



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

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Agenda Item: 6.2



## **Technical Barriers to Trade in Singapore's Recent FTAs**

Purpose: Information  
Submitted by: Singapore



**Second Committee on Trade and Investment  
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Ha Noi, Viet Nam  
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**MTI** MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY SINGAPORE  
To promote economic growth and create jobs, so as to achieve higher standards of living for all.



## Technical Barriers to Trade Chapters in Singapore's Recent FTAs

CTI 2  
2017

File Ref:

## Outline

1. Singapore's experience with Technical Barriers to Trade
2. Key features in recent FTAs
  - (a) EU & Turkey
  - (b) TPP

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## Technical Barriers to Trade

The Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement aims to ensure that technical regulations, standards, and conformity assessment procedures are **non-discriminatory** and **do not create unnecessary obstacles to trade**. At the same time, it recognises WTO members' **right to implement measures to achieve legitimate policy objectives**, such as the protection of human health and safety, or protection of the environment. The TBT Agreement strongly encourages members to **base their measures on international standards** as a means to **facilitate trade**. Through its **transparency** provisions, it also aims to create a **predictable trading environment**.

*Taken from WTO TBT homepage*

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- Singapore has 12 bilateral FTAs/Economic Partnerships; 9 regional FTAs; 3 FTAs that have been concluded/signed but not in force
- Majority of Singapore's FTAs have Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Chapter
- For those that do not have a TBT Chpt, there would be a few articles devoted to either STRACAP or NTMs

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### Bilaterals FTAs/Economic Partnerships

	TBT/STRACAP Chapter?	Annexes
Australia	Yes	3+3
China-Singapore	Yes	
Costa Rica	Yes	
India	Yes	3 sectoral annexes
Japan	No (NTMs)	2 sectoral annexes
Jordan	No (NTMs)	
Korea	Yes	2 sectoral annexes
New Zealand	Yes	1 sectoral annex
Panama	Yes	
Peru	Yes	
Chinese Taipei	Yes	
US	Yes	1

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### Regional

	TBT/STRACAP Chapter?
AANZFTA	Yes
ACFTA	Yes
ASEAN-India	NTMs
ASEAN Japan	Yes
ASEAN-Korea	Yes
ASEAN	Yes
EFTA	Article on Tech Regs
GCC	STRACAP & NTMs
TPSEP (P4)	Yes

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## New FTAs

Free Trade Agreement	TBT/STRACAP Chapter	Annexes
EU	Yes	3 (2 in TIG)
Turkey	Yes	2
TPP	Yes	7

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## EU / Turkey: Key WTO-plus features

- Use of good regulatory practice wrt to preparation, adoption & application of technical regulations
- For conformity assessment, recognise that other mechanisms exist to facilitate acceptance of results of CA, including (i) Supplier's Declaration of Conformity (in addition to the usual MRAs)

### Transparency / Compliance period

- Allow sufficient time between publication of technical regulations & the entry into force
- Make available where available written guidance on compliance with its technical regulations

### Marking and Labelling

- Where there is mandatory M/L (i) endeavor to restrict reqts to those relevant for consumers or indicate the pdts conformity with mandatory reqts
- Allow labelling/re-labelling & corrections to take place in authorized premises in the importing Party
- Endeavour to accept non-permanent/detachable labels, or markings in accompanying docs,

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**TPP: Key WTO-plus features**

**Transparency/Compliance period**

- National treatment for persons of another Party to participate in the development of technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures
- To publish (preferably on the internet) proposals for/amendments to TRs and CAPs
- Some obligation on similar matters for level below that of the central government
- “reasonable interval” for compliance defined to be normally a period of not less than six months

**Article on Cooperation & Trade Facilitation**

- Acceptance of CA results : e.g. SDoC

**Chapter Coordinators vs Contact Points**

- Contact Points: EU & TPP
- Turkey : Chapter Coordinators

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**Annexes**

**EU**

- i. Electronics
- ii. Motor vehicles and parts thereof (TIG)
- iii. Pharmaceutical products & Medical Devices (TIG)

**Turkey**

- i. Electronics
- ii. Motor vehicles and parts thereof

**TPP**

- i. Cosmetics
- ii. Medical devices, Pharmaceuticals
- iii. Pharmaceuticals
- iv. Information & communications technology products
- v. Wine & distilled spirits
- vi. Proprietary formulas for pre-packaged foods and food additives, and
- vii. Organic agricultural products

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Thank you

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