

18 June 2019

# Using a TBT Notification Alert System to engage the private sector in commenting on WTO Notifications: US experiences and practices

# Today's Discussion

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1. What does the [USA TBT Enquiry Point](#) do?
2. How does the USA TBT Enquiry Point facilitate stakeholder awareness of and comments on TBT notifications?
3. What is the role of the USA TBT Enquiry Point in soliciting and sharing comments on TBT notifications?
4. What are the benefits of using the USA TBT Enquiry to comment on notifications?
5. What are some considerations when engaging with stakeholders on commenting?

# #1 USA TBT Enquiry Point Roles:

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## The USA TBT Enquiry Point—

- Makes **notification details available** via Notify U.S.
- Distributes **comments, correspondence from U.S. stakeholders** to WTO members and keeps USG trade agencies informed
- Distributes **comments, responds to correspondence from WTO members** and keeps USG trade agencies informed
- Provides **information & guidance** to U.S. industry on comment submissions
- Monitors U.S. Federal and State regulations and notifies the WTO of potential TBTs



## #2 Facilitating Awareness

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**Distributes Key Information from the  
Notifications and Provides Full Texts**



**[www.nist.gov/notifyus](http://www.nist.gov/notifyus)**

**a free, web-based, e-mail registration service**



## #3 Providing Guidance and Sharing Comments

- Enquiry Point provides guidance for US commenters on the Notify U.S. website at <https://tsapps.nist.gov/notifyus/data/guidance/guidance.cfm>
- U.S. entities submit comments, procedural questions, other information requests to the USA TBT Inquiry Point
  - Enquiry Point distributes comments/messages to:
    - appropriate WTO member national enquiry point
    - U.S. government trade/export agencies
- WTO members submit comments on USA notifications to USA Enquiry Point
  - Enquiry Point distributes comments/ to:
    - U.S. government regulators and trade agencies





## #4 Benefiting from Use of the Enquiry Point

Make Notify US or ePing part of your routine



- Learn about TRs and CAPs in draft stages
- Comment on and influence drafts
- Connect to trade agencies (USTR, USDA)
- Establish placeholder for possible escalation

To avoid missed opportunities for intervention



# #1 Tracking USA TBT Comment Activity 2015-2019 (as of 12 June)

Calendar Year	CY 2015	CY 2016	CY 2018	CY 2019
USA Comments on WTO Member Notifications	183	230	270	85
USA Information Requests to WTO Members	44	35	68	39

# #5 Creating Awareness with Your Stakeholders:

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## Considerations

- Does Your Enquiry Point already accept comments on notifications from stakeholders? What improvements, if any, would you like to make in your commenting procedures?
- What challenges do you face in monitoring notifications or connecting/engaging with stakeholders who do?
- Are there existing tools or resources to tap into to connect with your stakeholders and solicit feedback on notifications?
- How might we use ePing to facilitate commenting?



# Working Together



*Thank you for your attention!*

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