



WORLD TRADE  
ORGANIZATION

## DISCLAIMER

The Handbook on Notification Requirements does not constitute a legal interpretation of the notification obligations under the respective Agreement(s) or relevant legal provision(s). It has been prepared by the Secretariat to assist Members in complying with their notification obligations.

# TECHNICAL COOPERATION HANDBOOK ON NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

AGREEMENT ON AGRICULTURE

This section of the Handbook on Notification Requirements covers the notification obligations under the **AGREEMENT ON AGRICULTURE**. It consists of the following five parts:

|   |   |  |  |                          |
|---|---|--|--|--------------------------|
| <b>PART 1</b>                               | <b>PART 2</b>                                 | <b>PART 3</b>  | <b>PART 4</b>                          | <b>PART 5</b>            |
| OVERVIEW OF<br>NOTIFICATION<br>REQUIREMENTS | LISTING OF THE<br>NOTIFICATION<br>OBLIGATIONS | RELEVANT<br>DOCUMENT(S)<br>CONCERNING<br>GUIDELINES<br>AND FORMATS | LIST OF<br>NOTIFICATIONS<br>SINCE 1995 | TEXT OF THE<br>AGREEMENT |

**For Members which acceded pursuant to Article XII of the Marrakesh Agreement, their respective Protocols of Accession may contain notification obligations in addition to those set out in the WTO Agreements, and may govern the deadlines for the submission of their initial notifications. Transparency requirements also form part of some decisions adopted under the agriculture negotiations.**

# PART 1

## OVERVIEW OF NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

### INTRODUCTION

Requirements and formats for notification under the Agreement on Agriculture are listed in documents [G/AG/2](#) and [G/AG/2/Add.1](#) and cover five areas:

- Market access, with respect to tariff and other quotas, and special safeguard provisions;
- Domestic support, including the Current Total Aggregate Measurement of Support (AMS), and new or modified exempt measures;
- Export subsidies; including notifications concerning anti-circumvention provisions;
- Export prohibitions or restrictions; and
- Follow-up to the Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least-Developed and Net Food-Importing Developing Countries.

As the notification requirements are largely dependent on the specific commitments as set out in each Member's schedule along with the actions taken by each Member, they differ from Member to Member (as indicated in document [G/AG/W/24](#) and [Part 4](#) of this Handbook). In many cases only a limited number of notification requirements will apply for a particular Member.

### WHAT MUST BE NOTIFIED?

- Market access, with respect to tariff and other quotas, and special safeguard provisions;
- Domestic support, including the Current Total Aggregate Measurement of Support (AMS), and new or modified exempt measures;
- Export subsidies; including notifications concerning anti-circumvention provisions;
- Export prohibitions or restrictions; and
- Follow-up to the Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least-Developed and Net Food-Importing Developing Countries.

### WHICH MEMBERS MUST NOTIFY?

In many cases only a limited number of notification requirements will apply for a particular Member. This is because they largely depend on the specific commitments as set out in each Member's Schedule, as well as on the actions that may be taken by that Member in any given implementation year.

For information on Members' notifications obligations, see [Members' commitments](#).

### WHEN TO NOTIFY?

Some notification requirements are periodic. They are to be regularly submitted to the Committee on Agriculture in line with the frequency and deadlines established in [G/AG/2](#). Some notification requirements are *ad hoc*, meaning that they become due only where a specific measure is introduced, or about to be introduced.

For information on when to notify, see [Members' commitments](#).

# PART 1

## OVERVIEW OF NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

### HOW TO NOTIFY?<sup>1</sup>

For comprehensive information on how to notify measures under each pillar of the Agreement on Agriculture, please consult the relevant parts of the [Handbook on agriculture notifications](#), a practical guide for Member governments' officials on how to notify measures to the WTO.

The Secretariat has also developed a [self-training module](#) which acts as a useful e-learning tool to assist Members in preparing notifications in the area of agriculture.

Since October 2019, Members can submit agriculture notifications on-line via the [Agriculture Information Management System \(Ag-IMS\)](#). The Secretariat has developed training [videos](#) and detailed [practical guides](#) on how to submit notifications using the online System. The online system is password protected. Members may request login details and other relevant information to access the System by sending an email to [agnotifinqueries@wto.org](mailto:agnotifinqueries@wto.org).

Mock examples for each notification requirement can be found in the [Handbook on agriculture notifications](#). Page numbers are provided below to allow easy access to the relevant mock notifications.

<sup>1</sup> All notifications, regardless of their subject content or the requirement under which they are being submitted, must be directed to the administrator of the Central Registry of Notifications (CRN), as indicated in document [WT/INF/25/Rev.2](#). Notifications may be submitted through online submission systems, as electronic attachments to emails, or on paper. As it may be practice, a copy of the notification may be sent to the Secretariat unit substantively handling the notification.

### MARKET ACCESS

- Administration of tariff and other quota commitments – [Table MA:1](#) (Pg. 8-14)
- Volume of imports under tariff and other quotas – [Table MA:2](#) (Pg. 15-21)
- Special safeguard measures:
  - Volume-based – [Tables MA:3](#) (Pg. 22-28)
  - Price-based – [Table MA:4](#) (Pg. 29-35)
- Special safeguard provisions – [Table MA:5](#) (Pg. 36-39)

### DOMESTIC SUPPORT

- Total Aggregate Measurement of Support – [Table DS:1](#) and, as appropriate, Supporting [Tables DS:1 to DS:9](#) (Pg. 42-93)
- New or modified exempt domestic support measures – [Table DS:2](#) (Pg. 94-98)

### EXPORT SUBSIDIES

- Budgetary outlays and quantity reduction commitments – [Table ES:1](#) and Supporting Tables [ES:1](#) and [ES:2](#) (Pg. 101-114)
- Total exports – [Table ES:2](#) (Pg. 115-122)
- Total volume of food aid – [Table ES:3](#) (Pg. 123-126)

### EXPORT RESTRICTIONS

- Export prohibitions and restrictions – [Table ER:1](#) (Pg. 127-129)

### FOLLOW-UP OF THE DECISION ON MEASURES CONCERNING THE POSSIBLE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF THE REFORM PROGRAMME ON LEAST-DEVELOPED AND NET FOOD-IMPORTING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

- Monitoring of the Follow-up to the NFIDC Decision – [Table NF:1](#) (Pg. 131-134)

In addition, Members can request the Secretariat assistance for preparing notifications by sending their enquiries to [agnotifinqueries@wto.org](mailto:agnotifinqueries@wto.org).

# PART 2

## LISTING OF THE NOTIFICATION OBLIGATIONS

|    | WHAT MUST BE NOTIFIED?   |  | WHICH MEMBERS MUST NOTIFY?   | WHEN TO NOTIFY?  |  | HOW TO NOTIFY?                                    |                          |                     |  |
|----|--|--|--|------------------|--|---|--------------------------|---------------------|--|
|    | Notification requirements <sup>2</sup>   | Type of measure  | Members notifying  | Periodicity      | Comments on Periodicity  | Format  | To whom <sup>3</sup>     | Notification Symbol |  |
| 1. | Agreement on Agriculture, <a href="#">Article 18.2</a> (Tariff and other quota commitments). | Market access-Administration of tariff and other quota commitments.  | Members with tariff and other quota commitments recorded in Section 1-B (or Section 1-A) of Part 1 of their schedules. | One time         | First, a comprehensive <i>one-off</i> notification, and then an <i>ad hoc</i> notification upon introduction of changes. | Yes ( <a href="#">Market Access Table MA:1</a> )  | Committee on Agriculture | MA:1                |  |
| 2. | Agreement on Agriculture, <a href="#">Article 18.2</a> (Tariff and other quota commitments). | Market access-Volume of imports under tariff and other quotas including tariff quota fill-rates <sup>4</sup> . | Members with tariff and other quota commitments recorded in Section 1-B (or Section 1-A) of Part 1 of their schedules. | Regular – Annual |  | Yes ( <a href="#">Market Access Table MA:2</a> )  | Committee on Agriculture | MA:2                |  |
| 3. | Agreement on Agriculture, <a href="#">Article 5.7</a> (Special safeguard provisions).        | Market access-Special safeguard measures – Agriculture.  | Members taking, for any product, the volume-based safeguard action for the first time in any period in the case.       | <i>Ad hoc</i>    |  | Yes ( <a href="#">Market Access Tables MA:3</a> ) | Committee on Agriculture | MA:3                |  |

<sup>2</sup> Reverse notification of "any measure which ... ought to have been notified" is provided for in [Article 18.7](#).

<sup>3</sup> All notifications, regardless of their subject content or the requirement under which they are being submitted, must be directed to the administrator of the Central Registry of Notifications (CRN), as indicated in document [WT/INF/25/Rev.2](#). Notifications may be submitted through online submission systems, as electronic attachments to emails, or on paper. As it may be practice, a copy of the notification may be sent to the Secretariat unit substantively handling the notification.

<sup>4</sup> The Bali Ministerial Decision on tariff quota administration (WT/MIN(13)/39-WT/L/914) provides for the notification of 'fill rates'.

# PART 2

## LISTING OF THE NOTIFICATION OBLIGATIONS

|    | WHAT MUST BE NOTIFIED?   |  | WHICH MEMBERS MUST NOTIFY?  | WHEN TO NOTIFY?  |   | HOW TO NOTIFY?  |                          |   |  |
|----|--|--|---|------------------|---|---|--------------------------|---|--|
|    | Notification requirements <sup>2</sup>   | Type of measure  | Members notifying   | Periodicity      | Comments on Periodicity                               | Format  | To whom <sup>3</sup>     | Notification Symbol                     |  |
| 4. | Agreement on Agriculture, <a href="#">Article 5.7</a> (Special safeguard provisions).                          | Market access-special safeguard measures – agriculture.  | Members taking, for any product, price-based special safeguard action for the first time. For the price-based safeguard, an "up- front" notification of trigger prices may be made. | <i>Ad hoc</i>    | Upfront notification                                  | Yes ( <a href="#">Market Access Table MA:4</a> )  | Committee on Agriculture | MA:4                                    |  |
| 5. | Agreement on Agriculture, <a href="#">Article 5.7</a> and <a href="#">18.2</a> (Special safeguard provisions). | Market access-special safeguard provisions.              | Members whose schedules indicate they have the right to invoke the special safeguard for any product.   | Regular – Annual |   | Yes ( <a href="#">Market Access Table MA:5</a> )  | Committee on Agriculture | MA:5                                    |  |
| 6. | Agreement on Agriculture, <a href="#">Article 18.2</a> (Domestic support).                                     | Domestic support-Total Aggregate Measurement of Support. | All WTO Members.  | Regular – Annual | Or longer for developing and least-developed Members. | Yes ( <a href="#">Domestic Support Table DS:1</a> and, as appropriate, <a href="#">Supporting Tables DS:1 to DS:9</a> ) | Committee on Agriculture | DS:1 and Supporting Tables DS:1 to DS:9 |  |

<sup>2</sup> Reverse notification of "any measure which ... ought to have been notified" is provided for in [Article 18.7](#).

<sup>3</sup> All notifications, regardless of their subject content or the requirement under which they are being submitted, must be directed to the administrator of the Central Registry of Notifications (CRN), as indicated in document [WT/INF/25/Rev.2](#). Notifications may be submitted through online submission systems, as electronic attachments to emails, or on paper. As it may be practice, a copy of the notification may be sent to the Secretariat unit substantively handling the notification.



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## LISTING OF THE NOTIFICATION OBLIGATIONS

|     | WHAT MUST BE NOTIFIED?   |   | WHICH MEMBERS MUST NOTIFY?   | WHEN TO NOTIFY?  |                         | HOW TO NOTIFY?   |                          |   |
|-----|--|---|--|------------------|-------------------------|--|--------------------------|---|
|     | Notification requirements <sup>2</sup>   | Type of measure   | Members notifying  | Periodicity      | Comments on Periodicity | Format   | To whom <sup>3</sup>     | Notification Symbol                     |
| 7.  | Agreement on Agriculture, <a href="#">Article 18.3</a> (Domestic support).                         | Domestic support-new or modified exempt domestic support measures.      | All WTO Members (all Members introducing or modifying such measures).  | <i>Ad hoc</i>    |                         | Yes ( <a href="#">Domestic Support Table DS:2</a> )  | Committee on Agriculture | DS:2                                    |
| 8.  | Agreement on Agriculture, <a href="#">Article 18.2</a> (Export subsidies).                         | Export subsidies – budgetary outlay and quantity reduction commitments. | All WTO Members.   | Regular – Annual |                         | Yes ( <a href="#">Export Subsidy Commitments Table ES:1</a> and Supporting Tables <a href="#">ES:1</a> or <a href="#">ES:2</a> ) | Committee on Agriculture | ES:1 and Supporting Tables ES:1 or ES:2 |
| 9.  | Agreement on Agriculture, Articles <a href="#">10</a> and <a href="#">18.2</a> (Export subsidies). | Export subsidies – total exports.                                       | WTO Members with export subsidy reduction commitments plus significant exporters as set out in G/AG/2/Add.1. | Regular – Annual |                         | Yes ( <a href="#">Export Subsidy Commitments Table ES:2</a> )  | Committee on Agriculture | ES:2                                    |
| 10. | Agreement on Agriculture, Articles <a href="#">10</a> and <a href="#">18.2</a> (Export subsidies). | Export subsidies – total food aid.                                      | WTO Members which are food aid donors.   | Regular – Annual |                         | Yes ( <a href="#">Export Subsidy Commitments Table ES:3</a> )  | Committee on Agriculture | ES:3                                    |

<sup>2</sup> Reverse notification of "any measure which ... ought to have been notified" is provided for in [Article 18.7](#).

<sup>3</sup> All notifications, regardless of their subject content or the requirement under which they are being submitted, must be directed to the administrator of the Central Registry of Notifications (CRN), as indicated in document [WT/INF/25/Rev.2](#). Notifications may be submitted through online submission systems, as electronic attachments to emails, or on paper. As it may be practice, a copy of the notification may be sent to the Secretariat unit substantively handling the notification.

# PART 2

## LISTING OF THE NOTIFICATION OBLIGATIONS

|     | WHAT MUST BE NOTIFIED?   |  | WHICH MEMBERS MUST NOTIFY?  | WHEN TO NOTIFY?  |                         | HOW TO NOTIFY?   |                          |                     |  |
|-----|--|--|---|------------------|-------------------------|--|--------------------------|---------------------|--|
|     | Notification requirements <sup>2</sup>   | Type of measure  | Members notifying   | Periodicity      | Comments on Periodicity | Format   | To whom <sup>3</sup>     | Notification Symbol |  |
| 11. | Agreement on Agriculture, <a href="#">Article 12.1(b)</a> (Export restrictions).   | Export restrictions – new export restrictions.               | WTO Members (certain Members introducing such measures).                                      | <i>Ad hoc</i>    |                         | Yes ( <a href="#">Export Restrictions Table ER:1</a> )                   | Committee on Agriculture | ER:1                |  |
| 12. | Agreement on Agriculture, <a href="#">Article 16.2</a> (Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least-Developed and Net Food-Importing Developing Countries). | Net Food-Importing Decision – food aid and other assistance. | WTO Members (which provide food aid and technical or financial assistance to such countries). | Regular – Annual |                         | Yes ( <a href="#">Net Food- Importers Table NF:1</a> , items (1) to (3)) | Committee on Agriculture | NF:1                |  |

<sup>2</sup> Reverse notification of "any measure which ... ought to have been notified" is provided for in [Article 18.7](#).

<sup>3</sup> All notifications, regardless of their subject content or the requirement under which they are being submitted, must be directed to the administrator of the Central Registry of Notifications (CRN), as indicated in document [WT/INF/25/Rev.2](#). Notifications may be submitted through online submission systems, as electronic attachments to emails, or on paper. As it may be practice, a copy of the notification may be sent to the Secretariat unit substantively handling the notification.



# PART 2

## LISTING OF THE NOTIFICATION OBLIGATIONS

|     | WHAT MUST BE NOTIFIED?   |                                     | WHICH MEMBERS MUST NOTIFY?  | WHEN TO NOTIFY? |                         | HOW TO NOTIFY?  |                          |                     |  |
|-----|--|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------|-------------------------|---|--------------------------|---------------------|--|
|     | Notification requirements <sup>2</sup>   | Type of measure                     | Members notifying   | Periodicity     | Comments on Periodicity | Format  | To whom <sup>3</sup>     | Notification Symbol |  |
| 13. | Agreement on Agriculture, <a href="#">Article 16.2</a> (Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least-Developed Net Food-Importing Developing Countries). | Net Food-Importing Decision- other. | WTO Members (those wishing to notify other specific actions related to the Decision). | <i>Ad hoc</i>   |                         | Yes<br>( <a href="#">Net Food- Importers Table NF:1</a> , item (4)) | Committee on Agriculture | NF:1                |  |

<sup>2</sup> Reverse notification of "any measure which ... ought to have been notified" is provided for in [Article 18.7](#).

<sup>3</sup> All notifications, regardless of their subject content or the requirement under which they are being submitted, must be directed to the administrator of the Central Registry of Notifications (CRN), as indicated in document [WT/INF/25/Rev.2](#). Notifications may be submitted through online submission systems, as electronic attachments to emails, or on paper. As it may be practice, a copy of the notification may be sent to the Secretariat unit substantively handling the notification.

## PART 3

### RELEVANT DOCUMENT(S) CONCERNING GUIDELINES AND FORMATS

Notification Requirements and Formats [G/AG/2](#) and [G/AG/2/Add.1](#).

List of "Significant Exporters" for the purposes of the notification requirements in respect of Export Subsidy Commitments [G/AG/2/Add.1](#).

Notification Obligations: Agriculture – Note by the Secretariat [G/AG/W/24](#).

## PART 4

### LIST OF NOTIFICATIONS SINCE 1995

Notifications submitted since 1995 can be found in the [Compliance Reports](#) that are regularly prepared by the Secretariat and reflect Members' compliance with their regular notification obligations.

All notifications can also be searched through the [Ag-IMS database](#).

## PART 5

### TEXT OF THE AGREEMENT

Agreement on Agriculture [LT/UR/A-1A/2](#).