



CASE STUDY: How to use the SPS Information Management System (SPS IMS)

Notifications

You are representing a country producing cocoa and cocoa products. As such, you would like to export your products to the European Union, Switzerland or the United States, the main importers of cocoa products for processing. In addition, you are also interested in growing markets such as Brazil, China or India. However, you need first to know more about these markets and their regulations on cocoa imports, to see if your country's products can comply. To that effect, you can check these Members' notifications on the SPS IMS. As a first step, you will focus on EU notifications:

1. Do a search for all regular notifications circulated by the European Union covering products under HS Code 18 and with the objective of food safety until 30 September 2015. Which notification(s) do you retrieve? **G/SPS/N/EEC/403 and G/SPS/N/EU/55**



Make use of the "Products covered (HS codes)", "objective and rationale", and "date of distribution" fields

2. Now open the latest one, notification G/SPS/N/EU/55. View it in Word. What is the title of the notified document? **Draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 1881/2006 as regards maximum levels of cadmium in foodstuffs**
3. How many regular notifications on cocoa and cocoa preparations (HS code 18) relating to *contaminants* were circulated by the WTO Secretariat by 30 September 2015? **8**



Make use of the "notification keyword" field

4. The cocoa industry from your country is interested in finding all the measures notified to the WTO concerning cocoa and cocoa preparations from 1 January 2015 to 30 September 2015. They would like to know the following information: i) document symbol, ii) notifying Member, iii) regions or countries likely to be affected, iv) notified document title, and v) final date for comments (including free texts). Export the results to an excel table. How many notifications do you retrieve? **23**



Use the "custom reporting" function on the left tab



Specific trade concerns (STCs)

To export your cocoa products to the European Union, you may also wish to be aware of the STCs related to cocoa and cocoa preparations in which the European Union is or was involved:

5. Which STC relating to cocoa and cocoa preparations is related to a measure maintained by the European Union? Give the number, the title and the other Member(s) involved. Has it been reported as resolved? **276, Maximum residue levels for pesticides in cacao, European Union and Ecuador – No**



Use the "specific trade concerns" search function on the left tab, and field "Products covered (HS codes)"

6. What was the measure at issue in this STC? **click on link and go to tab 5 to view summary of discussions in the Committee**
7. As a cocoa exporter, it would also be useful for you to know more about the STCs raised on measures related to cocoa in general, in order to know which issues can cause concerns when trading cocoa and cocoa products. Using the search function, find all specific trade concerns raised due to measures related to cocoa imposed by WTO Members. How many STCs are they? **8 STCs: 60, 197, 212, 267, 276, 283, 321, 325**



Use the fields of "Title of STC" or "Description of Content" or "Products covered (HS codes)"

Enquiry Points/Notification Authorities

You have just found some relevant notifications in the SPS IMS. However, you do not understand some points that are not clearly explained in the notifications, or you have further questions on a specific measure. You will then need to refer to your potential trade partner's Enquiry Point.

8. Find the address of the European Union's Enquiry Point. In which city is it located? What is its telephone number? **Brussels - +(322) 29 54263 / 60933 / 80895**



In the context of your trade partnership, European exporters would like to export to your country some processed products made from your cocoa. However, your country has just initiated work on a new regulation on chocolate products that could affect exporters from the European Union and other WTO Members. You would like to confirm with your National Notification Authority that this draft regulation will be promptly notified.

9. Go to your Country's information for National Notification and Enquiry Point Authority. Is the information provided in the SPS IMS correct? **If not, please provide us with the correct information.**
10. Prepare the contact lists of National Notification Authorities and National Enquiry Points.



Use the "predefine reports" function

Other SPS documents

Many producers have referred to possible impacts of private standards on cocoa and cocoa products. As such, you would like to search for documents circulated in the SPS Committee on private standards:

11. As of 31 March 2015, how many documents have been circulated by the SPS Committee concerning private standards and what is the title of the latest document? **90, Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures - Recent activities by the OECD of interest to the SPS Committee (G/SPS/GEN/1399)**



Make use of the "Subject keyword" field

Now you got all this information, please export your cocoa products, we can't wait to taste them!