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**Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade**

**COMMENTING ON A TBT NOTIFICATION**

**GOOD PRACTICE GUIDE**

NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT<sup>1</sup>

In the Ninth Triennial Review, the TBT Committee adopted a recommendation under the topic of technical assistance to develop a good practice guide on how to prepare a comment on a TBT notification.<sup>2</sup> This Good Practice Guide<sup>3</sup> is primarily intended to assist TBT enquiry points in managing the commenting process. It can also serve as a useful reference for other stakeholders looking for guidance on how they may best use and engage with the commenting process.

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<sup>1</sup> This document has been prepared under the Secretariat's own responsibility and is without prejudice to the positions of Members or to their rights and obligations under the WTO.

<sup>2</sup> [G/TBT/46](#), para. 7.13.b.

<sup>3</sup> Following deliberations in the Transparency Working Group, this document has been prepared based on inputs from a volunteer group of Enquiry Points (Australia, Kenya, Namibia, Peru, Philippines, South Africa, and the United States).

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. Transparency provisions – in *all* WTO agreements - are essentially about access to information. Transparency is also a cornerstone of the WTO's Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement (the "TBT Agreement"). It facilitates dialogue and cooperation among Members, encourages stakeholder engagement, increases predictability, and contributes to reducing unnecessary trade restrictions.

1.2. Notifications are integral to transparency. In the context of the TBT Agreement, this is mainly about the notification of proposed technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures, which may affect trade. This information is valuable to a wide variety of stakeholders, domestic and international. The comment period denotes the time provided for Members to *respond* in writing to notifications. The ePing SPS&TBT Platform<sup>4</sup> facilitates, among other functions, access to and communication concerning these notifications.

1.3. The TBT Committee has adopted a series of decisions and recommendations regarding notifications and the commenting process, which have been reflected as appropriate throughout this guide.<sup>5</sup> These include recommendations that Members use specific formats to notify, provide no less than 60 days for comments and plan a "reasonable interval" of normally six months between the publication and entry into force of a measure.

## 2 OVERVIEW OF THE COMMENTING PROCESS

### 2.1 Definition and purpose of a comment

2.1. For this guide, a comment is written input submitted on time by a WTO Member or stakeholder on a WTO TBT notification. It can be brief or lengthy; it may address specific aspects of a measure or be more general. The reasons for preparing a comment on a notification may include, for example: seeking clarifications; expressing concerns; suggesting revisions – or even suggesting alternative means of achieving the stated objective.

2.2. A comment may address a range of questions, about:

- a. the objective(s) of the measure;
- b. the regulator or other body responsible for implementation;
- c. the content of the proposed measures and products covered;
- d. who or what products will be affected or be within scope;
- e. details of the transition and implementation process;
- f. reasons for any divergence from international standards;
- g. the evidence basis for certain or all aspects of the proposed measure;
- h. whether the measure is applied to domestic and imported goods in the same way;
- i. clarification on the number or type of conformity assessment procedures proposed; and,
- j. conditions under which foreign test results or suppliers' declarations of conformity are recognized.

2.3. In the TBT context, a comment is different from an enquiry. Enquiries are not linked to a notified measure with a comment period. Enquiries may relate to existing technical regulations, to

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.epingalert.org/en>

<sup>5</sup> See [G/TBT/1/Rev.15](#), Section 6 for all TBT Committee decisions and recommendations related to transparency.

conformity assessment procedures or domestic laws that implement the TBT Agreement – or to more general questions about the operation of a Member's system.

## 2.2 Provisions on commenting in the TBT Agreement

2.4. The TBT Agreement includes provisions that illustrate the importance of commenting. It is essentially about Members entering into a dialogue with each other about proposed technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures (Box 1).

### Box 1: Provisions referring to "commenting"<sup>6</sup>

Article 2.9.2 (as it relates to notification of technical regulations):

'...notify other Members through the Secretariat of the products to be covered by the proposed technical regulation, together with a brief indication of its objective and rationale. Such notifications shall take place at an early appropriate stage, when amendments can still be introduced and **comments** taken into account'

Article 2.9.4 (as it relates to notification of technical regulations):

'...without discrimination, allow reasonable time for other Members to make **comments** in writing, discuss these comments upon request, and take these written comments and the results of these discussions into account'

Article 2.10.3 (as it relates to notification of urgent technical regulations):

'...without discrimination, allow other Members to present their **comments** in writing, discuss these comments upon request, and take these written comments and the results of these discussions into account.'

Article 5.6.2 (as it relates to notification of conformity assessment procedures):

'...notify other Members through the Secretariat of the products to be covered by the proposed conformity assessment procedure, together with a brief indication of its objective and rationale. Such notifications shall take place at an early appropriate stage, when amendments can still be introduced, and **comments** taken into account.'

Article 5.6.4 (as it relates to notification of conformity assessment procedures):

'...without discrimination, allow reasonable time for other Members to make **comments** in writing, discuss these comments upon request, and take these written comments and the results of these discussions into account.'

Article 5.7.3 (as it relates to notification of urgent conformity assessment procedures):

'...without discrimination, allow other Members to present their **comments** in writing, discuss these comments upon request, and take these written comments and the results of these discussions into account.'

2.5. The TBT Agreement creates obligations for Members to allow sufficient time for considering comments. The TBT Committee has gone a step further: it has recommended that the minimum period for comments on notifications should be *at least 60 days*. Moreover, any Member able to provide a time limit *beyond* 60 days, such as 90 days, is encouraged to do so.

2.6. The Committee has also recommended that, to improve the ability of developing country Members to comment on notifications, and consistent with the principle of special and differential treatment, developed country Members are *encouraged* to provide more than a 60-day comment

<sup>6</sup> While the main focus of this guide is the opportunity under the TBT Agreement to comment on draft technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures, the Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards (Annex 3) also includes provisions with respect to the opportunity to comment on draft standards. See in particular Annex 3.L, N, Q.

period.<sup>7</sup> The implementation of measures in response to *urgent* problems is, nevertheless, allowed and may result in a shorter – or no commenting – period (Article 2.10).

### 2.3 Benefits of comments and replies

2.7. For the Member or stakeholder commenting, preparing comments can help prepare for compliance with the notified measure, including ensuring all relevant parties have the information necessary to do so. Effective and relevant comments can also help the notifying Member improve its proposed measure. For instance, a comment may:

- a. point at parts of the proposed measure that might require clarification;
- b. elicit more information about the product coverage of the proposed measure;
- c. show the need for additional technical or scientific information which may inform the assessment of the measure's design, risk assessment, product scope or potential trade restrictiveness;
- d. indicate other relevant international standards, guidelines, or conformity assessment procedures related to the proposed measure;
- e. provide an example of other Members' regulatory approaches for the same scope of products;
- f. clarify information about product supply chains;
- g. offer alternative means of compliance;
- h. highlight potential unintended consequences of the proposed measure; and,
- i. provide suggestions for revisions or improvements to the measure, including substitute language.

2.8. Overall, comments can provide information that challenges the assumptions made in a draft technical regulation or conformity assessment procedure and help bodies involved in its development understand different perspectives. This may include, for example, possible *unnecessary* barriers to trade that may result if the technical regulation or conformity assessment procedure were to be finalized as drafted. Thus, the process can help ensure that the final version of the measure is effective, achieves its legitimate regulatory objective, and is in compliance with the TBT Agreement.

2.9. Comments are most effective when they are specific; they should provide information directly relevant to the content of the proposed measure and are particularly useful when they point out the impact (e.g., the likely effects) of the proposed measure. Constructive suggestions for amendments or alternatives, which help the notifying Member adjust the draft and identify possible solutions, are useful. In this way, the commenting process can help avoid concerns that might otherwise escalate.

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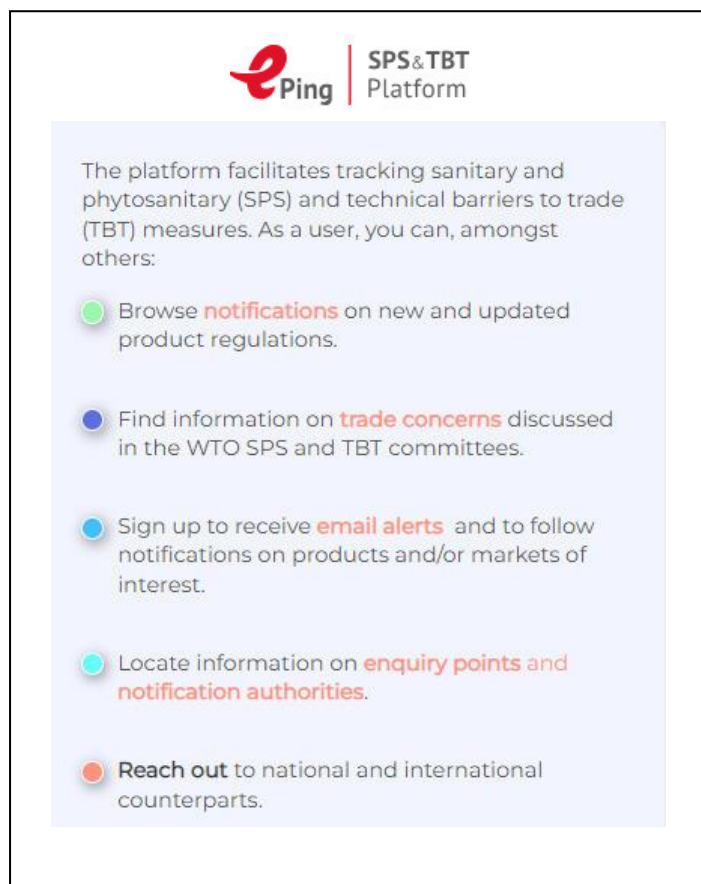
<sup>7</sup> [G/TBT/1/Rev.15](#), para. 6.3.1.8.

### 3 INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND STAKEHOLDERS

3.1. It is expected that Members manage comments in different ways; circumstances and resources are different across the WTO membership. This section, therefore, aims to capture different options for the management of comments.

3.2. As a starting point, all stakeholders are encouraged to register on – and become familiar with – [ePing](#) (Box 2). ePing can assist in tracking notifications and preparing comments. Video tutorials on the use of ePing are available on the ePing website under [Resources](#).

#### Box 2: ePing platform



#### 3.1 Role of the TBT Enquiry Point

3.3. TBT enquiry points are typically responsible for facilitating the commenting process. Article 10.1 of the TBT Agreement stipulates that: "each Member shall ensure that an enquiry point exists which is able to answer all reasonable enquiries from other Members and interested parties in other Members...". Normally, enquiry points are also points of contact for receiving and submitting comments, as well as monitoring the status of comments.

3.4. Depending on domestic arrangements, the designated notification authority, as foreseen in Article 10.10 (which may or may not be the same entity as the Enquiry Point) may also take on this responsibility. In this document, all subsequent references to the enquiry point should therefore be understood as references to the enquiry point and/or the notification authority, as applicable.

3.5. While Members' arrangements for managing the commenting process may differ from each other, it is broadly beneficial to *centralize* the role of the TBT enquiry point. This provides a clear and accountable point of contact for the commenting process. An effective TBT enquiry point will enhance relationships between Members and stakeholders. Specific tasks and responsibilities of the TBT enquiry point that are directly related to commenting can include:

- a. Developing and maintaining official communication channels and mechanisms to facilitate the commenting process, both on the sending and receiving end;
- b. Monitoring the *status* of comments;
- c. Keeping detailed records of correspondence (e.g., enquiries, responses to enquiries, copies of comments and responses sent and received) for efficiency and accountability;
- d. Actively participating in the TBT enquiry point network, for instance by regularly emailing other enquiry points and communicating through ePing's international forum and national forum;
- e. Building relationships with other TBT enquiry points;
- f. Assisting national stakeholders with their engagement in TBT Committee processes, for instance by communicating with them on specific notifications, answering their questions on how to submit comments and helping them register on ePing; and,
- g. Keeping stakeholders abreast of developments in the commenting process and minimising the risk of duplicative communications.

3.6. TBT enquiry points are encouraged to maintain a generic TBT enquiry point email address not linked to an individual person so that relevant emails can be accessed by all relevant staff. This is useful for consistency over time and helps avoid a situation where the processing of comments depends on the availability of a single individual.

### 3.2 Domestic stakeholders

3.7. Domestic stakeholders can involve a large and diverse group of people and entities. Stakeholders may, for example, include government bodies and officials, national quality infrastructure agencies, private sector entities (including MSMEs), industry or trade associations and consumer groups. All may be crucial in understanding and developing views on notified proposed measures. These views will inform the decision to comment. Sharing knowledge and information among all stakeholders will improve the effectiveness of a comment and maximise any benefit from the response it elicits.

3.8. How Members engage in the commenting process will vary. Stakeholders can ask their national TBT enquiry point how best to do this. Indeed, they should proactively approach their national TBT enquiry point for advice. Conversely, enquiry points may identify and approach stakeholders directly to advise them and seek their advice.

3.9. Some Members maintain national TBT coordination mechanisms. Depending on the regularity of meetings, this can be a useful platform to discuss issues, such as identifying notifications for possible comment, and responding to comments received from *other* Members. National TBT coordination also creates an opportunity and a forum to enhance awareness about the commenting process and to consider next steps.

3.10. In identifying notifications of interest and preparing comments, stakeholders within governments will be able to provide insights into how a notified measure compares to domestic regulations and identify incompatibilities or challenges. Their 'big picture' viewpoint and familiarity with bilateral relationships can also provide valuable context to industry perspectives. The perspectives from industry, consumer groups and trade bodies are crucial as they represent the entities that will be expected to meet the requirements of notified measures; they may also be able to provide case studies or practical examples and other information which can add credibility to comments. Stakeholders within the government may include legal teams, which could address any questions of compliance with the TBT Agreement. It may also be useful to involve teams responsible for the management of bilateral relationships.

3.11. The regulator or other body responsible for developing the notified measure will play a key role in *responding* to comments. This is because they are best placed to answer questions and consider the feasibility of implementing suggested amendments.

### 3.3 Regional and international coordination

3.12. Where Members have common interests or even shared regulatory or standardization systems – for instance through bilateral or plurilateral mechanisms – it may be useful (and sometimes even necessary), to coordinate the preparation of comments – or *responses to* comments. Examples of these mechanisms include regional economic communities, parties to mutual recognition agreements (MRA) or memoranda of understandings (MoUs), and free trade agreement (FTA) partners.

3.13. In preparing comments, coordinating with regional or international stakeholders facilitates information sharing. Some Members may already have responses or access to additional information (including translations) readily available. Also, Members can alert one another about notifications they may have missed. It can also facilitate coalition building around positions on notified measures; for example, joint or aligned comments will boost their impact.

3.14. In preparing responses, coordination with these stakeholders can be key where regulatory or standardization systems are shared. This is because comments will be relevant to more than one Member. If Members have made joint or concurrent notifications, responses should be cleared with the relevant authorities from all relevant Members, even if the comments were only sent to one. This will ensure the response is a correct reflection of the joint regulatory intent and that all parties can commit to any promises made.

3.15. If comments highlight an unanticipated trade impact and a notifying Member is aware that other Members have similar regulatory plans, it may be helpful to ask the commenting Member if they would agree to their comments being shared with the other Member(s) considering similar measures. This awareness could allow other Members to avoid similar trade impacts.

## 4 PREPARING AND SENDING COMMENTS

### 4.1 Setting up alerts to receive notifications and managing translations

4.1. All interested stakeholders should register on the ePing platform to enable timely access to notifications of interest. It is also possible to tailor alert preferences to receive notifications *only* on products or markets of interest and to choose the frequency of alerts. A video tutorial helps users in registering: [Registering for ePing video tutorial](#).<sup>8</sup>

4.2. Most notifications include a hyperlink to the notified regulatory text. If this is not the case, and if the notification is likely to have an impact on trade in products of interest, it is important to request the full text of the notified measure as soon as possible. Language is also an issue. While notifications are circulated in the three official languages of the WTO (English, French and Spanish), the notified text is normally only available in the official language of the notifying Member. If access to a translation is needed, it is advisable to arrange for a translation promptly to ensure that delays do not reduce the time available before the comment deadline expires.

4.3. Developed country Members are required to provide, in English, French or Spanish, translations of the documents covered by a specific notification upon request. In the case of voluminous documents, summaries of such documents should be provided. Further to a recommendation from the TBT Committee, Members have been encouraged to exchange *unofficial* translations of notified regulations via the ePing platform's international forum. Therefore, it is advisable to check if that is the case. For this, users can look for a green comment bubble displayed in ePing next to a notification.

### 4.2 Deciding to comment

4.4. Not every notification requires tracking or a comment. It is important to focus on goods and markets of interest. For example, relevant questions to consider when assessing a notification could include:

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<sup>8</sup> All ePing video tutorials are accessible here: [Resources - ePing SPS&TBT platform \(epingalert.org\)](#).



- a. What is the likely impact on current or known future trade interests?
- b. What is the notifying Member's legitimate objective?
- c. Is the measure more trade-restrictive than necessary?
- d. Would there be less trade-restrictive means of achieving the same objective?
- e. Is the measure potentially discriminatory?
- f. Has sufficient time been provided to comply with the proposed requirements?
- g. What relevant international standards exist or are in development?
- h. If an international standard does exist but is not being used, why?
- i. Has the draft text considered all available scientific or technical information?
- j. What conformity assessment procedures will be used?
- k. If relevant, are labelling requirements clear?

4.5. In any assessment, it is important to consider that differing approaches of Members are allowed. The TBT Agreement is flexible in its application.

4.6. It can take time to prepare and finalize a comment. As part of domestic arrangements, clear guidance should be provided about the timeframes, especially for comments being provided through the enquiry point, as these may have review processes to factor in.

4.7. If Members require an extension, the commenting Member's enquiry point should contact the notifying Member's enquiry point (or, if applicable, another designated contact point) as soon as possible. Requests for extensions should include the reason the extension is being requested, a (reasonable) proposed new deadline, and an indication of when comments might be ready. Requests for extensions should be made well ahead of the deadline for comments, especially if a full 60-day comment period has already been provided. There is no guarantee of an extension being granted.

4.8. The national forum and outreach functions within ePing can be useful in connecting with domestic stakeholders, identifying notifications of interest or concern and formulating comments (See Box 3).

### Box 3: National Forum

This is a dedicated space in ePing for domestic users, which can be activated by enquiry points or other users with outreach admin rights. If activated, ePing subscribers can post questions or comments on SPS or TBT notifications of interest. Messages posted on this forum are only visible to fellow registered users from the same country/territory. The forum can also be used to share translations into local language and/or comments submitted to trading partners. See video tutorials targeted at enquiry points on [How to activate the national forum](#) and [How to access the national user lists](#).

### 4.3 Preparation of comments

4.9. A comment can be drafted by any stakeholder with a direct interest in the notified measure and passed on to the enquiry point for distribution. Alternatively, the enquiry point or other relevant officials may draft the comment based on input gathered from the stakeholders. While this depends on domestic arrangements, it is advisable that *one* comment be issued per government per notification. This will reduce inconsistent or conflicting views should several government agencies (within the same Member) be involved. Consultation and coordination will help streamline the process and ensure that a single comment captures *all* government interests.

4.10. Regardless of how comments are prepared, they should be written in a constructive and respectful tone and include:

- a. The notification symbol and its title;
- b. Clear questions and indication of the outcome sought;
- c. The element(s) of the notified measure that are of interest;
- d. An indication of the level of interest or concern.

4.11. Depending on the nature of the comments, it may also be helpful to include:

- a. Information about equivalent systems or approaches to regulation;
- b. Suggested solutions to address any concerns, or make the measure less restrictive;
- c. Examples of case studies to demonstrate the potential trade impact;
- d. Information about the scale of expected impacts;
- e. Timeframes for expected impacts (including if immediate);
- f. Information about relevant international standards, conformity assessment procedures, scientific or technical information.

#### **4.4 Submission of comments**

4.12. The enquiry point should be the central point of coordination and distribution of comments. If possible, comments should be sent from a generic TBT enquiry point email address; this will facilitate record-keeping and provide consistency for the receiving Member. It is reasonable for enquiry points to request an acknowledgement of receipt of comments. Contact information for the notifying Member's enquiry point can be found in the notification or via the ePing platform, which lists the contact information for all [TBT enquiry points](#).

4.13. Comments should be sent to the notifying Member's enquiry point as well as the agency designated to handle comments as indicated in item 2 of the notification. Even if the notification instructs that comments should be sent directly to a regulator or other body, the notifying Member's enquiry point *should be copied for visibility*. If enquiry points are not included in the communication, they cannot maintain accurate records of commenting activity and will not be aware of the status of communications.

4.14. In cases where a notified technical regulation or conformity assessment procedure originates in a local government or non-governmental body, Members may require that contact with other Members take place through the central government.

4.15. Whatever means of submission are used, Members should submit comments before the expiry of the deadline. If comments are submitted past the deadline, without first confirming an extension, Members cannot expect the comments to be taken into account; this will then be at the discretion of the notifying Member.

4.16. Enquiry points may inform other Members that comments have been submitted bilaterally to the notifying Member. For this purpose, it is recommended that enquiry points utilize the ePing platform's international forum (see Box 4). This allows interested Members to be aware of – and have the option to request access to – these comments. Where possible, sharing comments publicly on the platform also allows other Members to identify if they have similar concerns or interests. If a comment or response has not been posted on ePing by the Member who prepared it, their consent should be sought before it is posted.

#### Box 4: International Forum

In ePing, each notification has its own dedicated space for information exchange, at the international level, among enquiry points or other users with outreach admin rights. The international forum can be used to announce that official comments have been submitted, to share unofficial translations of a notified measure, or to exchange other types of information following the issuance of a notification. Unlike the *national* forum, messages on the international forum are viewable by all ePing users and it does not need to be activated by an enquiry point.

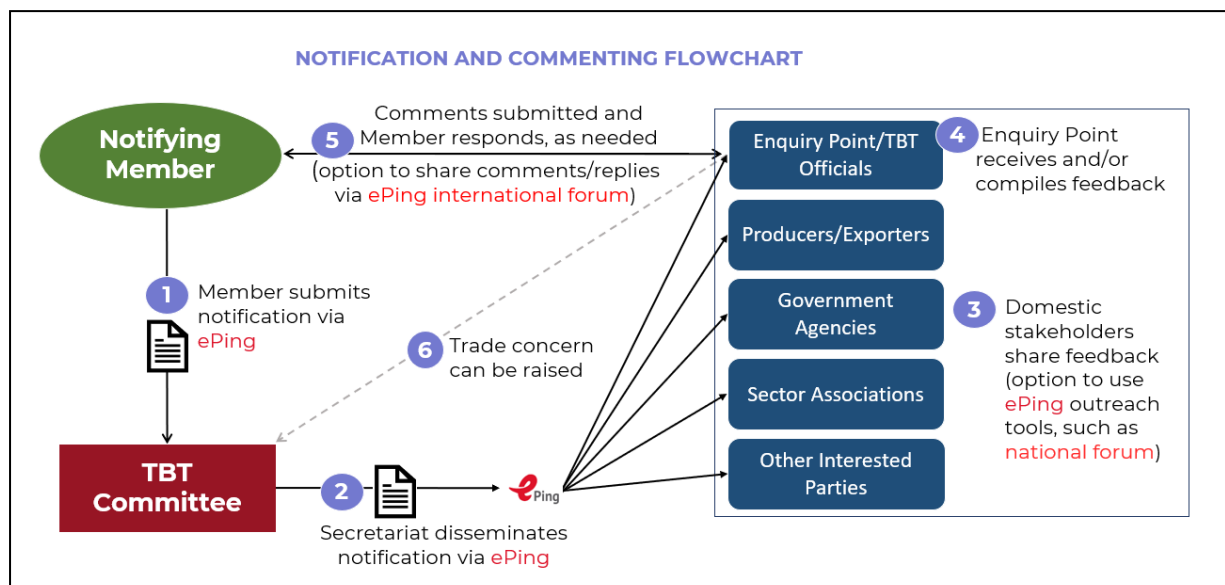
#### 4.5 Awaiting a response

4.17. The *timing* of a response may vary. A range of factors may come into play. These may include, for example, the complexity of the measure, and the stage in its development. At the latest, a response can be expected before or when the next version of the measure is released or adopted. In this way, it will be known how comments have been taken into account.

4.18. If a response is *not* received within a reasonable period, an update may be requested. If a response is not considered satisfactory, further comments can be submitted, or the Member may seek other forms of engagement, including bilateral discussions. In the case of no response, or if the outcomes from the response or bilateral engagement are not satisfactory (e.g., a reasonable explanation has not been given), the Member may raise the matter as a Specific Trade Concern (STC) at the TBT Committee. These options are available also in cases where it appears that comments have not been taken into account. International or regional coordination may also be valuable in this context. If other Members are known to have submitted comments, asking about the responses they have received may help inform the next steps.

4.19. Box 5 illustrates the typical steps involved in the notification and commenting cycle.

#### Box 5: Notification and commenting cycle



## 5 RESPONDING TO COMMENTS

### 5.1 On receipt of comments

5.1. As per the TBT Committee's recommendations, incoming requests should be processed, if possible, within five working days. If a full response will take longer, an acknowledgement of receipt should in any case be sent promptly. Where possible, such an acknowledgement should include an estimate of when a complete response can be expected. If available, information about the notified measure and the process for considering comments should also be shared.

5.2. If comments are received from a Member *outside* TBT enquiry point channels, it may be useful to share the comments with the notifying Member's TBT enquiry point. This allows the enquiry point to have an overview of relevant correspondence.

5.3. Comments received should be shared in a timely fashion with the bodies responsible for the development and implementation of the notified measure. Enquiry points should confirm that such bodies have taken note and understand their responsibilities; they may need to be reminded that they have an obligation under the TBT Agreement to take the comments into account in the finalisation of the notified measure (even if not all/any suggested amendments can be incorporated).

## 5.2 Managing requests for extensions

5.4. Due to a variety of factors, including the complexity of a notified measure and/or the necessity of obtaining a translation of the draft text, a Member interested in commenting on a notification may need to request an extension of the comment deadline. If a request for an extension of the deadline for comments is received, there is no obligation to grant it. Nevertheless, it should be given reasonable consideration. Particular consideration should be given to requests from developing countries. An extension should only be granted if comments received after the original deadline can still be taken into account before the measure is finalized; there is no point in agreeing to an extension if comments will not be considered.

5.5. Requests for extensions should be passed on promptly to the body responsible for the development of the measure. The Member requesting the extension should ideally be advised if the request can be granted or not. This way, if the extension cannot be granted, the Member may still have an opportunity to comment by the original deadline.

5.6. Extensions are often offered on a case-by-case basis. Nevertheless, if it is possible to offer the extension to *all* Members, this should be announced through an addendum to the original notification, with an indication of the new deadline, consistent with the Committee's Recommendation on the Coherent Use of Notification Formats.<sup>9</sup>

## 5.3 Drafting a response

5.7. The Member submitting a comment will expect a timely response. Ultimately, TBT enquiry points are responsible for ensuring that their government provides such responses. Depending on internal arrangements, this may be a coordinating or monitoring role (rather than drafting). The enquiry point must pass on the comments promptly to the body proposing the measure, which should in turn take responsibility for the preparation of a comprehensive response. In the response, they may wish to include information about any additional resources that may assist with a better understanding and compliance with the notified measure.

5.8. While the regulator or other body proposing the measure will likely be responsible for providing the substantive content, the TBT enquiry point may review the response before it is sent out to ensure that it provides a comprehensive answer to all the comments received and includes any updates on changes to the proposed regulations (if available at the time). As part of this review, it may be relevant to seek legal advice to assess the notified measure's compliance with the WTO TBT Agreement.

## 5.4 Sending the response

5.9. The time needed to prepare a response may depend on many factors. These include complexity (of both the measure and comments received), and the degree of difficulty of determining the feasibility of suggested amendments (if there are any). The number of queries received and stakeholders involved will also affect the timing. Responses should nonetheless be prepared as efficiently as possible. If there are undue delays, updates should be provided where possible.

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<sup>9</sup> [G/TBT/35/Rev.1](#).

5.10. By default, it is the enquiry point that responds to another enquiry point. This may vary, of course, as governments operate differently. Nevertheless, there should be clear guidance on this so that domestic stakeholders know what to expect and what processes they should follow.

5.11. If the original notification directed Members to provide comments through a specific national consultation process, the process for considering and responding to comments will likely be dictated by the rules of that procedure. If the commenting Member included an update on ePing indicating they have made comments, the responding Member may wish to consider responding in kind, either by providing the response in full on the forum or indicating (also in the forum) that a response has been provided directly.

5.12. If the measure is modified to take account of comments, the notifying Member should consider announcing this through an addendum to the original notification, in addition to sending a response to the commenting Member.

## 6 ANNEXES

### ANNEX A: Useful links

- ePing Platform – international forum where translations/comments can be shared – see a [list of notifications on which additional information, including comments, has been shared via ePing](#)
- Publicly accessible tools from WTO Members:  
The United States: '[Guidance for U.S. Stakeholders on Commenting on Notifications Made by WTO Members to the TBT Committee](#)'

### ANNEX B: Case studies

- Experience sharing from Switzerland:  
Through notification [G/TBT/N/CHE/268](#), Switzerland informed other Members about stricter minimum energy performance standards of various appliances. Switzerland received comments from two Members and responded to them in writing. As the comments were not published on ePing, Switzerland did not publish these responses either. An addendum to the original notification, in [G/TBT/N/CHE/268/Add.1](#), explains how comments received from other Members were considered in the final phase of the legislative process, provides a summary of the amendments made and indicates where the final measure was published.
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