Preparation and Analysis of Agriculture Notifications in Japan

- An Overview of SSG application in Japan

WTO Workshop on Agriculture Notification 22 September 2009

Outline

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I. Summary of the Process for Agriculture Notifications in Japan

Accumulation of know-how on the notification process and allocation of staff dedicated to the process

(1)Ministry of Agriculture: (MAFF); (2)Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA); (3) Ministry of Finance (MOF)

Preparation

Collection and provision of information and data required to prepare the notification (MAFF, MOFA and MOF)

Preparation and elaboration of the draft notification (MAFF, MOFA and MOF)

Submission of the notification to the WTO Secretariat (MOFA in Tokyo and the Permanent Mission in Geneva)

Analysis

Downloading of notifications from the WTO website and their analysis (MAFF)

II. Information Required for Preparation of Notifications on Special Safeguards (SSGs) and its Data Sources

- ○Notifications on volume-based SSGs (MA:3)
 - Description of product
 - Tariff item number
 - Trigger level (including information required for the calculation of the trigger level)
 - Volume of imports entering territory in current period
 - Period of application
- ○Notifications on price-based SSGs (MA:4)
 - Description of product
 - Tariff item number
 - Trigger price (including information required for the calculation of the trigger price)

Data Source

Trade statistics of Japan

Relevant provisions
in the Temporary
Tariff Measures Law

Trade statistics of Japan

III. An Example of Actual Work on Notifications: Preparation of Notifications on Volume-based SSGs

1. Roles of Each Authority Concerned with Notifications

MOF

5) Invokes the SSG

4) and 7) Elaborates the draft notification

MOFA

- 9) Elaborates and submits the notification to the WTO via the Permanent Mission in Geneva
 - 8) Forwards the final draft notification

Domestic Divisions in charge of products eligible for SSGs

2) Shares the information from MOF

1) Provides

information on

taking the SSG

possibility of

- 4) and 7)
- Elaborates the draft notification

International Affairs Bureau,
Divisions for the WTO and tariff
system affairs

- 3) Prepares the initial draft
 - 6) Prepares the final draft

MAFF

III. 2-1. Timeline of the work on preparation of notifications (Before the invocation of the volume-based SSG)

April 2009

Provided the information that the volume of imports of Product X was likely to exceed the trigger level (from MOF to MAFF)

Shared the information on SSG (within MOF and MAFF)



May

Prepared the initial draft notification (MAFF)
Elaborated the draft notification (MOF and MAFF)



29 May

Announced the application of the SSG in the official government gazette beforehand



1 June

Application of the SSG

III. 2-2. Timeline of the work on preparation of notifications (After the invocation of the volume-based SSG)

1 June 2009 Application of SSG
Prepared the final draft notification (MAFF)



5 June

Elaborated the final draft notification (MOF and MAFF) Forwarded the final draft notification (MAFF to MOFA)



8 June

Elaborated additionally on the final draft notification (MOFA) Forwarded the finalized notification (MOFA to Geneva)



9 June

Submitted the notification (the Permanent Mission in Geneva to the WTO Secretariat)

18 June

Circulated the notification (the WTO Secretariat to WTO Members)