



# Transparency in the SPS Agreement

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WTO

# Why Transparency?

- Enhanced clarity, predictability
- Affects market access



# Transparency elements

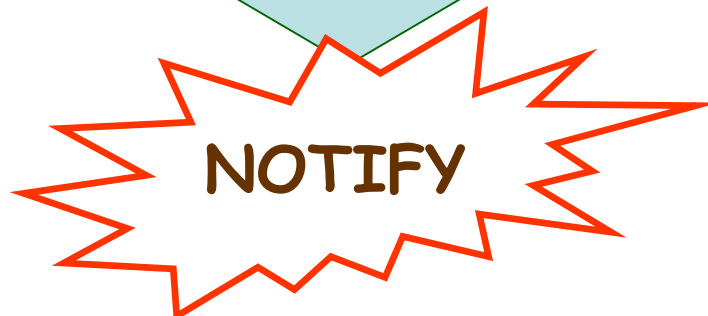
## Obligations

- Notification of draft SPS regulations
- Designation of notification authority
- Publication of SPS regulations
- Establishment of enquiry point

## Beyond obligations

- Taking advantage of notifications

# Notification of draft SPS regulations: What to notify?



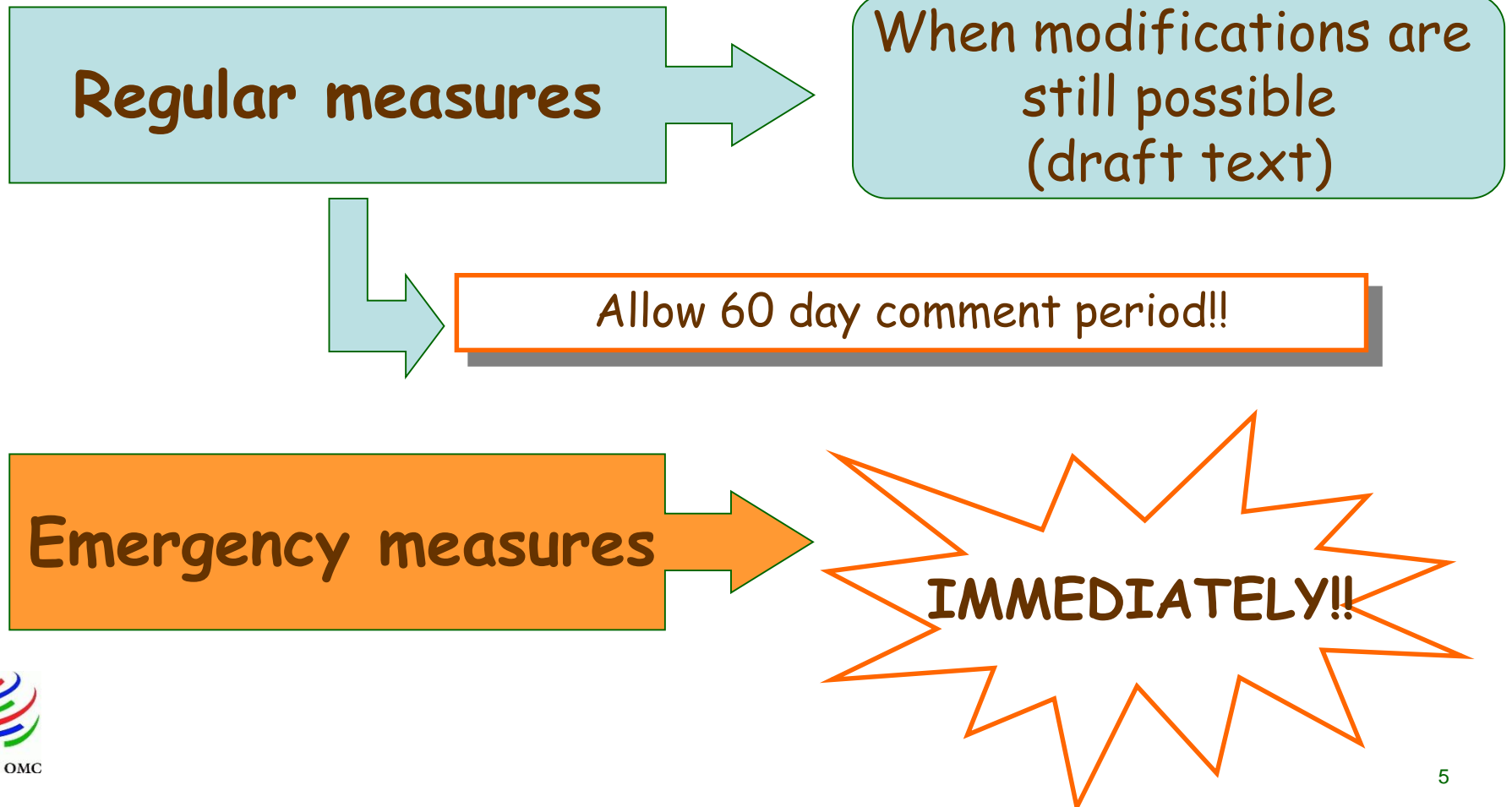
2008  
Transparency  
Procedures



Same as  
International  
Standard



# Notification of draft SPS regulations: When to notify and in which format?



# Notification of draft SPS regulations: When to notify and in which format?

- Addendum - provides additional information or changes to an original notification
- Corrigendum - corrects error in original notification
- Revision - replaces an existing notification

# Notification of draft SPS regulations: New recommendations

*G/SPS/7/Rev.3* - operational as of 1 December 2008

- Notify measures based on international standards
- Default choice - 60 day comment period
- Identify date of publication
- Date of entry into force - 6 months after date of publication

# What else to notify?

- Recognition of equivalence:  
measure recognized, products covered  
(G/SPS/7/Rev.3 - specific format)
- Special and differential treatment: difficulties  
with notified measure  
(G/SPS/33/Rev.1 - specific format, under review)
  - Regionalization:  
request and/or determination  
(G/SPS/48 - no specific format)



# Who notifies?

## National Notification Authority

Single central government authority  
responsible for the implementation of  
notification procedures  
e.g., agency responsible for food safety,  
animal and plant health

Only one NNA

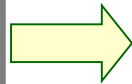
# Publication of regulations

Publish what?

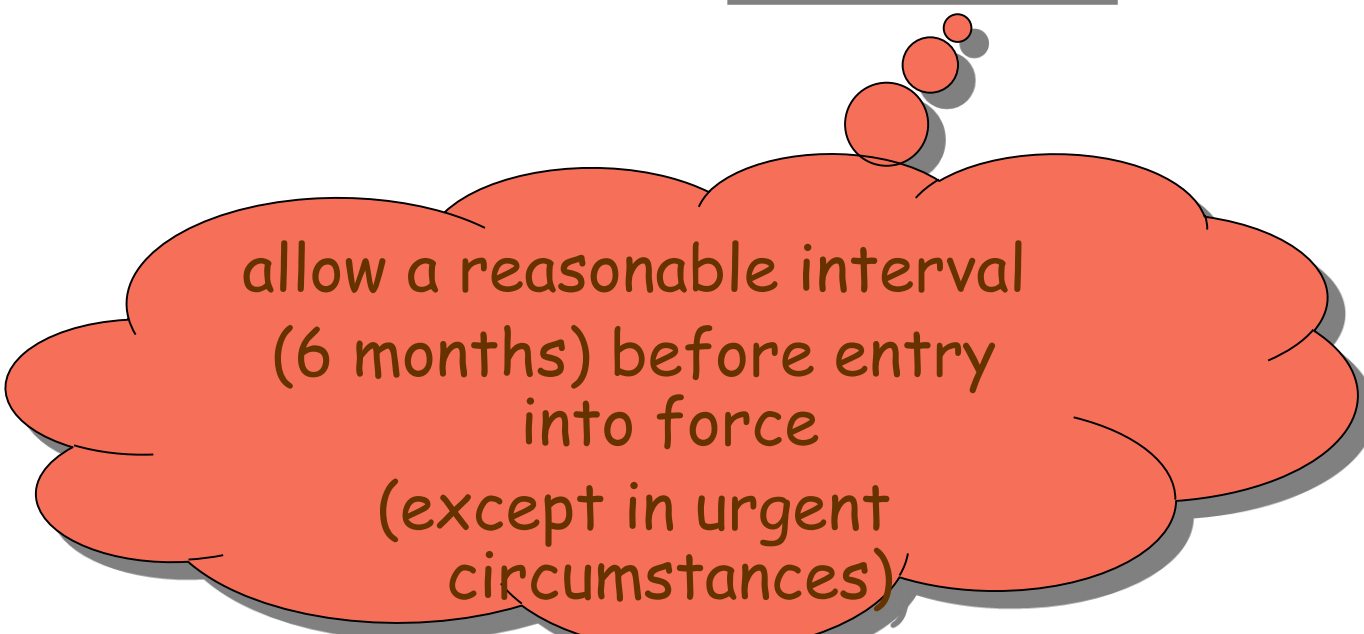


SPS regulations

When?

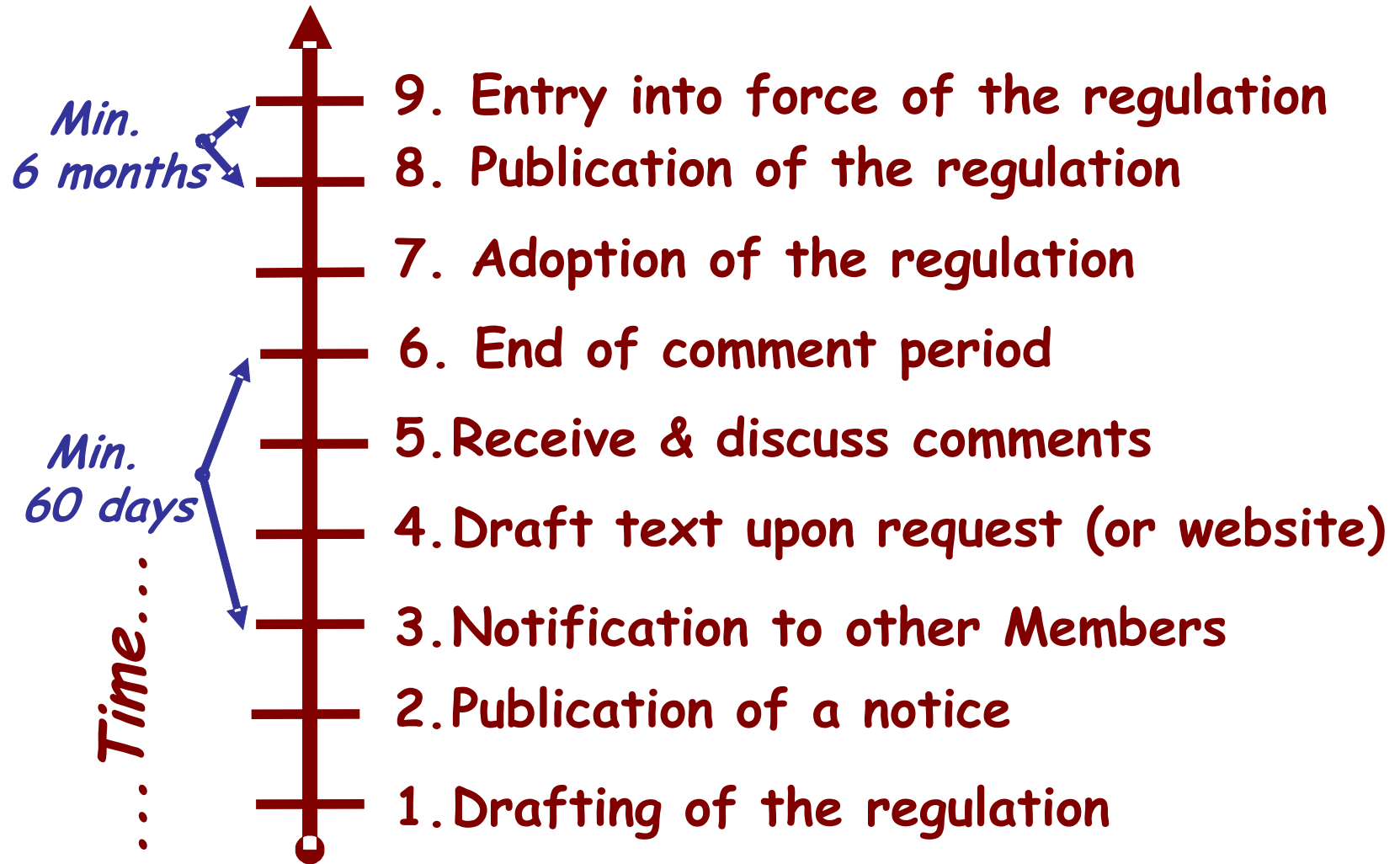


Promptly

A large red thought bubble with three smaller red circles leading up to it from the 'Promptly' box.

allow a reasonable interval  
(6 months) before entry  
into force  
(except in urgent  
circumstances)

# Transparency timeline



# Enquiry Point

Provides answers and documentation to all reasonable questions from interested Members

- Can be same as NNA
- Can have more than one but clearly define responsibilities

# All reasonable questions?

Regarding...

- SPS regulations, draft or adopted
- Inspection procedures, etc.
- Risk assessment
- Membership in international organizations or international agreements
- Text of these agreements

# Using the Enquiry Point: Beyond Obligations

- Collect/disseminate SPS information
  - SPS documents
  - SPS notifications received that could affect exports
- Inform other government agencies, private sector
- Coordinate comments on other countries' notifications

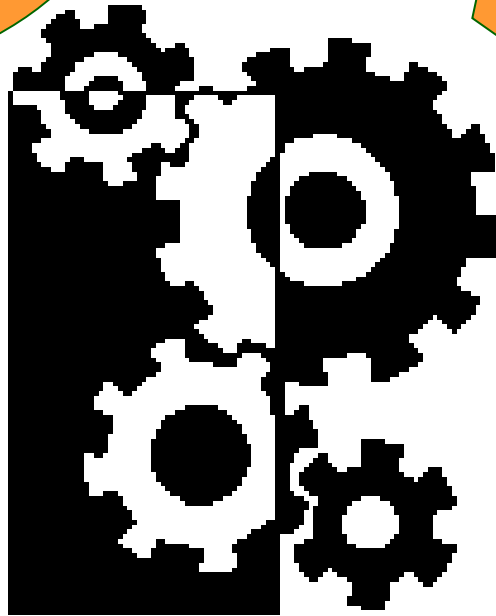
# Making it work

- Resources need not be extensive
- Existing infrastructure such as computer, photocopier, telephone, postal services, fax
- Additional resources such as email and internet

But more importantly



# Enquiry Point



Other government bureaus  
Private sector  
Geneva mission  
OIE, Codex, and IPPC  
WTO Secretariat



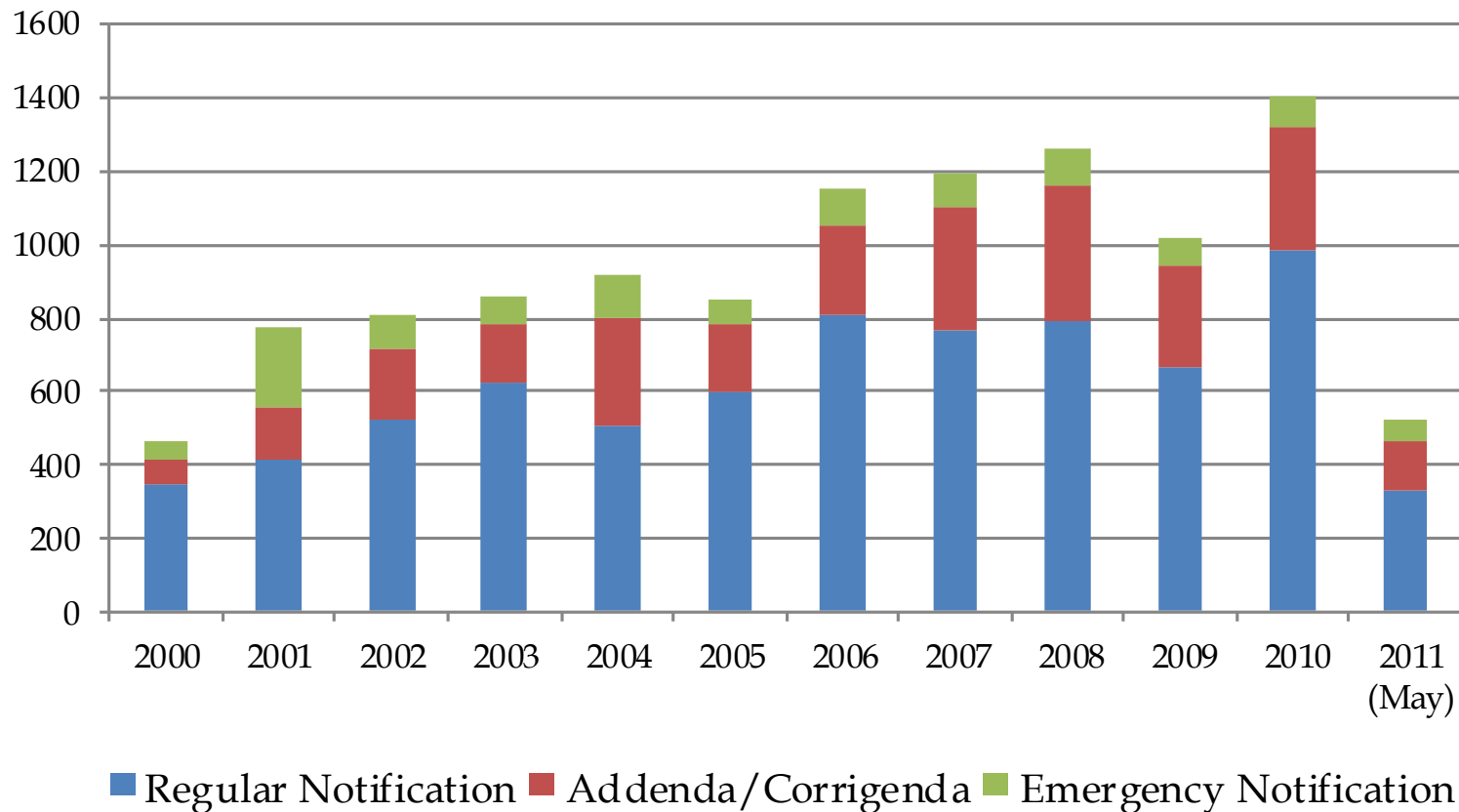
# Notifications



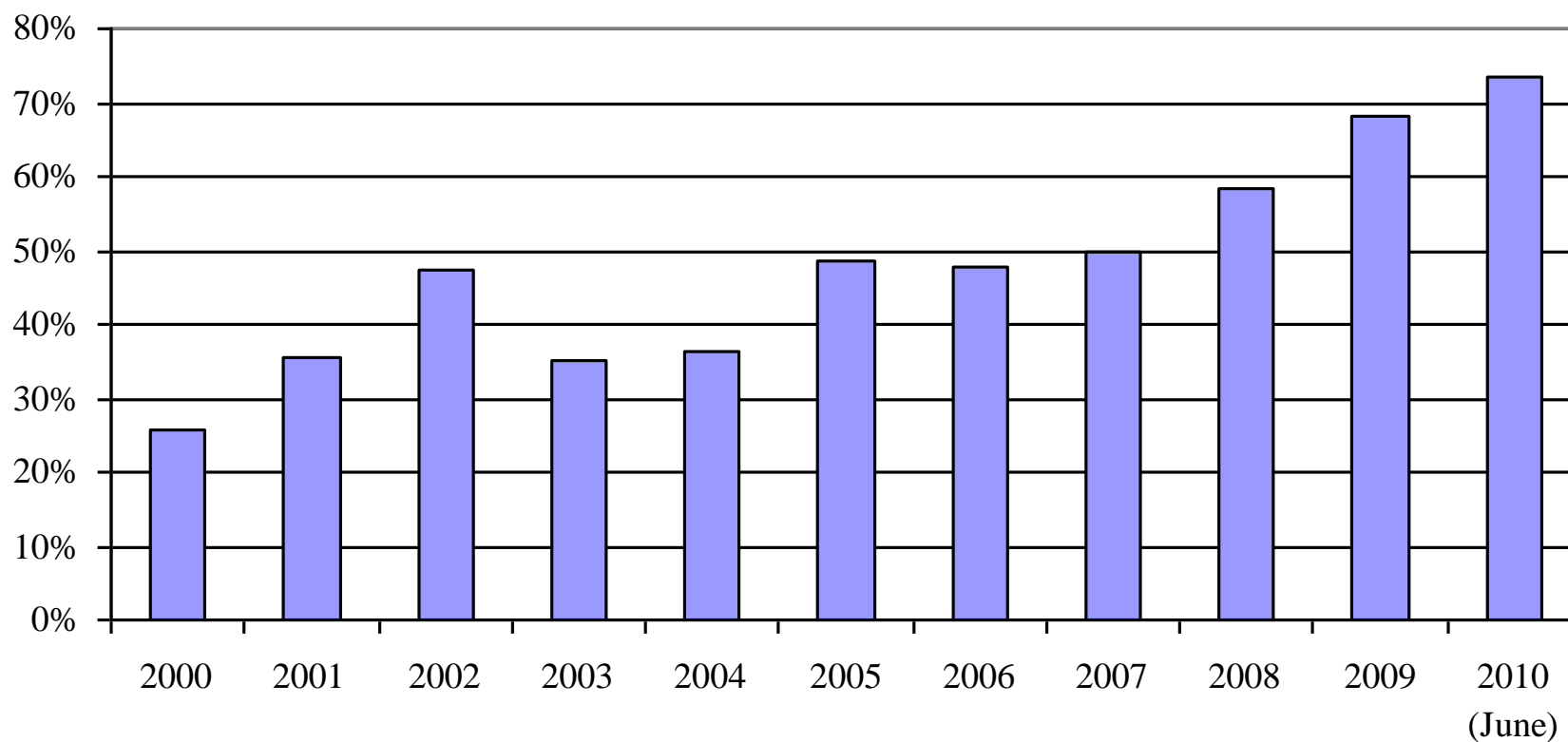
# Notifications circulated (2000 – 05/2011)

## Total: 11,247

Notifications Submitted per Year



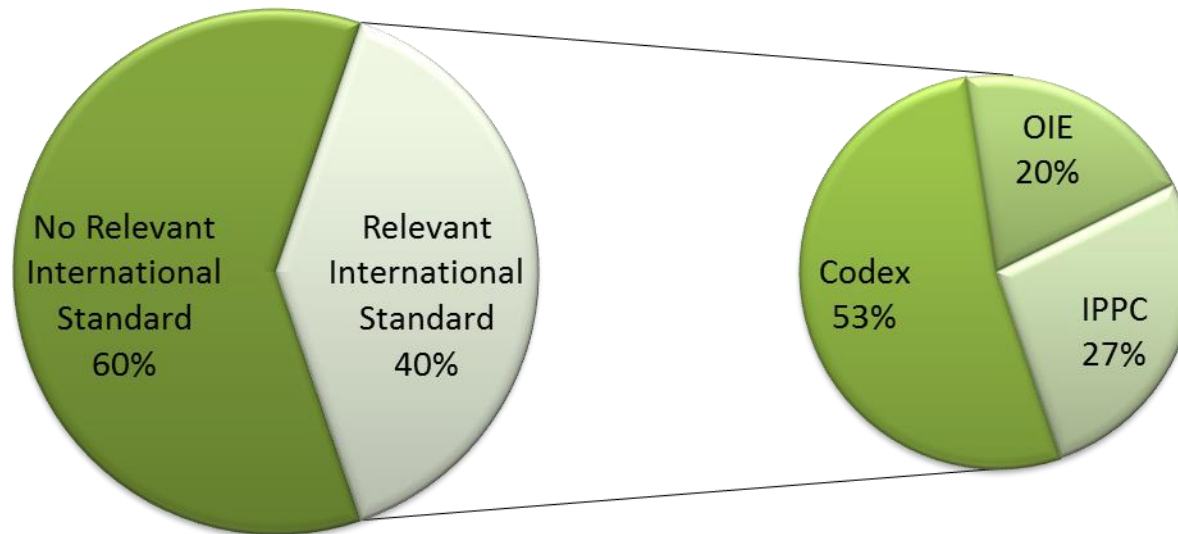
## Share of Total Notifications Submitted by Developing country Members (including LDCs)



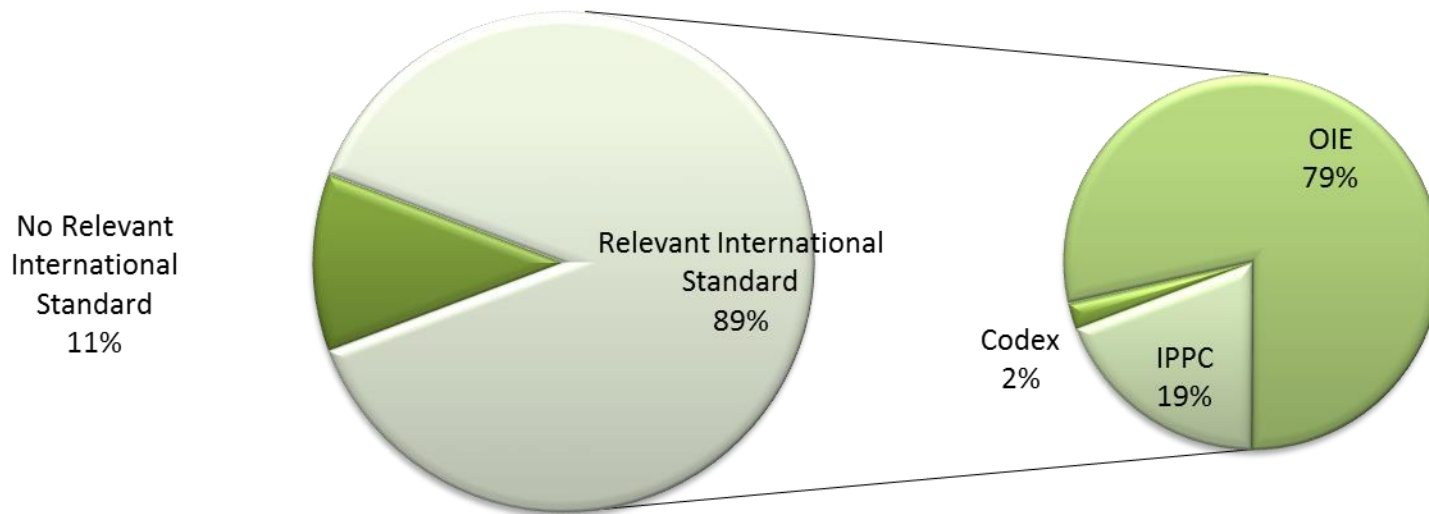
# Top Notifiers (30/06/10)

Regular Notifications			Emergency Notifications		
Member	No.	Share of Total	Member	No.	Share of Total
United States	1967	25.0%	Albania	115	9.4%
Brazil	642	8.2%	Philippines	102	8.3%
Canada	459	5.8%	New Zealand	101	8.3%
China	422	5.4%	United States	76	6.2%
New Zealand	344	4.4%	Peru	58	4.7%
Korea, Republic of	344	4.4%	Colombia	55	4.5%
European Union	336	4.3%	European Union	46	3.8%
Chile	305	3.9%	Mexico	36	2.9%
Peru	284	3.6%	Thailand	34	2.8%
Japan	237	3.0%	Canada	28	2.3%
Australia	228	2.9%	Kenya	27	2.2%
Chinese Taipei	197	2.5%	Ukraine	25	2.0%
Mexico	188	2.4%	Latvia	24	2.0%
Thailand	161	2.0%	Chile	23	1.9%
Colombia	144	1.8%	Australia	23	1.9%
Argentina	122	1.6%	China	22	1.8%
Bahrain	88	1.1%	Korea, Republic of	22	1.8%
Costa Rica	84	1.1%	Singapore	19	1.6%
Philippines	82	1.0%	Argentina	18	1.5%
El Salvador	82	1.0%	Jordan	17	1.4%

# Since December 2008 Regular Notifications



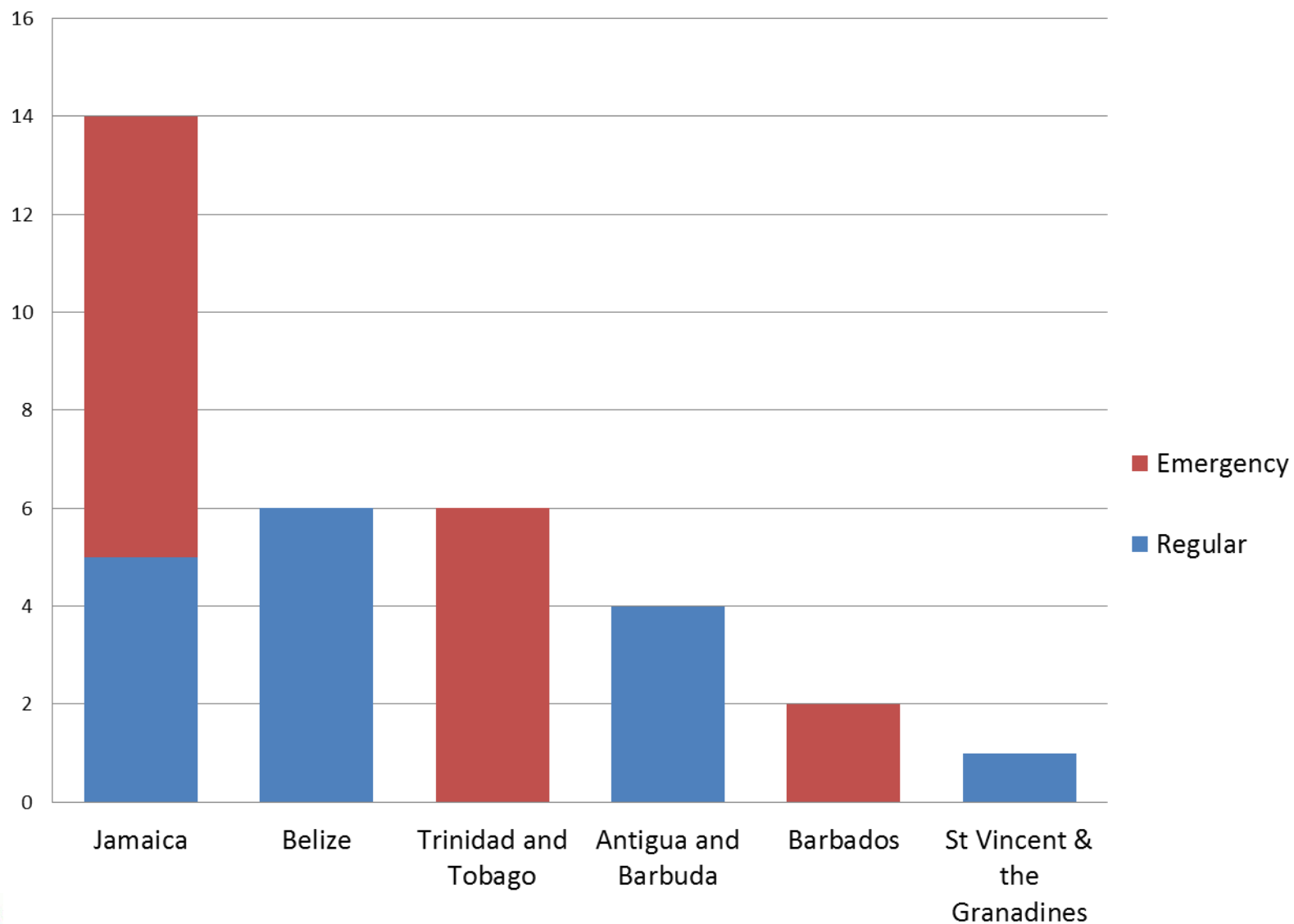
# Since December 2008 Emergency Notifications



# Participating Members Transparency Status

WTO Member	Has Notified SPS:		Has Notified SPS Measures
	Enquiry Point	National Notification Authority*	
Antigua and Barbuda	X	X	X
Barbados	X	X	X
Belize	X	X	X
Dominica	X	X	
Grenada	X	X	
Guyana	X	X	
Haiti	X	X	
Jamaica	X	X	X
Saint Lucia	X	X	
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	X	X	X
Suriname	X	X	
Trinidad and Tobago	X	X	X

## Notifications Caribbean Region







...and if the proposed measure will have an impact on my exports?



Symbol	Type	Distribution	Members	Products	Regions or countries likely to be affected
G/SPS/N/ECU/83	R	15/03/2010	Ecuador	Plant products with foliage: Ornamental palms, areca palms, date palms, coconut palms, banana trees, ginger (Zingiberaceae), heliconias (Heliconiaceae), bird of paradise (Strelitziaceae), screw pine (Pandanaaceae), and other ornamental aroids and Musaceae.	26 countries ( <b>Dominica, Saint Lucia, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago</b> )
G/SPS/N/KOR/313	E	12/02/2009	Korea	Dried persimmon fruit	Asia , North America South America (French Guinea, <b>Guyana, Suriname</b> ), Oceania
G/SPS/N/KOR/339	E	07/08/2009	Korea	Plants for planting including nursery stocks, scions and cuttings, etc. (excluding seeds) in the family Rutaceae, Cuscuta spp and Artocarpus heterophyllus	Mexico (Yucatan), <b>Belize</b> , Cuba, Dominican Republic
G/SPS/N/USA/1962	E	23/10/2009	United States	Prohibited Plant Genera (Rutaceae): Aeglopsis, Atalantia, Balsamocitrus, Bergera, Calodendrum, Citrofortunella, Citroncirus, Citrus, Clausena, Fortunella, Limonia, Microcitrus, Murraya, Poncirus, Severinia, Swinglea, Toddalia, and Triphasia	<b>Belize</b>



WTO OMC

# **SPS Information Management System (SPS IMS)**

# Why SPS IMS?

- Since 1995
  - > 10,000 SPS notifications
  - > 2,000 other SPS documents
  - > 300 specific trade concerns (STCs)
  - Enquiry Point/Notification Authority info changing frequently

# Why SPS IMS?

- Tool for tracking WTO/SPS info
- Significant efficiency gains
- Enhanced analytical capabilities
- Better service for Members

# What data is in the SPS IMS?

- Content of SPS notifications
- Basic info on all SPS-related documents
- Details of all STCs
- Contact information on EPs/NNAs

# How does it help Members?

- to generate with one click:
    - Monthly/Weekly/Daily Summary of Notifications
    - Latest list of Enquiry Points/Notification Authorities
    - Transparency overview
    - Membership in WTO and ISSBs
- "Predefined reports"*

# How does it help Members?

- to undertake searches / prepare reports according to specific needs:
  - Product- or region-specific searches on notifications
  - Theme-specific searches on Committee documents, e.g. on regionalization
  - Queries on specific trade concerns related to specific Members or products

*Possible to export all results to Excel*



# SPS IMS - Exercise



## Aid for Trade: Lamy reports 60% increase in resources and positive impact on the ground

Director-General Pascal Lamy, in opening the Third Global Review of Aid for Trade on 18 July 2011, reported a 60% increase in Aid for Trade resources since 2005. He cited results of the initiative range from increased export volumes, to more employment, to faster customs clearance times and impacts... (18/07/2011)

> Read more

Lamy hails "encouraging" third global review of Aid for Trade

Aid for Trade: Lamy reports 60% increase in resources and positive impact on the ground

France donates EUR 1 million to WTO development programmes

> More news

### Explore our areas of activity



Trade negotiations



Implementation  
and monitoring



Dispute  
settlement



Building trade  
capacity



### Third Global Review of Aid for Trade – 18-19 July 2011

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon gives the keynote speech at the Third Global Review of Aid for Trade (19/07/2011)



### Latest updates

- > New publication: Trade Patterns and Global Value Chains in East Asia: from trade in goods to trade in tasks
- > New working paper: Costa Rica: Trade Opening, FDI Attraction and Global Production Sharing
- > "Made in the World" initiative
- > Discussion Forum: World Trade Report 2011

### Events and meetings

- > Launch of the World Trade Report 2011

**Goods**

Agriculture

- Agriculture negotiations
- Cotton Sub-Committee

Anti-dumping

- Rules negotiations

Balance of payments

Customs valuation

GATT & the Goods Council

Goods schedules

Import licensing

Information Technology  
Agreement

Market access for goods

- Market access negotiations

Rules of origin

Preshipment Inspection

Safeguard measures

Sanitary & phytosanitary  
measures

State trading enterprises

Subsidies & countervail  
measures

- Rules negotiations

- Fisheries subsidies

Tariffs

Technical barriers to trade

Textiles

**Services**

Services negotiations

Services schedules

Intellectual property

TRIPS and public health

Geographical indications

Dispute settlement

Disputes chronologically

Disputes by country/territory

Disputes by agreement

Disputes by subject

Dispute Settlement Body

Appellate Body

**Doha Development Agenda**

Subjects treated

Trade Negotiations Committee

Groups in the negotiations

Building trade capacity

Aid for Trade

Development

Enhanced Integrated  
Framework

Technical assistance and  
training

Trade facilitation

Trade monitoring

Trade monitoring reports

Trade policy reviews

**Other topics**

Accessions

Civil aircraft

Competition policy

Electronic Commerce

Environment

- Climate change

Government procurement

Investment

Regional Trade Agreements

- Negotiations on RTAs

Trade finance

Fra  
WT

> Rea

Expl



Implementation  
and monitoring



Dispute  
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Building trade  
capacity



(19/07/2011)



- > New working paper: Costa Rica: Trade Opening, FDI Attraction and Global Production Sharing
- > "Made in the World" initiative
- > Discussion Forum: World Trade Report 2011

**Events and meetings**

# Sanitary and phytosanitary measures



Problem: How do you ensure that your country's consumers are being supplied with food that is safe to eat – “safe” by the standards you consider appropriate? And at the same time, how can you ensure that strict health and safety regulations are not being used as an excuse for protecting domestic producers?

An agreement on how governments can apply food safety and animal and plant health measures (sanitary and phytosanitary or SPS measures) sets out the basic rules in the WTO.

> **SPS Information Management System:** a database of WTO information on SPS

(Notifications, concerns raised, other documents, enquiry points, etc)

## SEE ALSO

- > [Standards and Trade Development Facility \(STDF\)](#)
- > [Agriculture](#)
- > [Technical barriers to trade](#)

## SPS news [back to top](#)

Includes unofficial and less technical summaries of SPS Committee meetings

- 30 March 2011: [Members take first steps on private standards in food safety, animal-plant health](#)
- 29 October 2010: [Advanced course on sanitary-phytosanitary measures concludes](#)
  - > [News item](#)
  - > [Activity sheet for the course](#)
- 20 October 2010: [New pest rules for containers on horizon, cash-strapped agency tells WTO](#)

- > [More news on sanitary and phytosanitary measures](#)
- > See also [Work on SPS in the WTO](#), below

## DISPUTES

- > [List of disputes citing the SPS agreement](#)

## WHAT'S NEW - SPS MEETINGS AND DOCUMENTS

- > [Agenda for 30-31 March 2011 meeting](#)
- > [SPS Technical Assistance Activities for 2011](#)
- > [Specific Trade Concerns 1995-2010 report](#)
- > [Dates of meetings of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures for 2011](#)
- > [SPS TA courses](#)

## Whose international standards?

Which are the relevant standard-setting organizations for the SPS Agreement? An annex to the agreement names:

- > [the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission](#): for food



# SPS Information Management System

<http://spsims/>

**SPS-IMS**

**WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION**

**Home**  
**Creation**  
 Notification  
 Specific trade concerns  
 Other SPS documents  
**Search**  
**Notifications**  
 Regular notifications  
 Emergency notifications  
 Addenda/Corrigenda  
 Translation Supplements  
 Recognition of equivalence  
**Specific trade concerns**  
 Members involved in STCs  
**Other SPS documents**  
 Enquiry Points/Notification  
 Authorities  
**Report**  
 Custom reporting  
 Predefined reports  
 STC report  
 Notification Authority List  
 Enquiry Point List  
 Membership in WTO and ISSBs  
 Transparency table  
 Notifications summary  
**Settings**  
 Notification keywords  
 Subject keywords  
 General settings  
 Definitions of Groups  
 Useful Links

Welcome

The SPS Information Management System (SPS IMS) is a web-based system for managing information on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (the SPS Agreement).

The SPS IMS allows users to track information on SPS-related documents circulated by the WTO Committee, IPPC, and the OIE.

The system's structure for searching notifications and formats agreed upon by the SPS Committee.

Please click on the desired function from the list below. The difference between a search and a report is that a search will enter one or more criteria to refine your searches, for example under the "description" field, find only those records which contain both "avian" and "influenza". A report will find only those records which contain both "avian" and "influenza".

According to the Verbal Note contained in the SPS Agreement, the European Community. Pre-December 2009, the European Union replaces and succeeds the European Community.

For further information on how to use the system, click on the "Help" button in the top right corner.

**Home**  
**Creation**  
 Notification  
 Specific trade concerns  
 Other SPS documents  
**Search**  
**Notifications**  
 Regular notifications  
 Emergency notifications  
 Addenda/Corrigenda  
 Translation Supplements  
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**System**

**Sign out** | **English** | **Spanish** | **French**

ent under the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and  
[click here.](#)

ied to the WTO, specific trade concerns raised in the SPS  
 and Notification Authorities, and the membership of the WTO,

d their formats. For further information on notification procedures

rch", prepare a "custom report", or view one of the "predefined  
 decide which fields you wish to see in your search results. You can  
 ifying any criteria before clicking on the Search button. For free text  
 o find exact matches. For example, entering "avian influenza" will  
 to Excel. Predefined reports provide reference lists regularly

of 1 December 2009 the European Union replaces and succeeds the  
 able by clicking on the "European Union" option in the dropdown lists.

# Tips for searching

- To search in a free text field for the term ISPM 15 (but not ISPM), enter "ISPM 15"
- To see specific fields in search results, use custom reporting
- To sort a column in search results in ascending or descending order, click on the column title
- If you select more than one search criteria, records meeting all criteria **ONLY** will be shown (AND function)


# Search using custom reporting

The screenshot displays the SPS-IMS web application. The browser's address bar shows "SPS-IMS - Custom reporting". The page header includes the "WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION" logo and the title "SPS Information Management System". A navigation bar contains links for "SPS Gateway", "Help", "Contact Us", "Sign out", and language options: "English", "Spanish", and "French".

A left-hand sidebar menu lists various sections: "Home", "Creation" (with sub-links for "Notification", "Specific trade concerns", and "Other SPS documents"), "Search", "Notifications" (with sub-links for "Regular notifications", "Emergency notifications", "Addenda/Corrigenda", "Translation Supplements", and "Recognition of equivalence"), "Specific trade concerns" (with sub-link for "Members involved in STCs"), "Other SPS documents", "Enquiry Points/Notification", "Authorities", "Report", "Custom reporting", "Predefined reports", "STC report", "Notification Authority List", "Enquiry Point List", "Membership in WTO and ISSBs", "Transparency table", and "Notifications summary".

The main content area is titled "Custom reporting" and features a tabbed interface with tabs labeled "a.", "b.", "c.", "d.", and "e.". The "a." tab is active. To the right of the tabs are buttons for "<< Previous" and "Next >>". Below the tabs is a "Document type" dropdown menu. The dropdown is open, showing a list of notification types: "All types of notifications", "Regular notification" (which is highlighted in blue), "Emergency notification", "Addenda/Corrigenda", "Availability of translations (Supplement)", "Recognition of Equivalence", "Specific trade concerns", and "Other SPS documents".

# Search using custom reporting

**WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION** 

**SPS Information Management System**

SPS Gateway | Help | Contact Us | Sign out | [English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [French](#)

**Home**  
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Notification  
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General settings  
Definitions of Groups  
Useful Links

**Custom reporting**

a. b. c. d. e.

<< Previous Next >>

Document Symbol

Document type

Date of distribution From 01/01/2010 (dd/mm/yyyy) To 31/12/2010 (dd/mm/yyyy)

Notifying Member

Development status Least-developed countries

Geographic/economic groups

Products covered

Available HS Codes

- 01 - LIVE ANIMALS
- 02 - MEAT AND EDIBLE MEAT OFFAL
- 03 - FISH AND CRUSTACEANS, MOLLUSCS AND OTHER AQUATIC INVE
- 04 - DAIRY PRODUCE; BIRDS' EGGS; NATURAL HONEY; EDIBLE PRODI
- 05 - PRODUCTS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN, NOT ELSEWHERE SPECIFIED OR
- 06 - LIVE TREES AND OTHER PLANTS; BULBS, ROOTS AND THE LIKE; I
- 07 - EDIBLE VEGETABLES AND CERTAIN ROOTS AND TUBERS
- 08 - EDIBLE FRUIT AND NUTS; PEEL OF CITRUS FRUIT OR MELONS
- 09 - COFFEE, TEA, MATE AND SPICES
- 10 - CEREALS

Products covered (HS codes)

Add Remove More details Less details

Available notification keywords

- Adoption/publication/entry into force of reg.
- Aflatoxins
- Allergens

Notification keyword

Add Remove

Searched products

Searched notification keywords



# Search using custom reporting

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

SPS Information Management System

SPS Gateway | Help | Contact Us | Sign out | English | Spanish | French

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Creation

Notification

Specific trade concerns

Other SPS documents

Search

Notifications

Regular notifications

Emergency notifications

Addenda/Corrigenda

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Custom reporting

a. b. c. d. e.

<< Previous Next >>

Fields available

☒ Document Symbol

☐ Notified document title

☐ Notification Type

☐ Description of content

☒ Date of distribution

☐ Objective and rationale

☒ Notifying Member

☐ Final date for comments

☒ Products covered

☐ Final date for comments - Free text

☐ Products covered (HS codes)

☐ Links

☐ Notification keywords

☐ Record details

☐ Regions or countries likely to be affected

Select all Select none

Fields order

Document Symbol

Date of distribution

Notifying Member

Products covered

First Up Down Last

# Search using custom reporting

**WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION**

**SPS Information Management System**

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**Custom reporting**

a. b. c. d. e.

Fields available

- Document Symbol
- Date of distribution
- Notifying Member
- Products covered

Sort order fields

Add


Remove

Fields used

- Date of distribution
- Notifying Member
- Products covered
- Document Symbol

Sort direction: Ascending

# Search using custom reporting



WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

SPS Information Management System

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Useful Links

Custom reporting

[a.](#) | 
 [b.](#) | 
 [c.](#) | 
 [d.](#) | 
 [e.](#)

[<< Previous](#) | 
 [Next >>](#)

Number of documents: 14 Current page on total: 1/1

Document Symbol	Date of distribution	Notifying Member	Products covered
G/SPS/N/GMB/1	04/03/2010	Gambia	All food products destined for human consumption and also animal feed
G/SPS/N/SEN/6	26/03/2010	Senegal	Plants
G/SPS/N/SEN/5	26/03/2010	Senegal	Wood packaging material
G/SPS/N/MDG/3	09/04/2010	Madagascar	Bees and bee products
G/SPS/N/MDG/4	09/04/2010	Madagascar	Crustaceans and products thereof
G/SPS/N/MDG/5	13/04/2010	Madagascar	Guano (bat guano and seabird guano)
G/SPS/N/SEN/7	22/04/2010	Senegal	Tomatoes originating in and coming from areas infested with the tomato leaf miner Tuta absoluta
G/SPS/N/MDG/7	23/04/2010	Madagascar	All food of animal origin
G/SPS/N/MDG/8	23/04/2010	Madagascar	All food of animal origin
G/SPS/N/MDG/9	23/04/2010	Madagascar	All food of animal origin
G/SPS/N/MDG/6	23/04/2010	Madagascar	Honey
G/SPS/N/NPL/13	28/04/2010	Nepal	All plants and plant products
G/SPS/N/NPL/14	16/08/2010	Nepal	Fortified wheat flour
G/SPS/N/BEN/6	11/11/2010	Benin	

Export to Excel

# How can I get more information on the SPS IMS?

- Go to <http://spsims.wto.org> click on Help
- Contact: [spsims@wto.org](mailto:spsims@wto.org)

# Tomorrow's breakout session:

- How to prepare and react to SPS notifications
- Introduction of the Notifications Submission System (NSS)
- NNA and Enquiry Points

