

## **Technical note on the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement**

### **Article 1.4: Notification**

This document is an extract from  
*"Getting down to business: Making the Most of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement"*,  
published by the International Trade Centre in partnership with UNCTAD and UNECE.

## Notification: Article 1.4

In line with a common practice in WTO to share information in committees and working groups, the TFA requires that Members notify the WTO Committee on Trade Facilitation the details regarding locations of publication, websites where information is made available, and contact information of enquiry points.

*Members shall notify the WTO Committee on Trade Facilitation about the official location and contact information related to previous measures pertaining to (1) publication, (2) information through internet and (3) enquiry points.*

### The measure

ARTICLE 1	PUBLICATION AND AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION
4	Notification
	Each Member shall notify the Committee on Trade Facilitation established under paragraph 1.1 of Article 23 (referred to in this Agreement as the 'Committee') of:
	(a) the official place(s) where the items in subparagraphs 1.1(a) to (j) have been published;
	(b) the Uniform Resource Locators of website(s) referred to in paragraph 2.1; and
	(c) the contact information of the enquiry points referred to in paragraph 3.1.

### Understanding the measure

#### What is covered?

##### Scope and objective

The aim of this measure is to allow WTO Members – and all relevant stakeholders – to ensure fair and transparent access and exchange of relevant information pertaining to Article 1. Another objective is to oversee that each WTO Member is complying with the transparency measures enshrined in Article 1.

##### Core obligation

Article 1.4 requires that Members inform other WTO Members within the WTO Committee on Trade Facilitation the contact details and sources where information under Articles 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 has been made available.

### Benefits and opportunities for stakeholders

Information brought into the public domain will help traders to decrease the time and cost of accessing trade-related information and requirements in a non-discriminatory manner, improving compliance.

The requirement to notify the WTO Committee on Trade Facilitation will also pressure WTO Members to ensure that their systems are established and functioning well. This will benefit governments by enhancing the flow of information between Members.

## Implementation

### Implementation checklist

The following checklist may be used to estimate the level of compliance with the measure:

- There is a national implementation framework (legislation, administrative, procedural) in place for the implementation of Articles 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 of the TFA.
- The WTO Committee on Trade Facilitation has been notified with the relevant information.
- Subsequent changes are also notified.
- The timing of this obligation is contingent on the date of implementation of Articles 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3.

### Preparing a national implementation plan

The following template may be used as the basis for a national implementation plan:

<b>Implementation sequence</b>	Actions suggested
	<b>Preparatory phase</b>
	Ensure that the requirements of Articles 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are fulfilled.
	Designate a focal point for notification and any future updates.
	<b>Set-up phase</b>
	Send notification to the WTO Committee on Trade Facilitation.
	Put in place a mechanism for updating notifications as necessary.
	<b>Management and follow-up phase</b>
	Establish a mechanism for periodic monitoring of updates to the WTO Committee on Trade Facilitation.
<b>Average time for implementation</b>	Two years, dependent on the implementation of Articles 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3.
<b>Leading implementation agency</b>	The ministry in charge of trade is most commonly chosen as the leading implementation agency.

## Key challenges

A common challenge is the lack of effective collaboration between a large number of border agencies. Without a focal point or competent centralized authority with a clear set of responsibilities, collecting and sharing information with the WTO Committee on Trade Facilitation is challenging.

## Key factors for success

Coordination between the relevant agencies – all equipped with the necessary human and financial resources – will successfully ensure that information is promptly shared and continuously updated with WTO. It is recommended that coordination and notification should be undertaken by the NTFC.