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Promoting Transparency of Technical Barrier to Trade WTO Notifications

Submitted by: New Zealand



**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**



**MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT**
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI



NEW ZEALAND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE
Manatū Aorere

Promoting Transparency of TBT WTO Notifications

Experiences from APEC Economies: Aotearoa New Zealand
APEC Presentation, 22 August 2022



Agenda

- Overview of Aotearoa New Zealand's TBT ecosystem
- Mapping New Zealand's transparency efforts against WTO core elements
- Public-Private Dialogue: selected examples of good practice



New Zealand's TBT Ecosystem

Coordinating Agency Efforts to Advance Transparency



New Zealand: Striving for Transparency and Effective Allocation of Resources



Open economy, committed to international trade and rules-based order

High volume of regulatory measures, finite resources



The TBT Architecture in New Zealand

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT): leads engagement with the TBT Committee, provides trade policy and trade law advice.

Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE): develops and delivers bilateral, regional, global TBT policy.

Standards New Zealand (SNZ): operates the WTO Enquiry Point.

New Zealand Treasury (NZT): provides overarching stewardship of the regulatory system.

Domestic agencies: develop and implement measures taking into account international trade obligations.



Three Dimensions of Transparency

Embedding Transparency within the Regulatory
Process in New Zealand



Aligning Transparency Principles with Policy Practice

Provision of Notifications

- Government Expectations for Good Regulatory Practice
- Establishing contact points and fostering coordination across regulatory agencies

WTO Enquiry Point

- Operating the WTO Enquiry Point through Standards New Zealand, with support from MFAT and MBIE
- Ensuring MFAT oversight of notifications

Publication Requirements

- Measures are available through accessible online databases (e.g. MFE and MBIE)
- The Official Information Act



Public-Private Dialogue

Promoting Accessibility, Inclusivity, and Impact in Meeting New Zealand's Transparency Obligations



Engaging Private Sector Stakeholders

Consultation in regulatory development: opportunities to comment on emerging regulation, provided in parallel to international engagement with WTO members.



Capacity building: Standards New Zealand (SNZ) has published a toolkit for ePing, and MBIE has produced a handbook on transparency obligations and the notification process.



Support in implementation: provided through New Zealand Trade and Enterprise (NZTE), a dedicated agency operating at the public-private interface and forging linkages between government and exporters.



Strategic evaluation and refocus: the Technical Barriers to Trade Strategy is currently under assessment, to identify how to promote more active, regular and evidence-based engagement with the private sector.



The Pathway Forward

Improving New Zealand's Engagement with the Private Sector and Enhancing Transparency



Identifying Areas for Improvement

Embedding best practices

- **Objective:** supporting a movement from formal compliance to best practice transparency.
- **Example:** the New Zealand Treasury is analysing New Zealand's compliance with its international commitments under the TBT Agreement.

Promoting active engagement

- **Objective:** facilitating the transition from online guidance to active capacity building.
- **Example:** MBIE and MFAT are currently mapping key stakeholders and exploring the potential for delivering interactive workshops, training sessions, and other capacity building activities.

Upgrading participation in international fora

- **Objective:** gathering lessons learned from international experiences and expertise, and integrating these into New Zealand's approach to transparency.
- **Example:** working with Canada to enhance the transparency of notifications, by including information on impact assessments, conformity assessment procedures, and online guides.



Thank you for your attention

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