language other than English, French or Spanish". ([G/TBT/46](#), para.6.2.d(ii)). Canada's specific proposals for amendments to the guidelines, as adopted by the TBT Committee, are contained in [JOB/TBT/485/Rev.2](#).

Item	Description
<b>3. Notified under<sup>2</sup></b>	<p>Relevant provision of the Agreement:</p> <p>Article 2.9.2: proposed technical regulation by central government body;</p> <p>Article 2.10.1: technical regulation adopted for urgent problems by central government body;</p> <p>Article 3.2: proposed technical regulation or technical regulation adopted for urgent problems by local government (on the level directly below that of the central government);</p> <p>Article 5.6.2: proposed procedures for assessment of conformity by central government body;</p> <p>Article 5.7.1: conformity assessment procedure adopted for urgent problems by central government body;</p> <p>Article 7.2: proposed procedure for assessment of conformity or conformity assessment procedure adopted for urgent problems by local government (on the level directly below that of the central government)</p> <p>Other Articles under which notification can arise in cases of urgency set out in those Articles are:</p> <p>Article 8.1: adopted procedures for assessment of conformity by non-governmental body,</p> <p>Article 9.2: adopted procedures for assessment of conformity by international or regional organization.</p>
<b>4. Products covered</b>	<p>HS or CCCN (chapter or heading and number) where applicable. National tariff heading if different from HS or CCCN. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable. A clear description is important for an understanding of the notification by delegations and translators. Abbreviations should be avoided.</p>
<b>5. Title and number of pages</b>	<p>Title of the proposed or adopted technical regulation or procedure for the assessment of conformity that is notified. Number of pages in the notified document. The language(s) in which notified documents are available. If a translation of the document is planned, this should be indicated. If a translated summary is available, this too should be indicated.</p>
<b>6. Description of content</b>	<p>An abstract of the proposed or adopted technical regulation or procedures for assessment of conformity clearly indicating its content. A clear comprehensible description stating the main features of the proposed or adopted technical regulation or procedures for assessment of conformity is important for an understanding of the notification by delegations and translators. Abbreviations should be avoided.</p> <p>Members may consider the following when filing out this item:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If an impact/economic assessment was done and is publicly available, and the findings are not mentioned and/or included in the draft text associated with the notified measure, please include link to it in section 8 or any summary of key findings with trade implications under the TBT Agreement.</li> <li>• If determined at the time of notification, please name the authority responsible for undertaking the conformity assessment.</li> <li>• If applicable, please indicate whether testing results are accepted according to any voluntary conformity assessment scheme or international accreditation recognition arrangement.</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> Notifiers are requested to check the relevant box or indicate relevant information under "other".

Item	Description
<b>7. Objective and rationale, including the nature of urgent problems where applicable</b>	For instance: health, safety, national security, ... etc.
<b>8. Relevant documents</b>	<p>(1) Publication where notice appears, including date and reference number;</p> <p>(2) Proposal and basic document (with specific reference number or other identification) to which proposal refers;</p> <p>(3) Publication in which proposal will appear when adopted;</p> <p>(4) Whenever practicable, give reference to relevant international standard and include its full title and/or reference number, or any other information to explicitly identify the standard;</p> <p>(5) Include website addresses for any additional publicly available documents related to the proposed/adopted measure, including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• relevant studies that are referenced when developing the proposed/adopted measure;</li> <li>• findings of impact/economic assessments, if any were conducted;</li> <li>• classifications or guides available to exporters to consult for further details on the measure.</li> </ul> <p>Members are also encouraged to indicate if any of the information above is contained in the draft text provided with the notification.</p> <p>If a fee is required for documents supplied, this should be indicated.</p>
<b>9. Proposed dates of adoption and entry into force</b>	The date when the technical regulation or procedures for assessment of conformity is expected to be adopted, and the date from which the requirements in the technical regulation or procedures for assessment of conformity are proposed or decided to enter into force, taking into consideration the provisions of Article 2.12. If a set date is not yet available, please provide indicative timelines e.g., "To be confirmed", "September-October 20XX".
<b>10. Final date for comments</b>	The date by which Members may submit comments in accordance with Articles 2.9.4, 2.10.3, 3.1 (in relation to 2.9.4 and 2.10.3), 5.6.4, 5.7.3 and 7.1 (in relation to 5.6.4 and 5.7.3) of the Agreement. A specific date should be indicated. The Committee has recommended a normal time limit for comments on notifications of 60 days. Any Member which is able to provide a time limit beyond 60 days is encouraged to do so. Members are encouraged to advise of any extension to the final date for comments.
<b>11. Texts available from<sup>3</sup></b>	If available from national enquiry point, put a cross in the box provided. If available from another body, give its address, e-mail, telex and telefax number. If available in a web-site, provide the web-site address. Such indications should not in any way discharge the relevant enquiry point of its responsibilities under the provisions of Article 10 of the Agreement.

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<sup>3</sup> Notifiers are requested to check the relevant box or indicate relevant information under "other".