



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

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**2022/SOM3/CTI/DIA/002**

Session 1

## **Promoting Transparency Through the Improvement of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Notifications**

Submitted by: Peru



**Public-Private Dialogue on Promoting  
Transparency of Technical Barriers to Trade  
WTO Notifications: Improving Completeness  
and Clearness of Information  
Chiang Mai, Thailand  
21-22 August 2022**

# Promoting Transparency Through the Improvement of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Notifications


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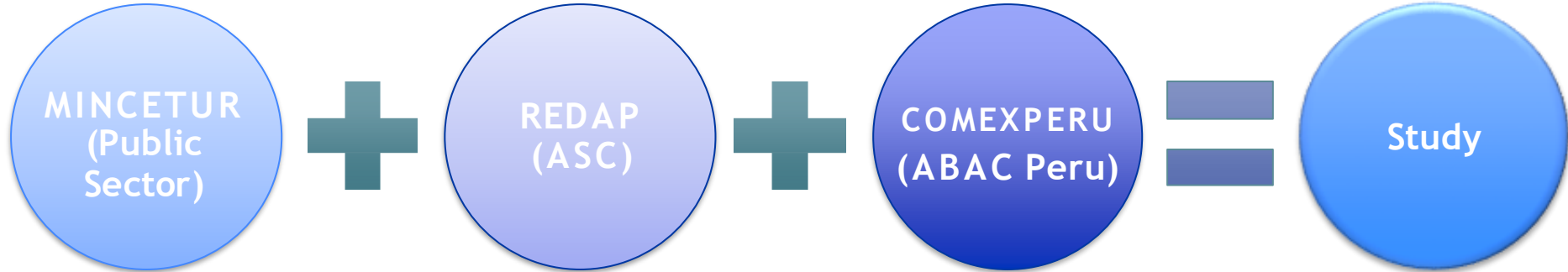
Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism

**CTI Public – PPD Promoting Transparency of TBT WTO Notifications: Improving Completeness and Clearness of Information**



**STUDY OF APEC  
ECONOMIES' SANITARY  
AND PHYTOSANITARY  
(SPS) NOTIFICATIONS ON  
QUALITY AND  
COMPLETENESS OF  
INFORMATION**

# COLLABORATION



# TRANSPARENCY PRINCIPLE IN SPS MEASURES IN THE WTO

- Within the framework of the **World Trade Organization (WTO)**.
- Transparency is one of the **fundamental principles** of the multilateral trading system (MTS).
- This principle aims to achieve a high degree of **clarity, predictability and information on the policies, rules and commercial regulations** of the different Members.

# TRANSPARENCY PRINCIPLE IN SPS MEASURES IN THE WTO



# WTO SPS COMMITTEE

- In view of its importance within the SPS Agreement, this topic is a **regular item in the agenda** of the WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee).
- In this context, during the last committee on June 2022. WTO members participated in a Workshop on Transparency, organized by the Committee.

# OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

To evaluate the quality and completeness of the information provided by APEC economies, in accordance with the Recommended Procedures for Implementing the Transparency Obligations of the SPS Agreement (G/SPS/7/Rev.3).

In that sense, this study seeks to raise awareness and increase the understanding of:

The compliance of SPS notifications with the Recommended Transparency Procedures.

Key items from SPS notifications that should be clearly expressed to improve the quality and completeness of the information.

Private sector perception of SPS notifications and main challenges related to the quality and completeness of the information.



# SCOPE OF THE STUDY

SPS notifications from APEC Economies from 2014 to 2017

Private  
sector  
survey

Regular notifications

Emergency notifications

44  
answers

536  
notifications

163 addenda

4 corrigenda

147  
notifications

43 addenda

3 corrigenda

1  
corrigendum  
of an  
addendum

# GENERAL EVALUATION OF REGULAR NOTIFICATIONS- I

- The evaluation of the notifications, presented in Table 5 and Figure 12 of the Study, shows a global result of **73.62% which provide an acceptable level of compliance with WTO recommendations.**
- However, key items to understand the proposed measures are those that present less positive results.

## Table 5. General evaluation of WTO recommendations in SPS notifications from APEC economies

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>COMPLIANCE WITH WTO RECOMMENDATIONS</b>
1	MEMBER NOTIFYING	100.00%
2	AGENCY RESPONSIBLE	100.00%
3	PRODUCTS COVERED	56.34%
4	REGIONS OR COUNTRIES LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED	100.00%
5	TITLE, LANGUAGE AND NUMBER OF PAGES OF THE NOTIFIED DOCUMENT	88.81%
6	DESCRIPTION OF CONTENT	32.95%
7	OBJECTIVE AND RATIONALE	100.00%
8	EXISTENCE OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARD, GUIDELINE OR RECOMMENDATION	96.32%
10	PROPOSED DATE OF ADOPTION AND OF PUBLICATION	23.32%
11	PROPOSED DATE OF ENTRY INTO FORCE	24.07%
12	FINAL DATE FOR COMMENTS AND AGENCY OR AUTHORITY HANDLING COMMENTS	46.83%
<b>AVERAGE</b>		<b>73.62%</b>

# GENERAL EVALUATION OF REGULAR NOTIFICATIONS- III

- In that sense, the items of the notifications as well as the specific information from those items, presented in Table 6 of the Study, are the ones that **need primary attention** from APEC economies, considering that its results are below the average of the general evaluation.

## Table 6. Specific information to be improved in SPS notifications from APEC economies

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>COMPLIANCE WITH WTO RECOMMENDATIONS (out of 100% in all cases)</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>PRODUCTS COVERED</b>	56.34%
	Tariff item number(s) (HS) mentioned	19.22%
	Clearness of description	52.80%
<b>6</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF CONTENT</b>	32.95%
	Description of effects on trade	13.62%
	Outline of the SPS measure	35.63%
	Impact on exports	9.70%
	Understanding of the proposed measure	10.63%
<b>10</b>	<b>PROPOSED DATE OF ADOPTION AND OF PUBLICATION</b>	23.32%
<b>11</b>	<b>PROPOSED DATE OF ENTRY INTO FORCE</b>	24.07%
<b>12</b>	<b>FINAL DATE FOR COMMENTS AND AGENCY OR AUTHORITY HANDLING COMMENTS</b>	46.83%

# GENERAL EVALUATION OF EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

- In Table 13 of the Study, the three items with its factors that require to be improved are presented. All of those factors have obtained a result less than the global average.

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	COMPLIANCE WITH WTO RECOMMENDATIONS (out of 100% in all cases)
<b>3</b>	<b>PRODUCTS COVERED</b>	45.58%
	Tariff item number(s) (HS) mentioned	40.82%
	Description of the products	70.07%
	Clearness of description	25.85%
<b>6</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF CONTENT</b>	64.76%
	Description of effects on trade	62.59%
	Outline of the SPS emergency measure	64.63%
	Impact on exports	55.78%
	Understanding of the emergency measure	55.78%
<b>11</b>	<b>DATE OF ENTRY INTO FORCE AND PERIOD OF APPLICATION</b>	48.98%
	Period of application	1.36%

# PRIVATE SECTOR EXPERIENCE

- APEC's private sector identifies **3 major challenges** related to the **quality and completeness** of WTO SPS notifications. Those challenges seem to be directly linked with the above items identified as in need to be improved.
- The major challenge for APEC's private sector is the **variety of languages** that are used in the linked documents, as it is not usual that APEC economies translate its measures into a language that is different from its official one. In addition, APEC's private sector confronts difficulties when trying to understand
- SPS notifications as their perception is that there is **no enough information**. For APEC's private sector it is also difficult to determine the scope of products that could be impacted by a proposed measure that is notified to WTO.

# THANK YOU!

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