



Agriculture and  
Agri-Food Canada

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# Domestic Support Notifications: Canada's Experience

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Canada

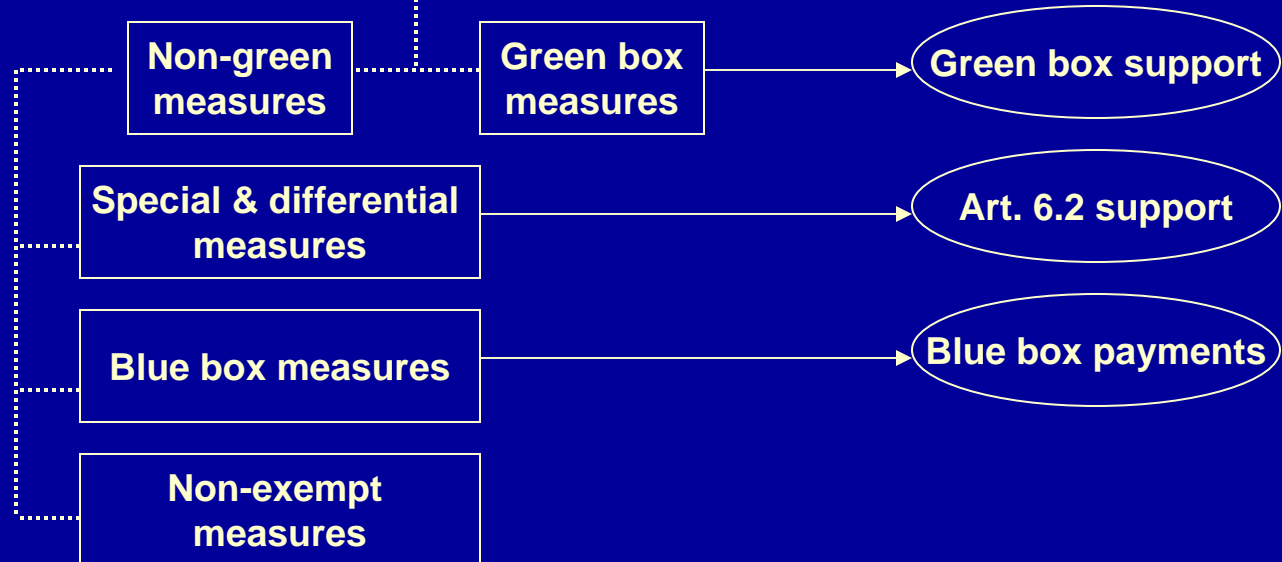
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# Context for DS notifications

- Why notifications?
- Review progress in implementation
  - Requirement in Article 18
  - Formats in G/AG/2
  - Helps to improve transparency and understanding
- Important distinctions
  - Notifying under different agreements
    - Agreement on Agriculture
    - vs. Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures
  - Classifying measures is different from measuring support
    - Measures
    - vs. measurements in the Agreement on Agriculture

... measures in favor of agricultural producers



... measures in favor of agricultural producers

Non-green  
measures

Green box  
measures

Green box support

Special & differential  
measures

Art. 6.2 support

Blue box measures

Blue box payments

Non-exempt  
measures

Calculate  
AMSs

Current  
Total AMS

must  
not exceed

Total AMS  
commitment

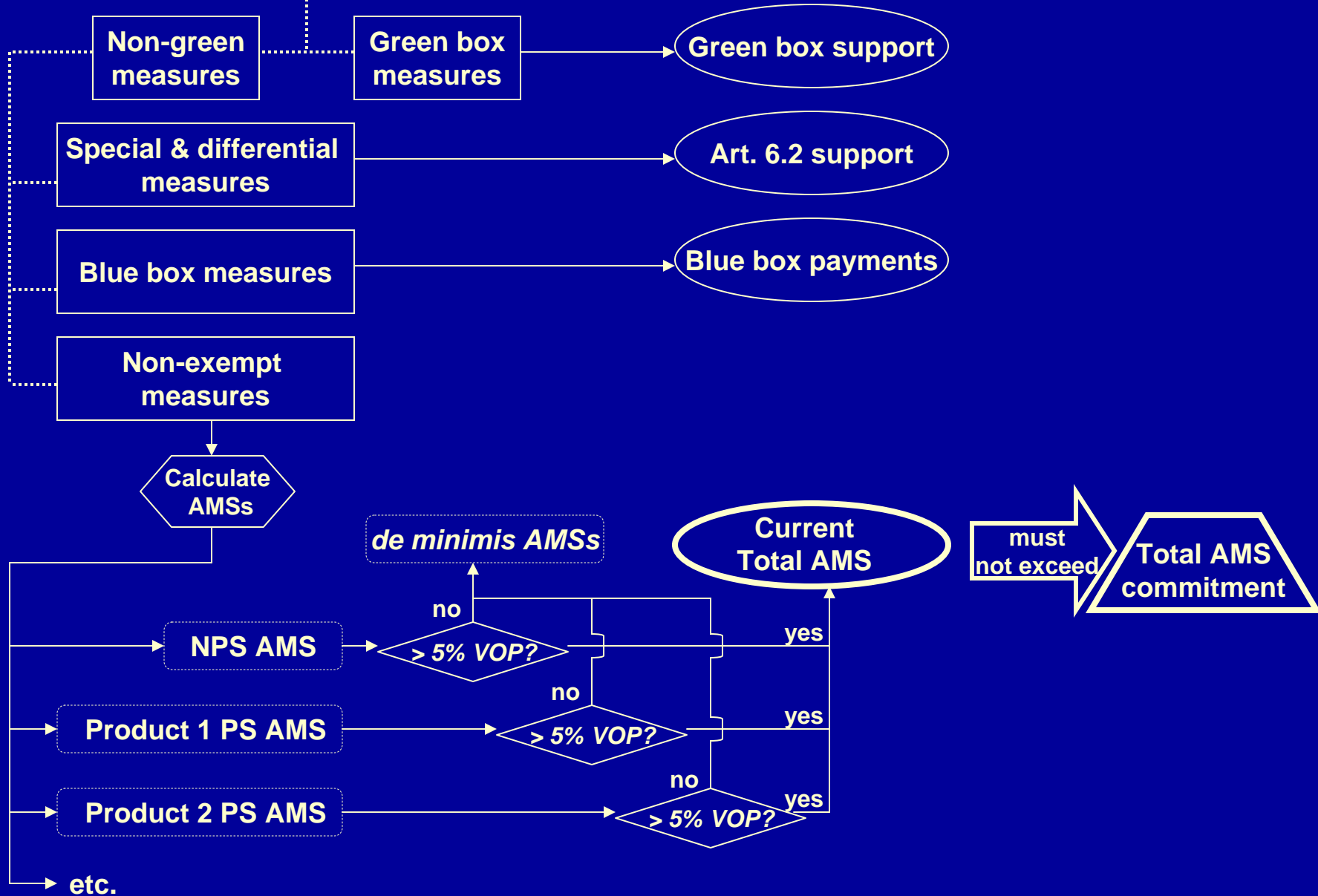
NPS AMS

Product 1 PS AMS

Product 2 PS AMS

etc.

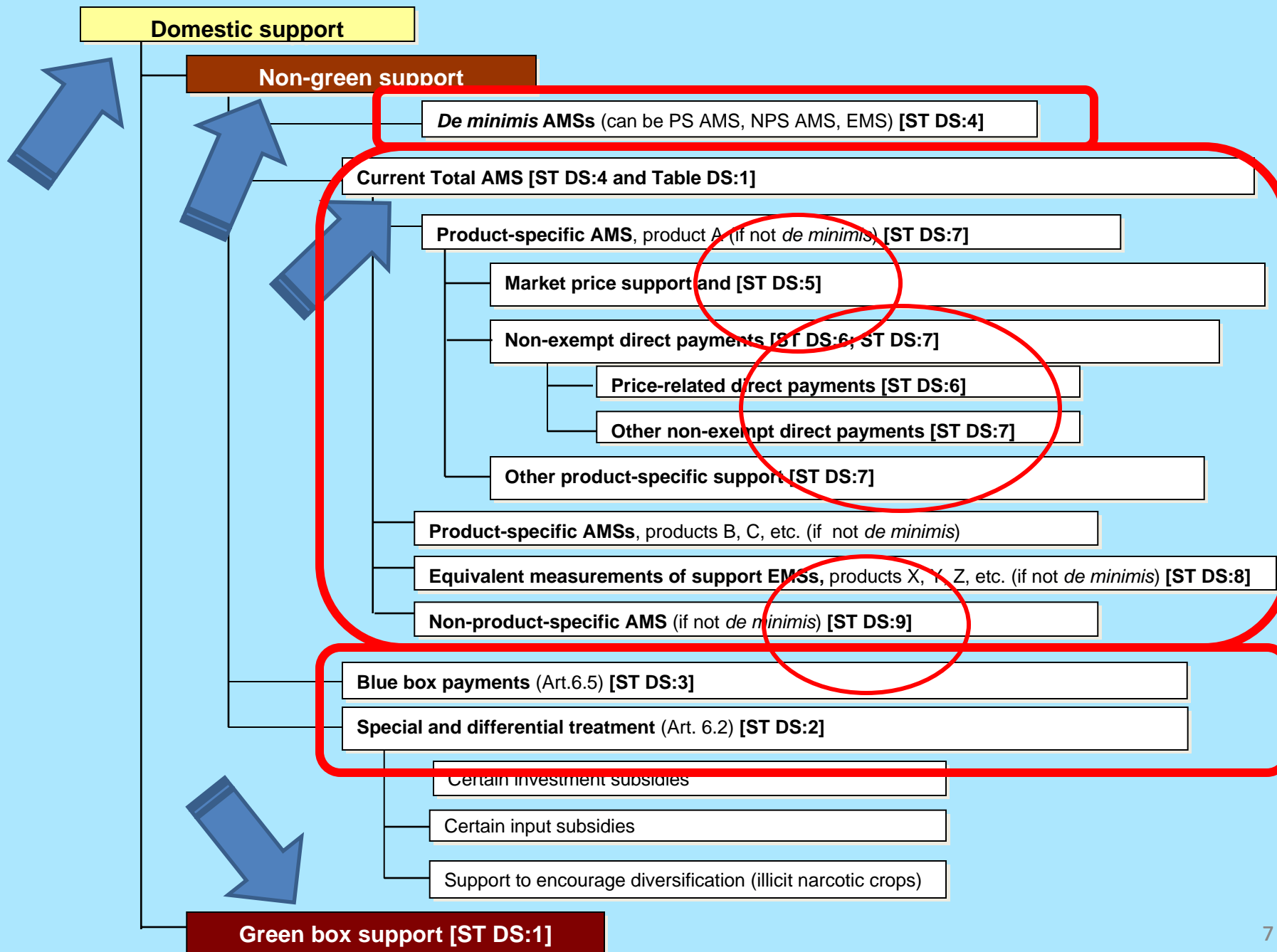
... measures in favor of agricultural producers





## More distinctions

- Describing measures and measuring support for different purposes
  - WTO notifications: 153 Members using 125 Schedules
  - vs. e.g., OECD policy monitoring: 30 members and 7 non-members
- Tables vs. Supporting Tables in DS
  - Only two Tables
  - vs. nine Supporting Tables





# Preparing own notifications

- **Agriculture: jurisdiction of federal and provincial governments**
  - Shared jurisdiction conditions process of preparing notifications
  - Effective communication is essential
- **Working level: ongoing interaction**
  - Program delivery agencies, other levels of government
    - Providing information for notifications is seen as a routine task, not one-off
    - Meetings, workshops, phone calls: all staff familiar with info needs
- **Senior management: notifications is important work**
  - Notification process occasionally on agenda for senior meetings
- **Helpful context: governments cooperate on “Government Expenditures” and on some data for OECD support measurement**
  - Different policy classification and measurement methods
  - But one institutional setup serves several purposes



# Preparing own notifications

- Table DS:2
  - Trade policy staff in the loop when new policy measures are designed
    - Advice on green box compatibility
    - Draft Table DS:2 notification to show how the measure conforms with green box criteria
- Table DS:1
  - Support measurement staff collect some information on ongoing and new policy measures
    - Description of measure: to allow proper classification (coding)
    - Preliminary estimate of amount of support under measure
  - Each policy measure (there are many hundreds) is given a code
    - Indicates where in the Table DS:1 notification the measure will be reported
    - G1-G19 for Supporting Table DS:1
    - A1-A5 for Supporting Tables ST DS:5, 6, 7, and 9
    - Coding (=placement) of a particular measure can be discussed among trade policy staff, support measurement staff, and program delivery staff
      - Need to reach common understanding on how policy measure works

# Submitting own notifications

- Trade policy staff prepare full draft notification in WTO format
  - Classification of measures
    - Using mainly policy descriptions collected by support measurement staff
    - May be augmented through more contacts with program delivery staff
  - Amount of support
    - Using mainly data collected by support measurement staff
      - Most data from public sources
      - Can be used in draft notifications before data is publicly released
      - Some data from administrative sources
    - All data points are traceable to source
- Draft notification is circulated for internal review in several stages
  - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada; Dep't of Foreign Affairs and International Trade; provincial governments
  - Consider comments; obtain senior management approval
  - Translate final version
    - English and French
- Submit to DFAIT for transmission to WTO Secretariat



# Reviewing notifications of other Members

- **Ongoing participatory process**
  - Industry, provinces, other government departments
  - Helps to identify our interests: competition from subsidized producers?
  - Ensures necessary data are ready when needed
- **Review and analysis of notifications**
  - Timing driven by CoAg agendas
    - Process to feed into CoAg: agree among government departments
- **Prepare for meeting**
  - Arrange for feedback and follow-up



# Prepare for CoAg meeting

- Review notifications as they appear
  - Draw on Annex 3, earlier notifications, AGST, Schedules, TPRM, ASCM notifications, OECD policy monitoring and reviews, national sources, etc.
  - Does policy representation in notification match what is said elsewhere?
    - If not, why not?
- Write up brief analysis of notification
  - Take into account answers in earlier CoAg meetings
  - Share with country experts, industry experts, other government departments
  - Keep on file as starting point for review of next year's notification
- Formulate question based on analysis
  - Elicit the info needed to confirm Member's compliance with rules and obligations
  - Anticipate Member's answers
    - Helps to gauge importance of submitting the question
- Submit to DFAIT for transmission to WTO Secretariat within given timeline
  - Consider need to advise other Members' delegations in advance

# Sample notification review schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				31 <b>REMINDER AIRGRAM</b> gives CoAg's due dates	1	2
3	4	5	6 Own due date for draft	7 Circulate own questions to Other Government Dept's	8	9
10	11 Questions due to own delegation in Geneva	12	13 Questions due to WTO Secretariat	14	15 <b>AGENDA AIRGRAM</b> prepare instructions	16
17	18	19	20 Circulate instructions to OGDs	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 WTO CoAg meeting	28	29	30



# Lessons learnt – what is important?

- Continuous attention to need to assemble information for own notifications
  - Not full-time team all the time but always part of several people's job
  - Document sources and earlier work
- Review notifications of others
  - Identify important and systemic issues
  - Ensure transfer of know-how and sources as staff change over time





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