

NOTIFICATION FORMATS

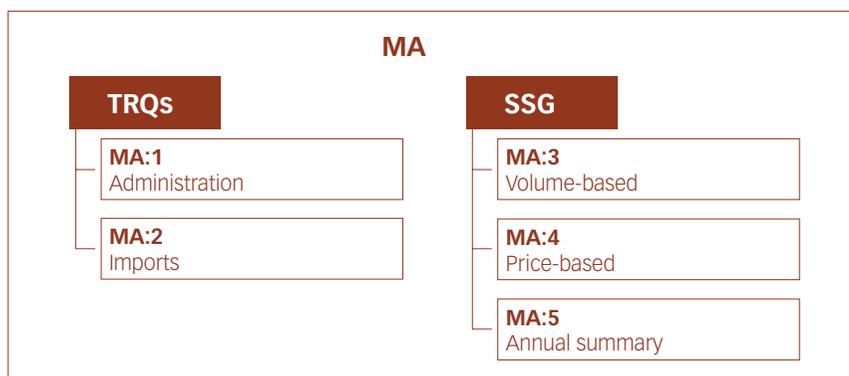
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WHAT TO NOTIFY ?

- ▶ The prefix “MA” is used to distinguish the notification formats or “tables” that apply in the area of market access.

These formats belong to two broad categories, i.e.

- **Tariff and other quotas (TRQs)**, as specified in Members’ Schedules:
 - **Table MA:1** relating to tariff quota administration
 - **Table MA:2** relating to the volume of imports under TRQ management
- **Special Agricultural Safeguard (SSG)**, as specified in Members’ Schedules:
 - **Table MA:3** relating to volume-based SSG actions
 - **Table MA:4** relating to price-based SSG actions
 - **Table MA:5** relating to annual summary of SSG actions



RELEVANT REFERENCES

General

- Datasets on notified information, available at http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/agric_e/transparency_toolkit_e.htm
- List of notifications issued since 1995, available at: http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/agric_e/ag_list_notif_e.xls
- Agricultural web page, available at: http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/agric_e/ag_work_e.htm
- Results of the Survey on the Improvement of Timeliness and Completeness of Notifications under Existing Procedures (G/AG/GEN/85)
- Annex 1 of the Agreement on Agriculture (Product Coverage)

Tariff and other quotas (TRQ)

- Members’ WTO Schedule¹ (Part I, Section I-B (or I-A))
- Article 4 of the Agreement on Agriculture (Market Access)
- Annex 5 of the Agreement on Agriculture (Special Treatment with Respect to Paragraph 2 of Article 4)

Special Agricultural Safeguard (SSG)

- Members’ WTO Schedule (Part I, Section I-A)
- Article 5 of the Agreement on Agriculture (Special Safeguard Provisions).

¹ Members’ Consolidated Tariff Schedule (CTS) files are available through the Tariff Analysis Online facility http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tariffs_e/tao_help_e.htm.

Table MA:1 Implementation of market access opportunities: tariff and other quota commitments

NOTIFICATION FORMAT

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WHO?

Only Members having tariff and other quota commitments (TRQs) specified in their WTO Schedules of commitments are required to submit Table MA:1 notifications.

Australia	European Union	Nicaragua
Barbados	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Norway
Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	Guatemala	Panama
Brazil	Iceland	Philippines
Canada	India	South Africa
Chile	Indonesia	Switzerland-Liechtenstein
China	Israel	Chinese Taipei
Colombia	Japan	Thailand
Costa Rica	Korea	Tunisia
Croatia	Malaysia	Ukraine
Dominican Republic	Mexico	United States
Ecuador	Morocco	Viet Nam
El Salvador	New Zealand	

WHAT TO NOTIFY?

- Comprehensive *one-off* notification to include description of tariff quota administration for all TRQs in the Schedule before these are opened for the first time.
- *Ad hoc* notification to include tariff quota administration only for those TRQs where changes in respect of their administration have been implemented.

► Four pieces of information:

- Allocation to supplying countries
- Allocation of licences to importers
- Details of other arrangements (not involving import licences)
- Other relevant information



WHAT IF?

- TRQs are incorporated subsequently to the establishment of initial Schedules (e.g. Chile, India, EU)?

A **Table MA:1** notification would be required for all new scheduled TRQs before they are opened for the first time. Please refer to **Case 4** below under Table MA:1.



WHEN?

- A comprehensive *one-off* notification is required first, in respect of all scheduled TRQs. The notification should be presented normally in advance of opening of the TRQ in question, but in any event no later than 30 days following its opening.
- Where *changes* in administration methods are subsequently introduced, an *ad hoc* notification should be presented prior to those changes being implemented, but in any event no later than 30 days following the implementation of the changes.



HOW TO NOTIFY?

► Case 1:

- ALFA is an original WTO Member whose Schedule has two TRQs (on **butter** and **potatoes**).
- When should ALFA make a “one-off” Table MA:1 notification?

A comprehensive one-off Table MA:1 notification (in 1995) was required in respect of all scheduled TRQs before these are opened for the first time.

Table MA:1 Implementation of market access opportunities: tariff and other quota commitments

Table MA:1

MARKET ACCESS: name of Member

REPORTING PERIOD: calendar year, marketing year, etc.

Implementation of market access opportunities: tariff and other quota commitments

Description of products (from Section I-B (or I-A) of Part I of the Schedule)	Tariff item number(s) encompassed in product description (from Section I-B (or I-A) of Part I of the Schedule)	Description of import arrangement applicable
1	2	3

Description of the arrangements to be applied in order to provide the market access opportunities specified in the Member's Schedule, including, as appropriate:

- (a) allocation of quotas to supplying countries, including: (i) details of basis for determining the allocation (e.g. representative period or "other terms and conditions" as specified in Part I, Section I of Schedules); (ii) any limitation on the period of access;
- (b) allocation of licenses or of access to quotas to importers, including details of: (i) government agency, trading or administrative body competent to grant licenses or access to quotas, including those which have formally, or in effect, exclusive or special privileges; (ii) any limitations on eligibility of applicants; (iii) how licenses or access are to be allocated by the competent agency (e.g. first-come-first-served, pro rata); (iv) any limitations on the period of validity or use of the licenses granted;
- (c) details of other arrangements (not involving import licenses) under which access to quotas is to be administered;
- (d) any other information relevant to the implementation of market access opportunities under such arrangements.

Table MA:1 Implementation of market access opportunities: tariff and other quota commitments

Table MA:1 Case 1 (e.g. G/AG/N/KOR/1)

MARKET ACCESS: Alfa

REPORTING PERIOD: calendar year 1995

Implementation of market access opportunities: tariff and other quota commitments

Description of products	Tariff item number(s) encompassed in product description	Description of import arrangement applicable
(from Section I-B (or I-A) of Part I of the Schedule)	(from Section I-B (or I-A) of Part I of the Schedule)	
1	2	3

Butter	0405.00.00
<p>Product composition has to match the product composition in the Schedule. Otherwise, a suitable justification needs to be included for the difference between the two.</p>	
Potatoes	0701.10.00 0701.90.00

- (a) Allocation to supplying countries:**
- (i) Global quota;
 - (ii) The tariff quota is open from 1 January to 31 December.
- (b) Allocation of licences to importers:**
- (i) Allocations are made by the Department of Agriculture;
 - (ii) Any company or individual registered for tax purposes may apply for an import licence;
 - (iii) Licences are issued on a first-come first-served basis.
 - (iv) Licences are valid for four months from the date of issue.
- (c) Details of other arrangements (not involving import licences):** Not applicable.
- (d) Other relevant information:** Further information on the tariff quota allocation is published in the national gazette.
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- (a) Allocation to supplying countries:**
- (i) 200 t is allocated to Country X, 150 t to Country Y while the remainder is globally available;
 - (ii) The tariff quota is open from 1 January to 30 June.
- (b) Allocation of licences to importers:**
- (i) Allocations are made by the Department of Agriculture;
 - (ii) Any company providing inputs for the agricultural sector may apply for a licence to import seed potatoes (0701.10.00). Table potatoes and potatoes for processing may be imported up to the available quantity;
 - (iii) Licences for seed potatoes are issued on a first-come first-served basis with a *pro rata* allocation should the request for licences exceed the tariff quota quantity;
 - (iv) Licences are valid for two months from the date of issue.
- (c) Details of other arrangements (not involving import licences):** Imports without a licence may take place up to the available limit for table potatoes and potatoes for processing.
- (d) Other relevant information:** Further information on the tariff quota allocation is published in the national gazette.

Table MA:1 Implementation of market access opportunities: tariff and other quota commitments

► **Case 2:**

- ALFA modifies tariff quota administration for **butter** for the implementation year 2007.
- When should ALFA submit a Table MA:1 notification?

An *ad hoc* Table MA:1 notification would be required prior to those changes being implemented but in any event no later than 30 days following the change.

In the *ad hoc* notification presented in Case 2 below, only the **butter** TRQ is included in the Table MA:1 notification in respect of which the changes in the tariff quota administration were made.

There are, however, some examples of notifications where *ad hoc* notifications include administration details in respect of all scheduled TRQs (and not only those where changes in their administration have been made) with relevant changes highlighted in the beginning (e.g. G/AG/N/CHE/13/Add. 10, G/AG/N/THA/45).

Table MA:1 Case 2 (e.g. G/AG/N/KOR/3)

MARKET ACCESS: Alfa

REPORTING PERIOD: calendar year 2007

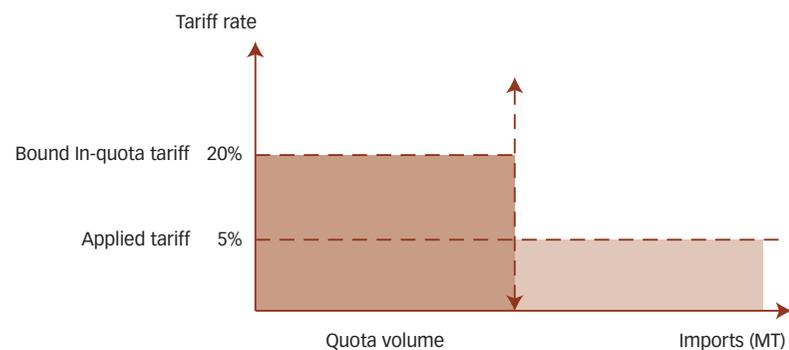
Implementation of market access opportunities: tariff and other quota commitments

Description of products (from Section I-B (or I-A) of Part I of the Schedule)	Tariff item number(s) encompassed in product description (from Section I-B (or I-A) of Part I of the Schedule)	Description of import arrangement applicable
1	2	3
Butter	0405.00.00	<p>(a) Allocation to supplying countries:</p> <p>(i) 1000 t is allocated to Country X, 750 t to Country Y while the remainder is globally available;</p> <p>(ii) The tariff quota is open from 1 January to 31 December.</p> <p>(b) Allocation of licences to importers:</p> <p>(i) Allocations are made by the Department of External Trade in consultation with the Department of Agriculture;</p> <p>(ii) Any company or individual registered for tax purposes may apply for an import licence;</p> <p>(iii) Licences are issued on a first-come, first-served basis with a <i>pro rata</i> allocation should the request for licences exceed the tariff quota quantity;</p> <p>(iv) Licences are valid for four months from the date of issue.</p> <p>(c) Details of other arrangements (not involving import licences): Not applicable.</p> <p>(d) Other relevant information: Further information on the tariff quota allocation is published in the national gazette.</p>

Table MA:1 Implementation of market access opportunities: tariff and other quota commitments

► **Case 3**

- As from calendar year 2008, ALFA decided to reduce the MFN out-of-quota tariff to 5% for **butter**, below the bound in-quota tariff (20%).



- ALFA, therefore, decided not to open the TRQ on **butter** for the calendar year 2008.
- Would ALFA be required to make a Table MA:1 notification?

An *ad hoc* Table MA:1 notification would be required containing information on the non-operation of TRQ on butter. This may be included under entry (d) of column 3: "Other relevant information".



WHAT IF ?

- **The MFN out-of-quota tariff for butter is raised, say to 25%, (which then exceeds the bound in-quota tariff of 20%) in the subsequent years and the TRQ for butter is, therefore, again opened.**

An *ad-hoc* Table MA:1 notification would be required containing the administration arrangements for butter imports under the TRQ.

Table MA:1 Implementation of market access opportunities: tariff and other quota commitments

Table MA:1 Case 3 (e.g. G/AG/N/KOR/33)

MARKET ACCESS: Alfa

REPORTING PERIOD: calendar year 2008

Implementation of market access opportunities: tariff and other quota commitments

Description of products (from Section I-B (or I-A) of Part I of the Schedule)	Tariff item number(s) encompassed in product description (from Section I-B (or I-A) of Part I of the Schedule)	Description of import arrangement applicable
1	2	3
Butter	0405.00.00	<p>(a) Allocation to supplying countries: Not applicable. (b) Allocation of licences to importers: Not applicable (c) Details of other arrangements (not involving import licences): Not applicable. (d) Other relevant information: As from the calendar year 2008, the government decided to apply 5% tariff on all imports of butter which is below the bound in-quota tariff of 20%. It is considered unnecessary to open the tariff quota as long as a tariff below the bound in-quota tariff is in force.</p>

Table MA:1 Implementation of market access opportunities: tariff and other quota commitments

► **Case 4:**

- ALFA undertakes tariff renegotiations under Article XXVIII of GATT 1994.
- As one of the outcomes of the renegotiations, ALFA schedules an additional TRQ on **barley**.
- The tariff quota commitment on **barley** applies as from the calendar year 2009.
- When should ALFA make a Table MA:1 notification?

A Table MA:1 notification containing import arrangements for barley would be required prior to the opening of the barley TRQ but in any event no later than 30 days following its opening.

Table MA:1 **Case 4 (e.g. G/AG/N/CHL/17)**

MARKET ACCESS: Alfa

REPORTING PERIOD: calendar year 2009

Implementation of market access opportunities: tariff and other quota commitments

Description of products (from Section I-B (or I-A) of Part I of the Schedule)	Tariff item number(s) encompassed in product description (from Section I-B (or I-A) of Part I of the Schedule)	Description of import arrangement applicable
1	2	3
Barley	1003.00.00	<p>(a) Allocation to supplying countries: Global quota.</p> <p>(b) Allocation of licences to importers:</p> <p>(i) Allocations are made by the Alfa Cereal Association.</p> <p>(ii) Licences are issued on a first-come, first-served basis.</p> <p>(iii) Quota allocations are valid for a calendar year; import permits are valid for 90 days.</p> <p>(c) Details of other arrangements (not involving import licences): Not applicable.</p> <p>(d) Other relevant information: Further information is available on the website of the Alfa Cereal Association (www.cerealassociation.alfa).</p>

Table MA:2 Lists relating to tariff and other quota commitments

NOTIFICATION FORMAT

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WHO?

Only Members having tariff quota commitments specified in their WTO Schedules of commitments are required to submit Table MA:2 notifications.

Australia	European Union	Nicaragua
Barbados	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Norway
Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	Guatemala	Panama
Brazil	Iceland	Philippines
Canada	India	South Africa
Chile	Indonesia	Switzerland-Liechtenstein
China	Israel	Chinese Taipei
Colombia	Japan	Thailand
Costa Rica	Korea	Tunisia
Croatia	Malaysia	Ukraine
Dominican Republic	Mexico	United States
Ecuador	Morocco	Viet Nam
El Salvador	New Zealand	

WHAT TO NOTIFY?

- Actual amount of imports against all scheduled TRQs.

It may also be noted that under paragraph 15 of the Committee on Agriculture's Working Procedures (G/AG/1), information may be obtained during the course of an implementation year on the functioning of a specific TRQ, including the quantity of imports effected or authorized under that TRQ.



WHAT IF?

- TRQs are incorporated subsequently to the establishment of initial Schedules (e.g. Chile, India, EU)?

An annual Table MA:2 notification would be required in respect of all scheduled TRQs (i.e. in the initial Schedule as well as those subsequently incorporated therein)

- Some of the scheduled TRQs are not opened?

It should be stated in the Table MA:2 notification for the TRQs concerned along with an explanation. The scope of Table MA:2 notification includes all TRQs inscribed in the Schedule.



WHEN?

- 30 days following the year in question but, in any event, no later than 60 days following the year in question.

There are some examples where more than one annual Table MA:2 notifications are submitted (e.g. TRQs implemented on a calendar year basis are included in one Table MA:2 notification and the remaining ones implemented on a marketing year basis are covered in another annual Table MA:2 notification). Refer for example to

- G/AG/N/EEC/45 and G/AG/N/EEC/48 or
- G/AG/N/CAN/21 and G/AG/N/CAN/23.



HOW TO NOTIFY?

► Case 1:

- ALFA has two tariff quotas (on **butter** and **potatoes**) in its Schedule.
- Tariff quotas on both products were opened in the calendar year 2007.
- How should the information be presented in its Table MA:2 notification?

Table MA:2 Lists relating to tariff and other quota commitments

Table MA:2

MARKET ACCESS: name of Member
REPORTING PERIOD: calendar year, marketing year, etc.
Lists relating to tariff and other quota commitments

Description of products	Tariff item number(s) encompassed in product description	Tariff quota quantity for period in question	In-quota imports during period
(from Section I-B (or I-A) of Part I of the Schedule)	(from Section I-B (or I-A) of Part I of the Schedule)	(derived from Section I-B (or I-A) of Part I of the Schedule)	
1	2	3	4

Table MA:2 Lists relating to tariff and other quota commitments

Table MA:2 Case 1 (e.g. G/AG/N/KOR/5)

MARKET ACCESS: Alfa

REPORTING PERIOD: calendar year 2007

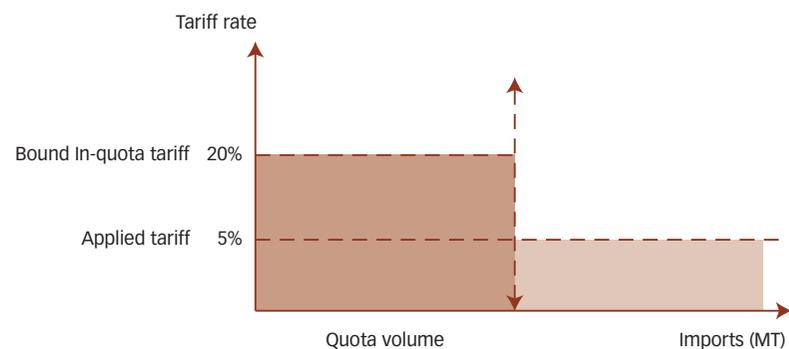
Lists relating to tariff and other quota commitments

Description of products (from Section I-B (or I-A) of Part I of the Schedule)	Tariff item number(s) encompassed in product description (from Section I-B (or I-A) of Part I of the Schedule)	Tariff quota quantity for period in question (tonnes) (derived from Section I-B (or I-A) of Part I of the Schedule)	In-quota imports during period (tonnes)
1	2	3	4
Butter	0405.00.00	500	500
Potatoes	0701.10.00	}	450
	0701.90.00	}	150
	total	}	600

Table MA:2 Lists relating to tariff and other quota commitments

► **Case 2:**

- ALFA opens tariff quota only on **potato**.
- Tariff quota on **butter** was not opened in the calendar 2008 as the applied tariff (5%) was below the bound in-quota tariff (20%).



- How should the information be presented in its Table MA:2 notification?

Table MA:2 Lists relating to tariff and other quota commitments

► **Example 1:**

When the data on imports of butter is not included in the table with a suitable justification for its non-inclusion.

Table MA:2

Case 2, Example 1
(e.g. G/AG/N/NIC/23,
G/AG/N/NOR/53,
G/AG/N/CRI/25)

MARKET ACCESS: Alfa

REPORTING PERIOD: calendar year 2008

Lists relating to tariff and other quota commitments

Description of products (from Section I-B (or I-A) of Part I of the Schedule)	Tariff item number(s) encompassed in product description (from Section I-B (or I-A) of Part I of the Schedule)	Tariff quota quantity for period in question (tonnes) (derived from Section I-B (or I-A) of Part I of the Schedule)	In-quota imports during period (tonnes)
1	2	3	4
Potatoes	0701.10.00	}	450
	0701.90.00	}	150
	total	}	600

Note: Butter is not included, as from the year 2008, the government decided to apply 5% tariff on all imports of butter which is below the scheduled in-quota tariff of 20%. Tariff quota on butter is not opened in 2008.



WHAT IF ?

Only a part of the scheduled product coverage is subject to tariff quota operation? Suppose the TRQ is opened only for potatoes in seed (0701.10.00) and not other potatoes (0701.90.00).

A suitable justification (for example, applied tariff for other potatoes is equal to or below the corresponding bound in-quota tariff) should be included, in such cases. Refer, for example, to footnote 2 to poultry TRQ in G/AG/N/CRI/25.

Table MA:2 Lists relating to tariff and other quota commitments

► **Example 2:**

When butter is included in the table. Column 4 includes total imports of butter along with a clarificatory statement concerning the non-opening of the TRQ on butter.

Table MA:2

Case 2, Example 2
(e.g. G/AG/N/AUS/66,
G/AG/N/NZL/55)

MARKET ACCESS: Alfa

REPORTING PERIOD: calendar year 2008

Lists relating to tariff and other quota commitments

Description of products (from Section I-B (or I-A) of Part I of the Schedule)	Tariff item number(s) encompassed in product description (from Section I-B (or I-A) of Part I of the Schedule)	Tariff quota quantity for period in question (tonnes) (derived from Section I-B (or I-A) of Part I of the Schedule)	In-quota imports during period (tonnes)
1	2	3	4
Butter ¹	0405.00.00	500	720
Potatoes	0701.10.00	}	450
	0701.90.00	}	150
	total	}	600

¹ From the year 2008, the government decided to apply a tariff of 5% on all imports of butter, which is below the bound in-quota tariff of 20%. Tariff quota on butter is, therefore, not opened. Column 4 includes total amount of butter imports in the year 2008.