



Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

**ANNUAL OVERVIEW – IMPLEMENTATION OF SPS TRANSPARENCY PROVISIONS AND
SPECIFIC TRADE CONCERNS**

NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT¹

Revision

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. At its meeting on 15-16 March 2000, the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (the SPS Committee) requested the Secretariat to prepare a paper summarizing the specific trade concerns (STCs) that had been brought to the Committee's attention since 1995.² Since then, the Secretariat has revised document [G/SPS/GEN/204](#) annually to include new information provided by Members.

1.2. Similarly, at the October [2007 Workshop on Transparency](#), the Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare an annual overview of the implementation of the transparency provisions of the SPS Agreement.³ Since then, the Secretariat has revised document [G/SPS/GEN/804](#) annually to provide an overview of the level of implementation of the transparency obligations contained in the SPS Agreement (Article 7 and Annex B) and of the Committee's Recommended Procedures for Implementing the Transparency Obligations of the SPS Agreement.⁴

1.3. The latest revision of the Recommended Procedures for Implementing the Transparency Obligations of the SPS Agreement ([G/SPS/7/Rev.5](#), hereafter the "Recommended Transparency Procedures") was circulated on 16 January 2023. This "technical" revision does not include any substantive changes to the text. It incorporates updates based on changes in the online tools ([ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#)).

1.4. [Part A](#) of the present document provides an overview of the level of implementation of the transparency obligations found in the SPS Agreement (previously contained in the [G/SPS/GEN/804](#) document series) and [Part B](#) contains information on STCs (previously contained in the [G/SPS/GEN/204](#) document series). Additionally, [Part C](#) of the document covers other transparency-related aspects, including the [transparency recommendations of the Fifth Review](#) of the Operation and Implementation of the SPS Agreement adopted in 2020⁵, detailed information on [improved SPS IT tools](#) and the [transparency-related work](#) of the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF).

1.5. In preparing this document, the Secretariat has largely relied on the new [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#). This new tool integrates all previously available SPS and TBT IT tools (namely the SPS and TBT Information Management Systems, SPS IMS and TBT IMS, and the SPS and TBT Notification

¹ 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.

² [G/SPS/R/18](#), para. 20.

³ See [G/SPS/R/47](#), para. 44, for the recommendations arising from the [2007 Workshop on Transparency](#). See also footnote 6 of [G/SPS/7/Rev.5](#) requesting the Secretariat to provide an annual report on the level of implementation of the transparency provisions of the SPS Agreement and of the recommended transparency procedures.

⁴ Since 2021, the information previously contained in [G/SPS/GEN/804](#) and [G/SPS/GEN/204](#) and revisions has been merged into a single document.

⁵ See [G/SPS/64](#) and [G/SPS/64/Add.1](#).

Submission Systems, SPS NSS and TBT NSS), as well as the ePing alert system. All these separate systems were discontinued as the new ePing SPS&TBT Platform went live. Among other functions, the ePing SPS&TBT Platform is now the single entry point to search specialized and detailed information on SPS (and TBT) notifications, STCs, National Notification Authorities (NNAs) and National Enquiry Points (NEPs) contact information, as well as other documents. It allows for advanced searches according to specific criteria and facilitates the creation of custom reports and graphs, which can be shared with interested stakeholders. Most of the underlying data for the analysis contained in this document is publicly available and searchable through the ePing SPS&TBT Platform. More information on the new Platform is available in [Part C](#) of the present document.

1.6. The [Members' transparency toolkit](#) webpage is regularly updated to streamline the information available. Among other features, it includes a [quiz](#) for users to self-assess their knowledge on SPS transparency-related matters.

1.7. One key conclusion that can be extracted from this document is that, overall, there is a **high level of implementation of the SPS transparency obligations** by WTO Members. Since 1995: 131 Members (80% of membership) have submitted at least one notification; 161 (98%) and 163 Members (99%) have provided contact information for their SPS NNAs and NEPs, respectively.

1.8. In addition, for 2022, the following **12 key points** can be highlighted:

1. 64 Members submitted a **record number of 2,172 notifications** of new or modified SPS measures, including addenda and corrigenda to both regular and emergency notifications.
2. A **record number of addenda** to regular notifications (553) was submitted, mostly to inform of the **adoption, publication or entry into force** of previously notified regulations.
3. The **East African Community** (EAC) started submitting joint SPS notifications.
4. Two least developed country (LDC) Members, **Tanzania** and **Uganda**, are among the top 10 notifiers of regular notifications.
5. As in previous years, the highest share (75%) of regular notifications submitted refer to **food safety**; 91% of the emergency notifications submitted refer to **animal health**.
6. 71% of the 396 emergency notifications submitted in 2022 referred to **avian influenza**.
7. The SPS Committee regularly used **eAgenda** to add agenda items and raise concerns.
8. Members discussed **69 STCs**, including **26 new** concerns; **19 Members (12%)** raised at least one STC.
9. **45 STCs** were reported as **partially resolved** or **resolved**.
10. The new [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#) was **officially launched**.
11. Of all SPS notifications, **97% were submitted online**.
12. A "**notifications clinic**" for SPS officials was held for the first time ever in the SPS Committee.

Contents

1 INTRODUCTION	1
2 PART A - IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRANSPARENCY PROVISIONS	4
2.1 Designation of notification authorities and enquiry points	4
2.2 Submission of notifications.....	4
2.2.1 Types of notifications	4
2.2.2 Notifying Members	6
2.2.3 Products covered	11
2.2.4 Regions/countries affected	12
2.2.5 Objective and rationale.....	13
2.2.6 Relationship between the objective of the measure and the regions/countries affected.....	14
2.2.7 International standards, guidelines or recommendations.....	15
2.2.8 Proposed date of adoption/publication/entry into force	18
2.2.9 Final date for comments	18
2.2.10 Addenda to regular and emergency notifications	20
2.3 Notification keywords	21
2.4 COVID-19 related notifications and documents	22
3 PART B - SPECIFIC TRADE CONCERNS.....	23
3.1 General overview of specific trade concerns (1995-2022)	24
3.2 Specific trade concerns considered in 2022.....	30
3.2.1 Resolution of STCs in 2022.....	32
3.2.2 Good offices of the Chair.....	32
4 PART C – OTHER TRANSPARENCY-RELATED ASPECTS	32
4.1 Transparency recommendations in the Fifth Review	32
4.2 Technical assistance and workshops	33
4.3 SPS IT tools.....	34
4.3.1 The new ePing SPS&TBT Platform.....	34
4.3.2 eAgenda.....	37
4.4 Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF)	37

2 PART A - IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRANSPARENCY PROVISIONS

2.1. Part A of the present document provides an overview of the level of implementation of the transparency provisions contained in the SPS Agreement and the Recommended Transparency Procedures in document [G/SPS/7/Rev.5](#), with a focus on 2022 (see previous revisions of the [G/SPS/GEN/804](#) document series). It does not include information on areas where the Secretariat is not directly involved (such as publication of a notice of a regulation at an early stage, Members' response to requests for documents or other information, provision of comments to notifications, and of the response to these comments by the notifying Member, among others).

2.1 Designation of notification authorities and enquiry points

2.2. Paragraph 10 of Annex B to the SPS Agreement requires Members to designate a single central government authority as responsible for the implementation of notification procedures. This agency is referred to as the SPS National Notification Authority (NNA). As of 31 December 2022, 161 (98%) WTO Members out of 164 had designated such an agency. The Members that have not designated NNAs are all (LDCs).⁶ In addition, one observer government has designated an NNA.

2.3. Paragraph 3 of Annex B to the SPS Agreement requires that each Member establish a National Enquiry Point (NEP) responsible for the provision of answers to all reasonable questions and of relevant documents. As of 31 December 2022, 163 (99%) WTO Members out of 164 had provided the WTO with the contact information of their NEP. One LDC has not yet established an NEP. Thirty-three Members have identified more than one SPS NEP. A total of 24 Members have indicated that their NNA and NEP are the same institution. In addition, three observer governments have provided the WTO with the contact information of their NEP.

2.4. In 2022, 36 Members updated their NNAs and/or NEPs contact details, available through the new [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#). Through this new Platform, users with notification admin rights are responsible for ensuring that the contact details of domestic NNAs and NEPs are up to date (see [Section 4.3.1.1.2](#) for further details). It can be useful to have at least two staff members trained in NNA/NEP operations as this allows for absences and commitments of staff to other duties, as recommended in the [Practical Manual for SPS National Notification Authorities and National Enquiry Points](#). Whenever possible, Members are encouraged to use an institutional email address rather than a personal one.⁷

2.2 Submission of notifications

2.5. Under the SPS Agreement, notifications are used to inform other Members about new or modified regulations that may significantly affect trade. Annex B, paragraphs 5 to 8, as well as the Recommended Transparency Procedures, elaborate on the notification procedures Members are to follow. For ease of reference, the specific sub-topics highlighted below follow the order of items that are contained in the regular and emergency notification formats. The online submission of notifications further improves the quality of the information provided, increasing efficiency and allowing for more thorough searches. As indicated above, this functionality is currently accessible for users with relevant rights through the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#) (see further information in [Section 4.3.1.1.4](#)).

2.2.1 Types of notifications

2.6. The two main types of notifications are regular notifications and emergency notifications. In addition, addenda, corrigenda, revisions or supplements can be issued subsequent to an original regular or emergency notification.⁸ An addendum is used to provide additional information or changes to an original notification, for example if the products covered by the proposed regulation have been modified, if the comment period has been extended, or if a notified measure has entered into force. A corrigendum is used to correct an error in an original notification such as incorrect

⁶ The categories of level of development rely on WTO working definitions as identified in the WTO Reference Database for analytical purposes (ldb@wto.org). They can be consulted through the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#) by clicking on "Facts & figures, "Definitions of groups" in the top menu bar.

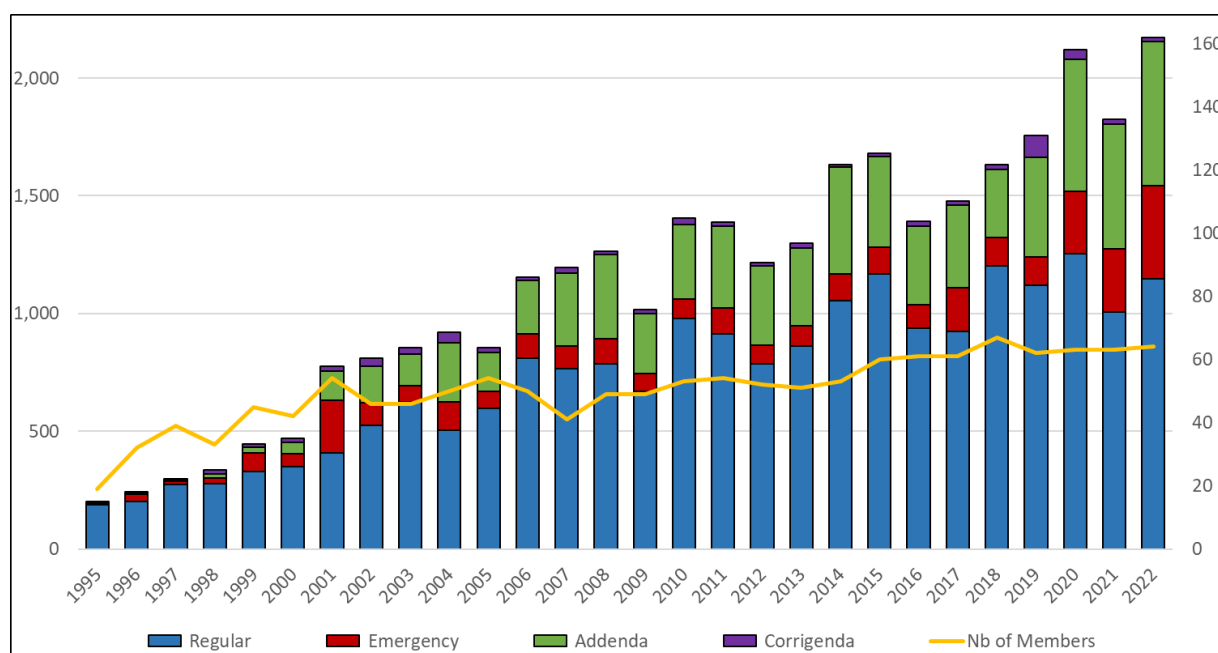
⁷ Further recommendations can be found in the [Practical Manual for SPS NNAs and NEPs](#).

⁸ See [Members' transparency toolkit](#) and the Recommended Transparency Procedures ([G/SPS/7/Rev.5](#)) for further elaboration on the different types of notifications.

address details. A revision is used to replace an existing notification, for example if a notified draft regulation was substantially redrafted or if a notification contained a large number of errors. All types of notifications can be directly filled in and submitted through the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#) (see [Section 4.3.1.1.4](#)).

2.7. Chart A.1 shows the number of regular and emergency notifications (including addenda and corrigenda) submitted per year since 1995. As of 31 December 2022, Members had submitted⁹ 20,668 regular notifications (including 200 revisions), 3,194 emergency notifications (including 15 revisions), 6,764 addenda and 577 corrigenda, reaching a grand total of 31,832 notifications. Despite punctual decreases in some years, the global trend shows an upward trend in the total number of notifications submitted per year, reaching in 2022 a historical record number of 2,172 notifications. Out of these, 1,147 were regular notifications (including 13 revisions), 396 emergency notifications, 612 addenda and 17 corrigenda. Compared to the previous year, there was an increase in the number of regular notifications submitted, from 1,006 in 2021 to 1,147 in 2022 (14% increase), and of emergency notifications, from 268 in 2021 to 396 in 2022 (48% increase). The overall number of addenda submitted increased from 530 in 2021 to 612 in 2022 (16% increase). However, while the number of addenda to regular notifications increased from 430 in 2021 to 553 in 2022 (29% increase), the number of addenda to emergency notifications showed a sharp decrease, from a historical maximum of 100 emergency addenda in 2021 to 59 in 2022 (41% decrease) (see [Section 2.2.10](#)). The monthly average of notifications submitted increased from 152 in 2021 to 181 in 2022.

Chart A.1 – Regular and emergency notifications (incl. revisions), addenda and corrigenda for both types, submitted, and number of Members who have submitted at least one notification, per year



2.8. In June 2002, the SPS Committee adopted a special format and recommended procedures for the notification of determination of the recognition of equivalence of sanitary or phytosanitary measures. As of 31 December 2022, there have been [10 equivalence notifications](#) circulated by Panama (one, in 2007), the Dominican Republic (one, in 2008), and the United States (five in 2019 and three in 2022). A two-part Thematic Session on Equivalence was held in October 2018 and March 2019 within the framework of the Fifth Review.¹⁰

⁹ For this Note, submission refers to the date of distribution of the notification by the Secretariat.

¹⁰ The programmes of parts 1 and 2 of the Thematic Session are contained in [G/SPS/GEN/1640/Rev.1](#) and [G/SPS/GEN/1675/Rev.1](#), respectively, and the reports in [G/SPS/R/93](#) and [G/SPS/R/94](#). Presentations of both sessions are available at: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/events_e.htm.

2.9. In April 2004, the Secretariat established a mechanism for Members to inform each other of the availability of unofficial translations of notified SPS measures into one of the working languages of the WTO. These are submitted in the form of supplements to the original notification. As of 31 December 2022, [19 supplement notifications](#) had been circulated. None have been submitted since 2015. The availability of translations has periodically been discussed in the SPS Committee under transparency-related matters.¹¹ Interestingly, the same mechanism for sharing translations of notified TBT regulations, launched in January 2008, has resulted in [251 supplement notifications](#), although, similarly to SPS, it has not been used since 2016. In this context, it is worth highlighting that Members can also share unofficial translations through the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#), although it has not been used for that purpose yet (see [Section 4.3.1](#) in Part C).

2.10. In October 2004, the SPS Committee adopted a procedure to enhance transparency of special and differential treatment (S&D) in favour of developing Members, which included an addendum notification format to inform the Committee of a Member's decision on whether and how S&D may be provided in reference to a specific request. The procedure and addendum notification format were subsequently revised in December 2009 ([G/SPS/33/Rev.1](#)), and the notification format was incorporated in the previous version of the Recommended Transparency Procedures ([G/SPS/7/Rev.4](#)) for ease of reference. No S&D notifications have ever been circulated by WTO Members under this procedure. All notification types are summarized in Table A.1.

Table A.1 – SPS notifications submitted by WTO Members (including equivalence and supplement notifications)

Type of notification	Since 1995	In 2022	Variation since 2021
Regular (incl. revisions)	20,668	1,147	+14%
Emergency (incl. revisions)	3,194	396	+48%
Addenda to regular	6,661	553	+29%
Addenda to emergency	715	59	-41%
Corrigenda to regular	524	14	-18%
Corrigenda to emergency	70	3	-25%
Equivalence notifications	10	3	+3
Supplement notifications	19	0	-
Total	31,861	2,175	

2.2.2 Notifying Members

2.11. As of 31 December 2022, 131 Members out of 164 (80%) had submitted at least one notification to the WTO, two more than last year. Several EU member States have not submitted notifications; however, most SPS measures are notified by the European Union on behalf of its member States.^{12,13} In addition, 13 developing Members and 11 LDCs have not yet submitted any notification. In 2022, 64 Members submitted at least one notification. The number of Members submitting notifications each year has considerably increased since 1995 and has remained relatively stable over the last few years ([Chart A.1](#)).

2.12. In 2022, the East African Community (EAC) started submitting joint SPS (and TBT) notifications through the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#). Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda's NNAs with the relevant rights can now submit notifications on behalf of each other for joint EAC draft measures. A total of 27 joint notifications have been submitted since August 2022, and the corresponding notifications have been circulated with five symbols. Joint submission of notifications further improves regional coordination and streamlines work for both Members and the Secretariat. The GCC Standardization Organization (GSO) has been submitting joint notifications since 2001 and other Members are also exploring this option to streamline their work.

¹¹ See for example the reports of the Fourth Review and the [2017 Workshop on Transparency](#) in [G/SPS/62](#) and [G/SPS/R/89](#), respectively.

¹² See [G/SPS/GEN/456](#) for notification procedures for the European Union and its member States.

¹³ The information provided by the European Union covers its 28 member States from 1 July 2013 until 31 January 2020. The United Kingdom withdrew from the European Union as of 1 February 2020. The European Union and the United Kingdom communicated that during the transition period, which ended on 31 December 2020, the European Union SPS regime continued to apply in the United Kingdom. See documents [WT/GC/206](#) and [G/SPS/GEN/1767](#).

2.13. Charts A.2 and A.3 show the number of regular and emergency notifications (including addenda and corrigenda), respectively, and the percentage of notifications by Members' development status. Chart A.2 shows that the share of regular notifications submitted by developing Members has been rising since 2000 and, since 2008, is higher than that of regular notifications submitted by developed Members. The share of notifications from LDCs is overall very low, but has been increasing over the last few years, reaching a historical maximum of 17% in 2022, mainly due to the high number of notifications submitted by Uganda (132, [Chart A.9](#)) and Tanzania (70). Chart A.3 shows that the percentage of emergency notifications submitted by developing Members has been greater than 50% since 2002. While in general, the difference in percentage of emergency notifications between developed and developing Members is much larger than in the case of regular notifications, in 2022, we observe a significant decrease in the difference in percentage of emergency notifications between developed and developing Members, mainly due to the high number of emergency notifications submitted by Japan (174, [Chart A.10](#)).

Chart A.2 – Number of regular notifications and percentage by development status

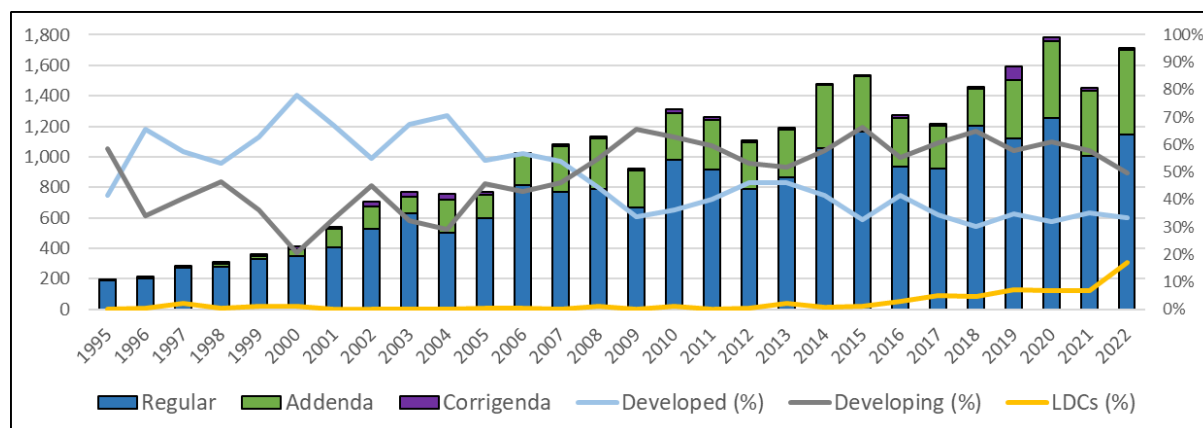
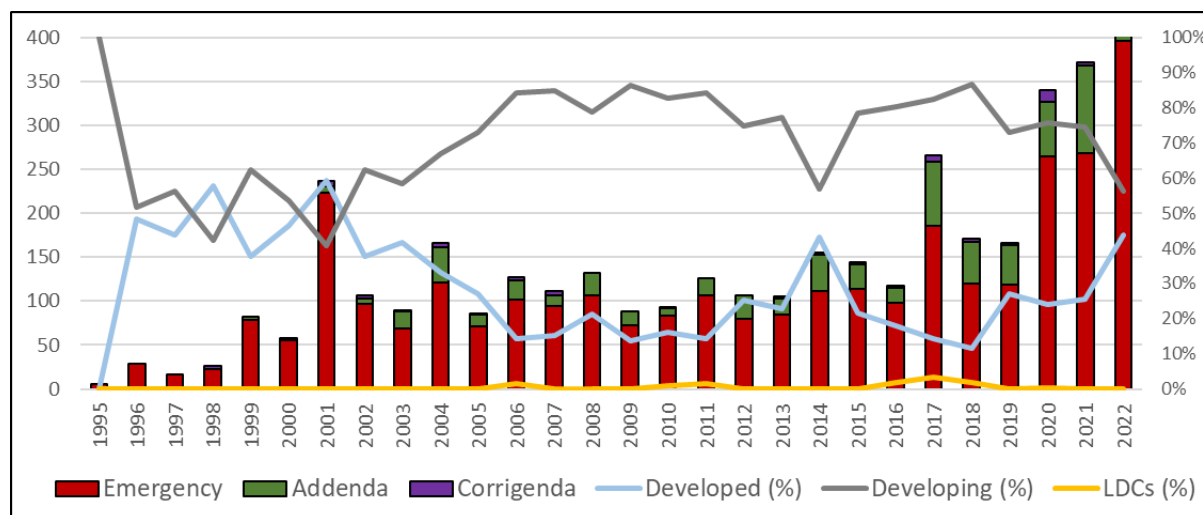
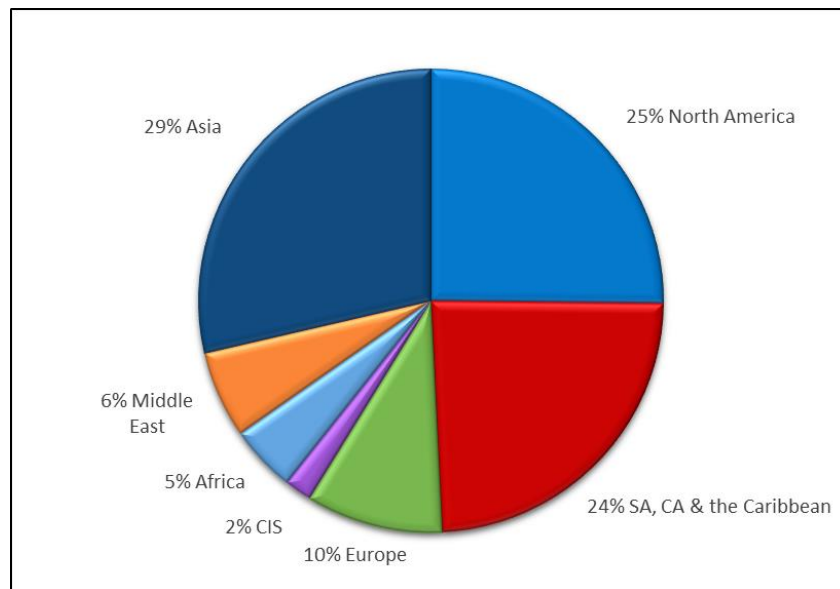


Chart A.3 – Number of emergency notifications and percentage by development status

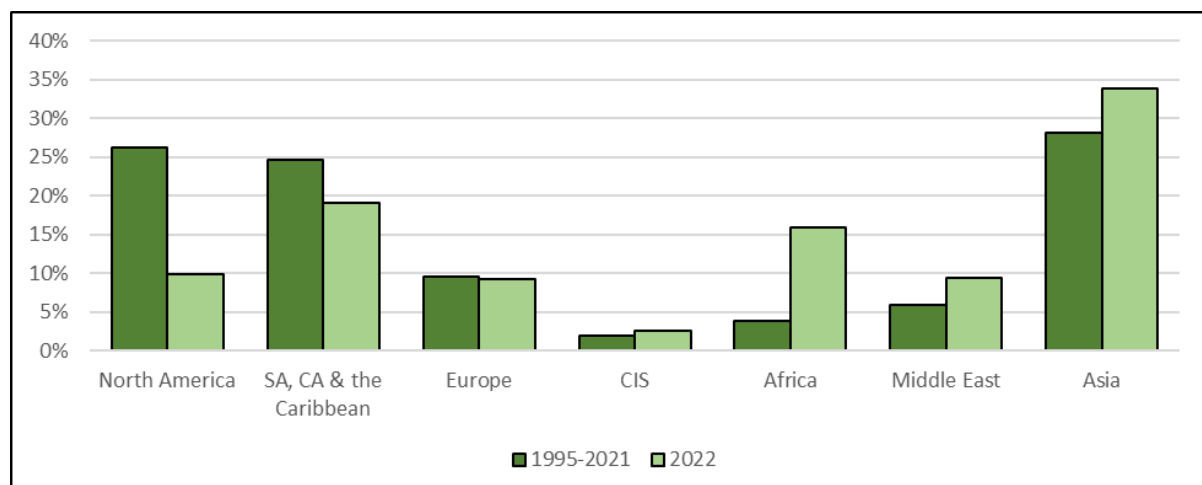


2.14. Looking at the geographic regions from which the notifications submitted since the year 1995 originate, Chart A.4 shows that the largest share of notifications come from Asia (29%), followed by the North America region (25%) and then by South and Central America and the Caribbean (24%).¹⁴

¹⁴ The geographical groupings used rely on WTO working definitions as identified in the WTO Reference Database for analytical purposes (ldb@wto.org). The same groupings are used in the WTO Annual Reports. They can be consulted through the ePing SPS&TBT Platform by clicking on "Facts & figures", "Definitions of groups" in the top menu bar.

Chart A.4 – Notifications by geographical region since 1995

2.15. When comparing the percentage of notifications submitted in 2022 to the average submitted by the different regions between 1995 and 2021, we can observe a striking reduction in the case of North America (from 26% until the end of 2021 to 10% in 2022) and a moderate reduction for South America, Central America and the Caribbean (from 25% to 19%). In contrast, an increase was observed in the case of Asia (from 28% to 34%) and the Middle East region (from 6% to 9%). On average, African Members quadrupled the percentage of notifications (from 4% to 16%) (Chart A.5). As mentioned before, in the case of Africa, Uganda (132) and Tanzania (70) are the Members that have most contributed to the higher percentage of notifications in 2022, including EAC joint notifications. In the case of Asia, Japan (354) and Thailand (140) have most contributed to the higher percentage. For the Middle East region, the main notifiers are United Arab Emirates (52) and Saudi Arabia (50), including GSO joint notifications.

Chart A.5 – Comparison between notifications submitted by geographical region in the period 1995-2021 and in 2022

2.16. The Members who have submitted the greatest number of notifications (regular and emergency) since 1995 are listed in Charts A.6 and A.7, while the Members that have submitted the greatest number of notifications in 2022 are listed in Charts A.8 and A.9. In all four charts, bars show the number of notifications by type and values above the bars represent the corresponding percentage with respect to the total number of notifications (regular, Charts A.6 and A.8, and emergency, Charts A.7 and A.9) submitted.

Chart A.6 - Ten Members who have submitted the most regular notifications since 1995 (percentage with respect to total of regular notifications)

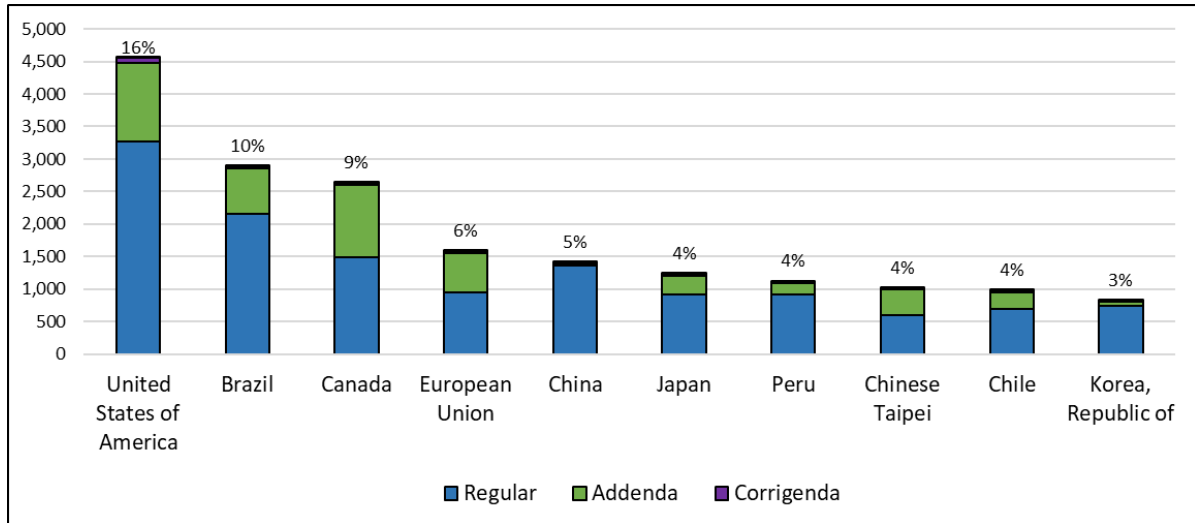


Chart A.7 - Ten Members who have submitted the most emergency notifications since 1995 (percentage with respect to total of emergency notifications)

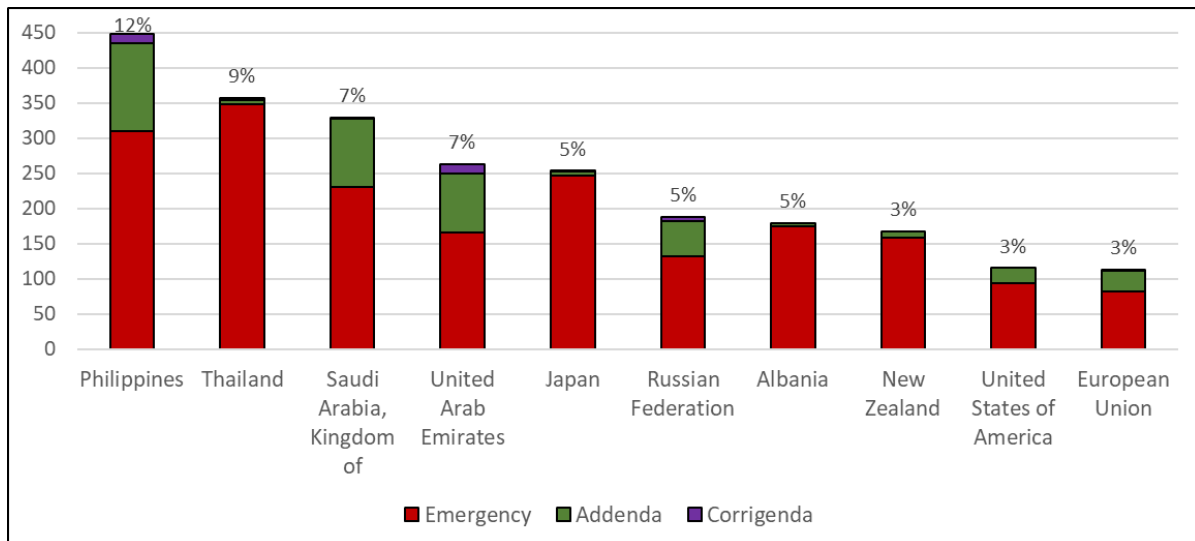


Chart A.8 - Members which have submitted the most regular notifications in 2022 (percentage with respect to total of regular notifications)

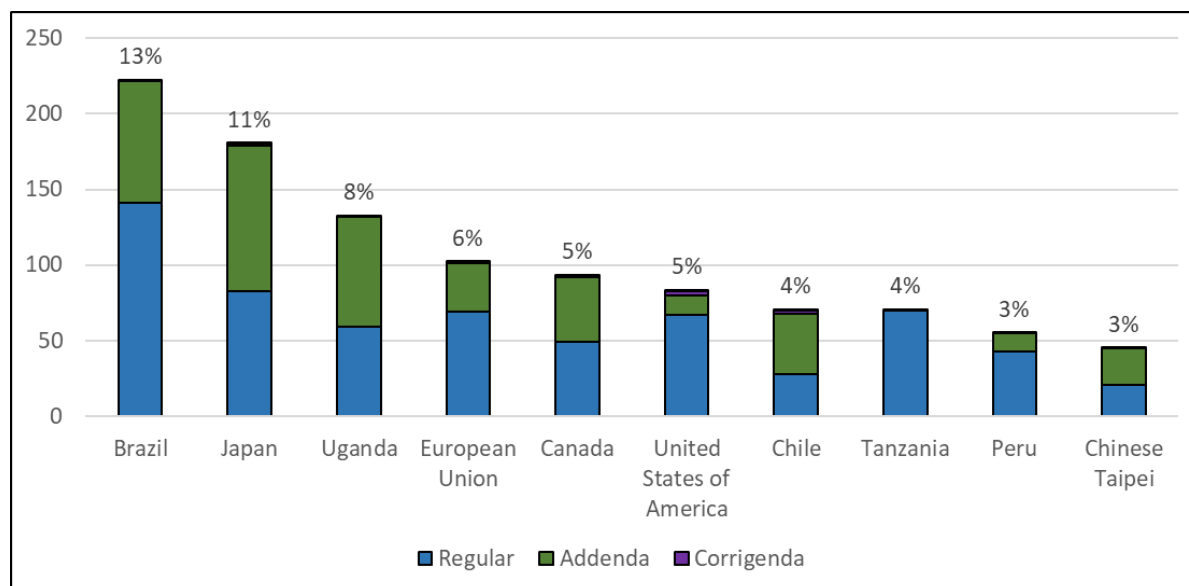
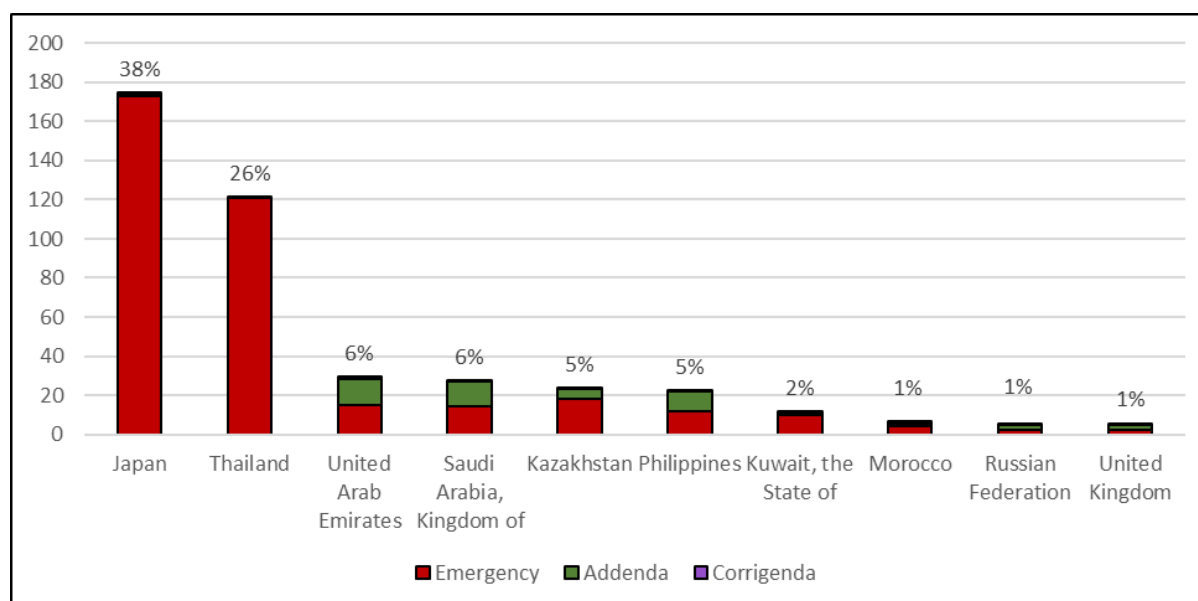


Chart A.9 - Members which have submitted the most emergency notifications in 2022 (percentage with respect to total of emergency notifications)



2.17. In 2022 (Chart A.8), Brazil submitted 13% of all regular notifications circulated. Tanzania is among the top 10 notifying Members for the third consecutive year. Until 31 December 2019, Tanzania had submitted a total of 29 notifications. In 2020, 2021 and 2022 Tanzania submitted 72, 60 and 70 notifications, respectively, suggesting that it is notifying at a level above their historical trend. In addition, another LDC, Uganda, is among the top notifying Members for the first time. Until 31 December 2021, Uganda had submitted a total of 177 notifications. In 2022, Uganda submitted 132, i.e. 43% of all regular notifications submitted since 1995. For emergency notifications (Chart A.9), Japan and Thailand submitted about two thirds of all emergency notifications circulated. Japan, with 174 of the 458 (38%) emergency notifications circulated in 2022, mostly related to avian influenza ([Box 1](#)), is now among the top 10 Members who have submitted the most emergency notifications since 1995 (Chart A.9). The United Kingdom replaced Australia in the top 10 notifying Members, while the other nine of the top 10 notifying Members remain the same as in 2021.

2.18. When looking at the break-down according to the type of notification, the data show that some of the top 10 notifiers submit large numbers of addenda to notifications, e.g. to provide information on the modification of the content of a previously notified regulation, or on its entry into force. Others submit high numbers of notifications but fewer follow-up addenda. The overall data on the use of addenda are shown in [Section 2.2.10](#).

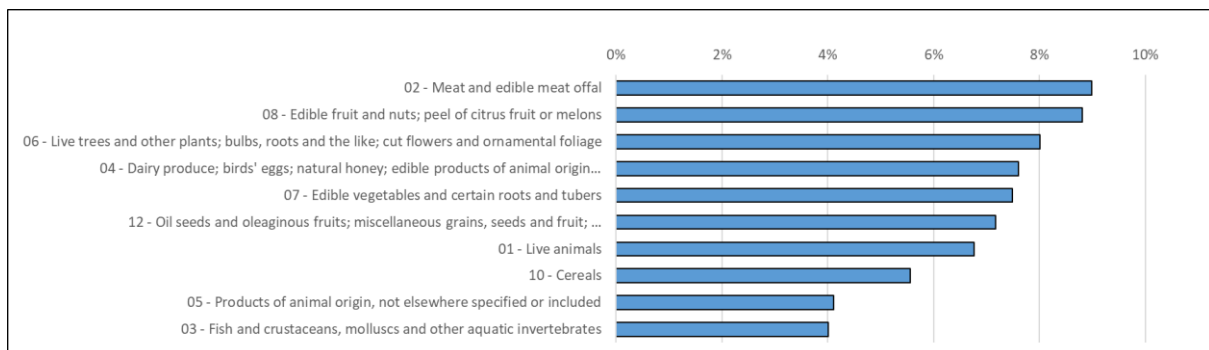
2.2.3 Products covered

2.19. In accordance with paragraphs 5 and 6 of Annex B to the SPS Agreement and the Recommended Transparency Procedures, Members are required to identify the products to be covered by a new or changed SPS measure and should provide the relevant HS codes. Most Members have indicated they would welcome the provision of these codes by their trading partners.¹⁵ However, identifying relevant HS codes is one of the main difficulties encountered by Members when filling in a notification according to the more recent questionnaire on transparency.¹⁶

2.20. Since 1995, the WTO's Central Registry of Notifications (CRN) has been assigning, to the extent possible, the relevant HS codes for all notifications where these are not provided by Members.¹⁷ The online submission of notifications through the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#) facilitates the inclusion of HS (and ICS) codes by submitting Members through a built-in search function, providing more accurate information. Since September 2020, Members can specify the relevant codes from all HS versions, which are available from a drop-down list when submitting notifications online (see [Section 4.3.1.1.4](#)). This update was aimed at increasing accuracy in the products covered and facilitating the retrieval of the relevant HS codes, further improving the quality of notifications.

2.21. While only indicative, Charts A.10 and A.11 show the products at the two-digit HS codes level that are most often covered by regular and emergency notifications since 1995. Note that only HS codes referred to in more than 3% of notifications are represented and that some code descriptions have been shortened for presentation purposes.

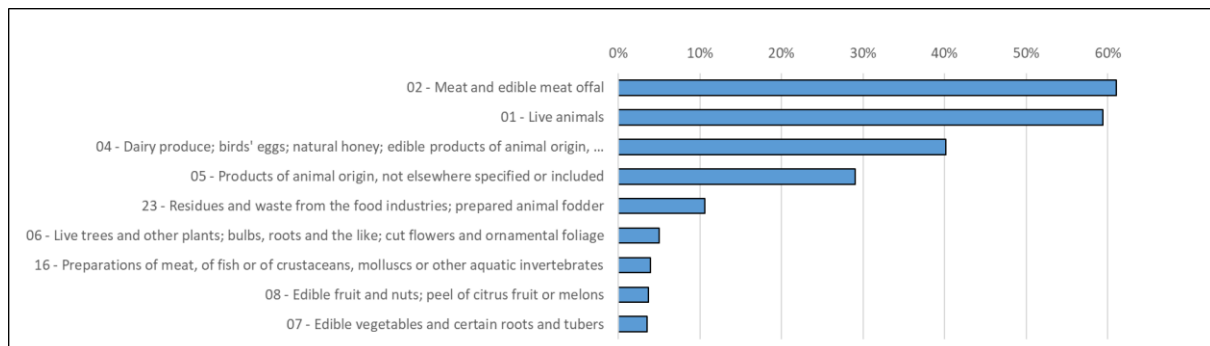
Chart A.10 - HS codes most frequently assigned to regular notifications since 1995



¹⁵ See the Analysis of Replies to the Questionnaire on the Operation of Enquiry Points and National Notification Authorities, ([G/SPS/GEN/751/Rev.1](#), paras. 11 and 18) for further elaboration on this point.

¹⁶ See the Analysis of Replies to the Questionnaire on Transparency under the SPS Agreement, ([G/SPS/GEN/1402](#), para. 2.1) for further elaboration on this point.

¹⁷ This information is available in the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#) for tracking purposes only.

Chart A.11 - HS codes most frequently assigned to emergency notifications since 1995

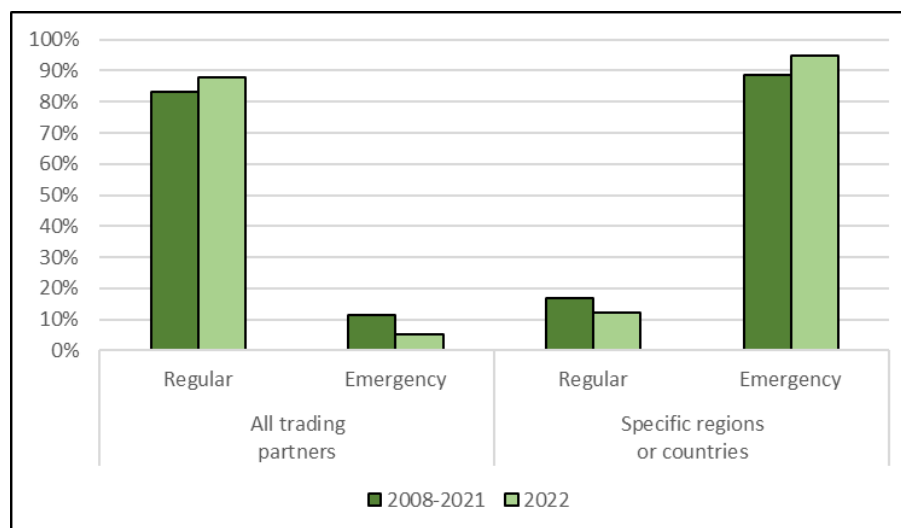
2.22. It is interesting to note that regular notifications refer to a larger variety of HS codes in similarly high percentages (10 different codes are referred to in more than 3% of notifications, the highest percentage of 9% corresponding to HS code 02 - Meat and edible meat offal and HS code 08 - Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons). In contrast, emergency notifications mainly refer to animal-related HS codes, and these represent higher percentages of emergency notifications (9 different codes are referred to in more than 3% of notifications and three of these are above 30%; the highest percentages corresponding to HS code 02 - Meat and edible meat offal, referred to in 61% of notifications, and to HS code 01 - Live animals, referred to in 59% of notifications). These data are consistent with results shown in [Chart A.13](#) related to the objective of notifications.

2.2.4 Regions/countries affected

2.23. The Recommended Transparency Procedures call on Members to identify the regions or countries which are most likely to be affected by the measure being notified. Since December 2008, the notification templates include a data entry option for this item whereby Members are invited to either select the checkbox for "all trading partners" or provide information on specific regions or countries likely to be affected.

2.24. Since 2008, the vast majority of notifications affecting all trading partners are regular notifications and only a small percentage are emergency notifications. Interestingly, Chart A.12 shows a marked shift of pattern between 2008 to 2021 and 2022. An assessment of notifications submitted in 2022 indicates that 140 regular notifications (12%, 4 percentage points less than in 2021) identified a specific group of countries or a region, while in 1,007 regular notifications (88%, which represents 4 percentage points less than in 2021), the "all trading partners" checkbox was selected. In contrast, 376 emergency notifications (95%, an increase of 1 percentage point with respect to 2021) identified a specific group of countries or a region, and only 20 emergency notifications (5%, 1 percentage point less than in 2021) identified "all trading partners". Out of all notifications affecting specific regions or countries, 27% are regular notifications and 73% are emergency notifications (in 2021, 39% were regular notifications and 61% were emergency notifications). While the overall pattern is maintained, Chart A.12 shows a share of emergency notifications affecting specific regions or countries 7 percentage points higher than the average for 2008-2021.

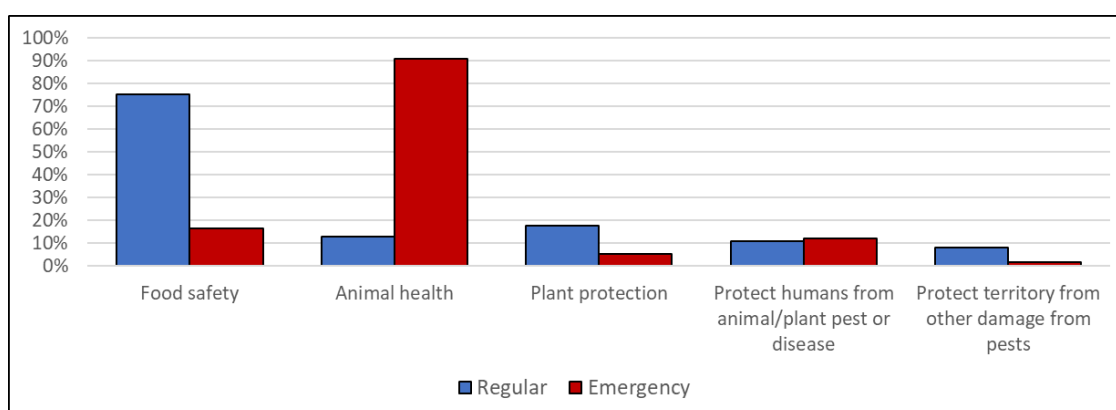
2.25. Interestingly, of the notifications submitted in 2022 affecting specific regions or countries, 16 (11%) of the 140 regular notifications and 216 (57%) of the 376 emergency notifications include the keyword regionalization. This reflects the fact that emergency actions are frequently taken in response to disease or pest outbreaks in specific countries, territories, or regions. A total of 212 (98%) of these 216 emergency notifications had the objective of protecting animal health. More detailed information on the objective of measures in relation to the affected partners is available in [Chart A.16](#).

Chart A.12 - Percentage of regular and emergency notifications affecting all trading partners or specific regions or countries

2.2.5 Objective and rationale

2.26. In accordance with paragraphs 5 and 6 of Annex B to the SPS Agreement and the Recommended Transparency Procedures, Members are also required to state the objective and rationale of proposed regulations by selecting one of the following five options: food safety, animal health, plant protection, protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, and protect territory from other damage from pests. These objectives correspond to the definition of an SPS measure in Annex A, paragraph 1, to the SPS Agreement.

2.27. Chart A.13 indicates the share of each objective as cited in regular and emergency notifications. It must be noted, however, that many notifications identify more than one objective. Therefore, Chart A.14 refers to the percentage of times a specific objective was assigned regardless of whether the notifications identified multiple objectives.

Chart A.13 - Objectives of notified SPS measures (excluding addenda and corrigenda) in 2022

2.28. For regular notifications, the most frequently cited objective is food safety (75%), followed by plant protection (18%) and animal health (13%), while for emergency notifications it is animal health (91%), followed by food safety (16%) and protection of humans from animal/plant pest or disease (12%). The overall patterns have not fluctuated much since 1995. However, some differences are remarkable between 2021 and 2022: concerning regular notifications, one can observe an increase of 10 percentage points in the share of notifications citing the objective of food safety and of 6 percentage points in the share of notifications citing the objective of protection of humans from animal/plant pest or disease, together with a decrease of 8 percentage points in the

share of notifications related to plant health (Chart A.14); regarding emergency notifications, the most striking differences are a decrease of 9, 7 and 4 percentage points in the share of notifications citing the objectives of food safety, of protection of humans from animal/plant pest or disease, and of plant health, respectively. (Chart A.15).

Chart A.14 - Objectives of regular SPS measures (excluding addenda and corrigenda) notified in the last five years

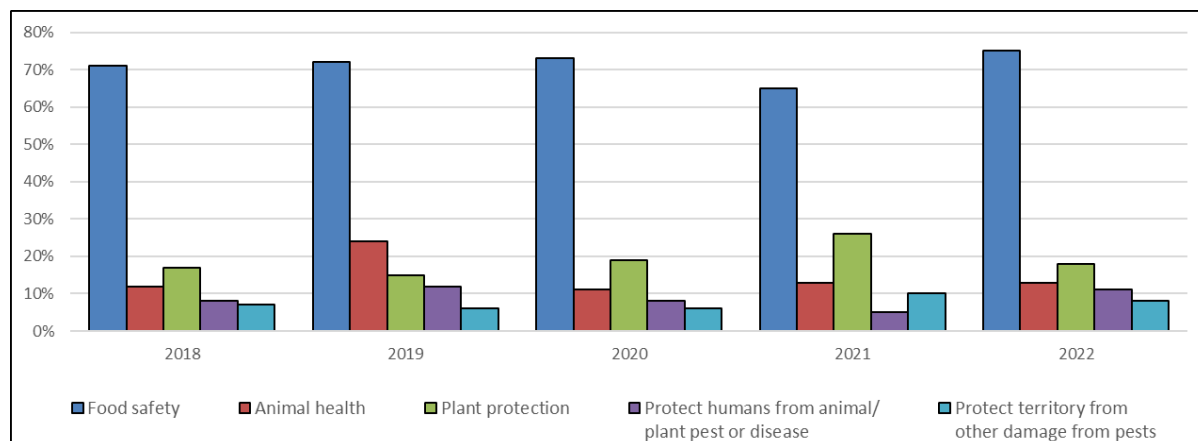
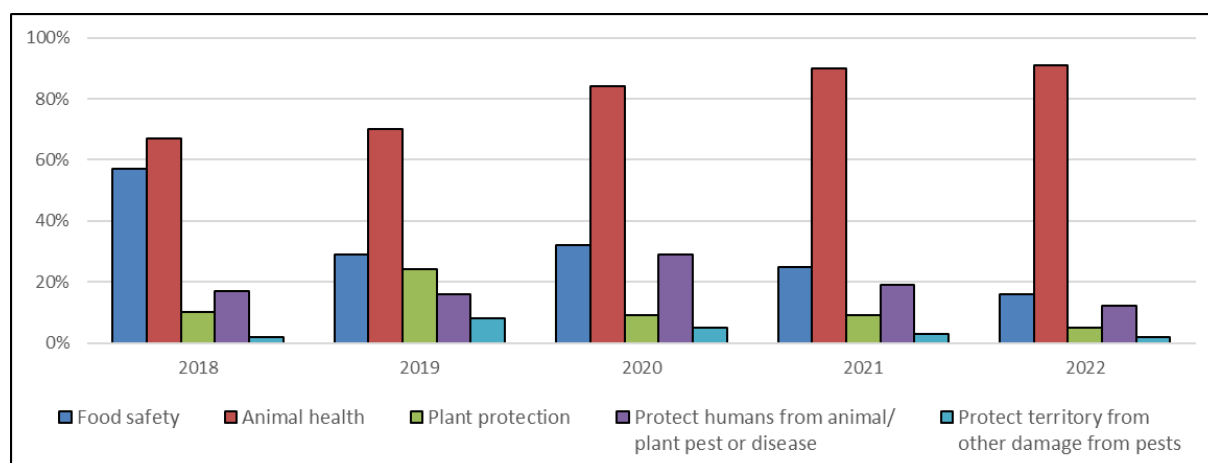


Chart A.15 - Objectives of emergency SPS measures (excluding addenda and corrigenda) notified in the last five years

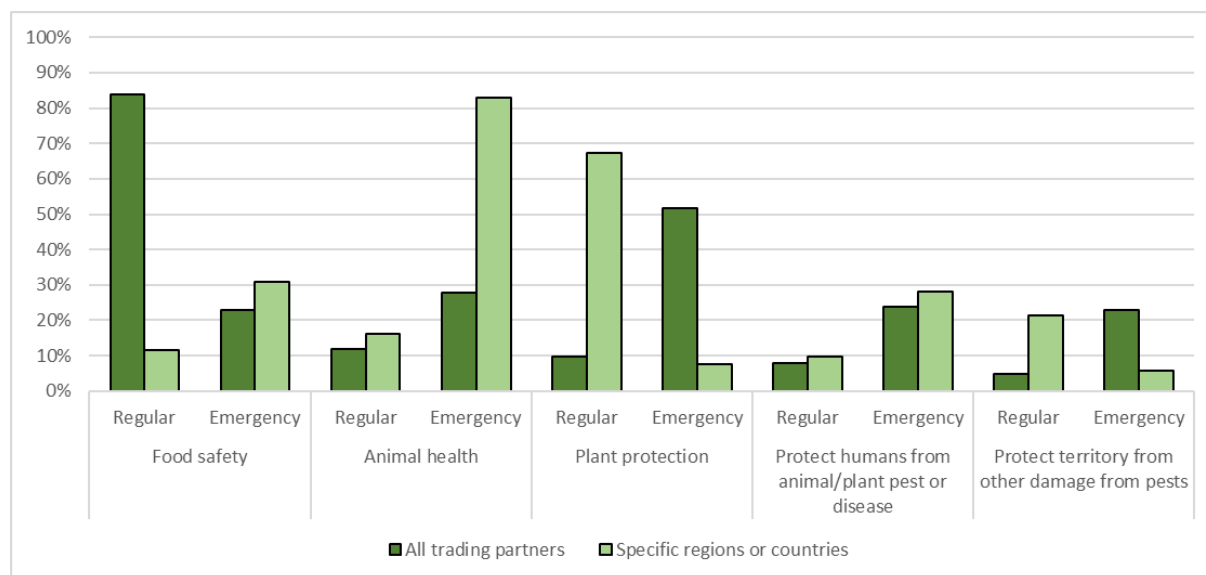


2.2.6 Relationship between the objective of the measure and the regions/countries affected

2.29. Chart A.16 represents the objectives of regular and emergency notifications in relation to trading partners likely to be affected (i.e., all trading partners vs specific regions/countries), since 2008, when revised notification formats were adopted, making these data available.

2.30. In the case of notifications affecting all trading partners since 2008, food safety is the objective most frequently identified in regular notifications (84%), while plant protection is the most frequent objective in emergency notifications (52%). In the case of notifications likely to affect specific regions/countries since 2008, plant protection is the objective most frequently identified in regular notifications (67%), while animal health is the most frequent objective in emergency notifications (83%).

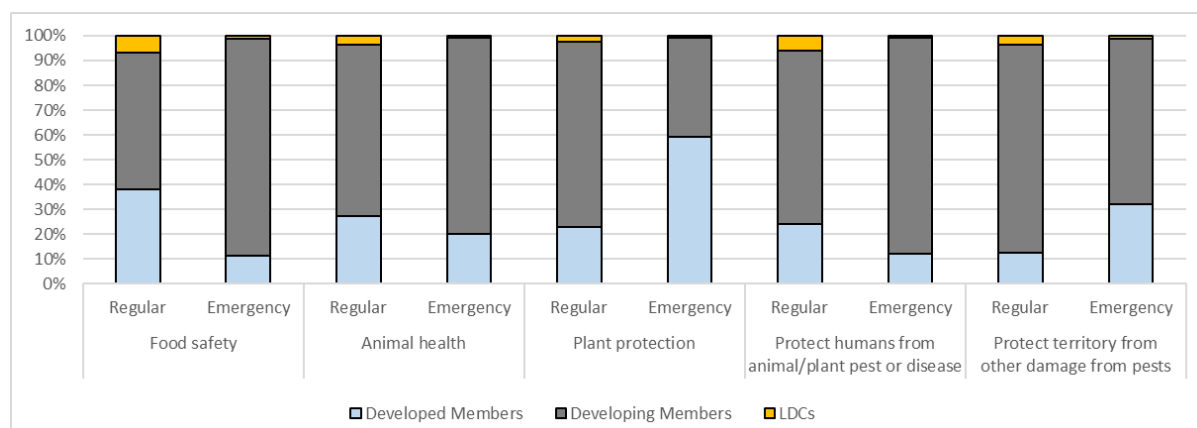
Chart A.16 - Objectives of regular and emergency notifications (excluding addenda and corrigenda) by affected Members since 2008



2.2.6.1 Relationship between the objective of the measure and the development status of the notifying Member

2.31. Chart A.17 shows a detailed analysis of the objective of the measures and the development status of the notifying Members since 2008. In the case of developed Members, the most striking result refers to plant protection measures, representing 60% of all emergency measures related to plant protection. Developing Members (including LDCs) submitted 80% or more of emergency notifications related to each of the four other objectives, i.e., food safety, animal health, the protection of animal health and humans from animal/plant pests or diseases, and the protection of the territory from other damage from pests.

Chart A.17 - Objectives of regular and emergency notifications (excluding addenda and corrigenda) by development status since 2008

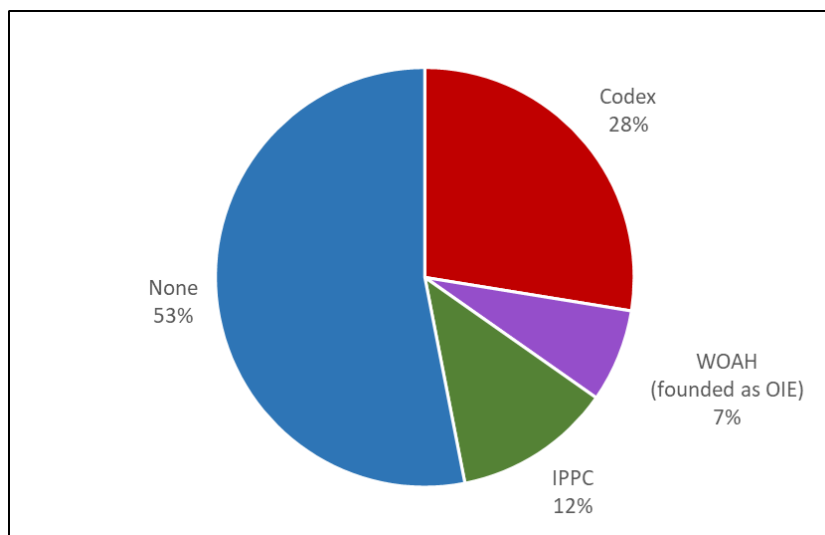


2.2.7 International standards, guidelines or recommendations

2.32. The SPS Agreement does not require Members to notify a measure if its content is substantially the same as that of an international standard adopted by Codex, WOHAI (founded as OIE) or IPPC. Nonetheless, the Recommended Transparency Procedures encourage Members to notify all regulations that are based on, conform to, or are substantially the same as an international standard, guideline or recommendation, if they are expected to have a significant impact on trade of other Members. The notification formats also seek more precision from Members regarding relevant standards and the conformity of the notified measure with these.

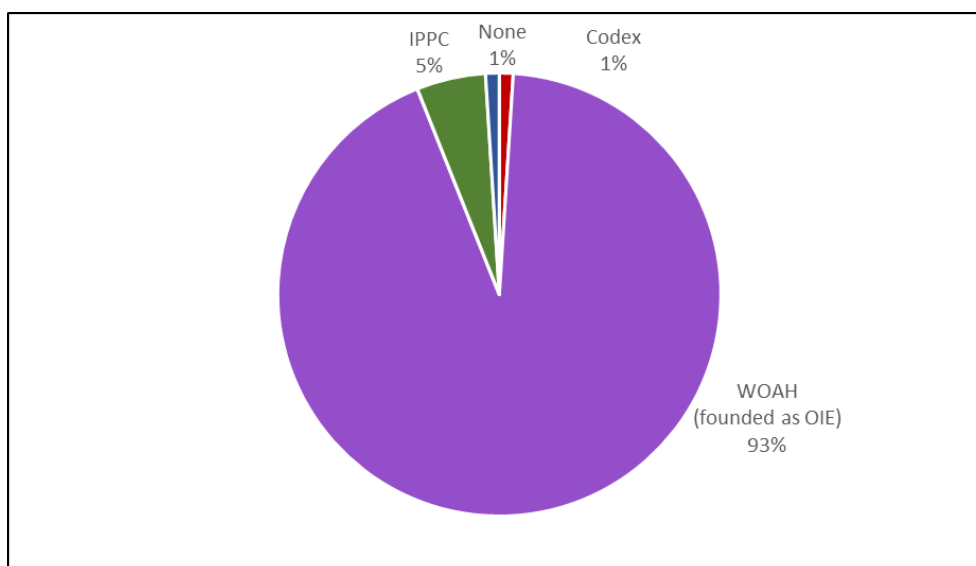
2.33. With respect to regular notifications circulated in 2022, Chart A.18 shows that in 53% of the cases, Members have not identified an international standard as being relevant to the notified measure, while 28% (25% in 2021) have referred to Codex, 12% (19% in 2021) to IPPC and 7% (same as in 2021) to WOA. This information seems consistent with the objectives identified for regular notifications ([Chart A.13](#)).

Chart A.18 - Regular notifications referring to a relevant international standard in 2022



2.34. When it comes to emergency notifications, Chart A.19 shows that in only 1% of the cases (5% in 2021), no relevant international standard had been identified, whereas 93%, 5% and 1% referred to WOA, IPPC and Codex standards, respectively (89%, 6% and 0%, respectively, in 2021). This is consistent with the information provided in [Chart A.13](#), showing that animal health is the most frequently identified objective in emergency notifications.

Chart A.19 - Emergency notifications referring to a relevant international standard in 2022



2.35. It is important to keep in mind that, even if a notification refers to an international standard, the notified measure might not conform to it, i.e. its content might not be substantially the same as the content of the international standard. Therefore, in the notification formats Members are required to identify whether the proposed regulation conforms to the relevant international standard. In 2022, of the 47% of regular notifications identifying a relevant international standard for the measure, 75% indicated that the proposed regulation conformed to that relevant international standard.

Out of the regular notifications that indicated that the notified regulation did not conform to a relevant international standard, all but four referred to Codex standards. For the same period, nearly all (98%) emergency notifications identifying a relevant international standard indicated that the proposed regulation conformed to the relevant international standard. This further confirms the relevance of the standards set by the three international standard-setting bodies recognized by the SPS Agreement when addressing emergency situations.

2.36. Chart A.20 and Chart A.21 show conformity with international standards of measures notified by developed and developing Members (including LDCs), respectively. Out of all regular notifications submitted by developed Members since 2008, measures are reported to conform to international standards in 14% (for Codex), 5% (for WOH) and 7% (for IPPC) of the cases. For developing Members, conformity to IPPC standards is reported in a significantly higher share of their regular notifications, 15%, as compared to developed Members.

2.37. Out of all emergency notifications submitted by developed Members, measures are reported to conform to international standards in 2% (for Codex), 55% (for WOH) and 23% (for IPPC) of the cases. For developing Members, conformity to international standards of their notified emergency measures is significantly higher for WOH (75%) and significantly lower for IPPC (5%) standards, as compared to developed Members.

Chart A.20 – Conformity with international standards of measures notified by developed Members since 2008 (excluding addenda)

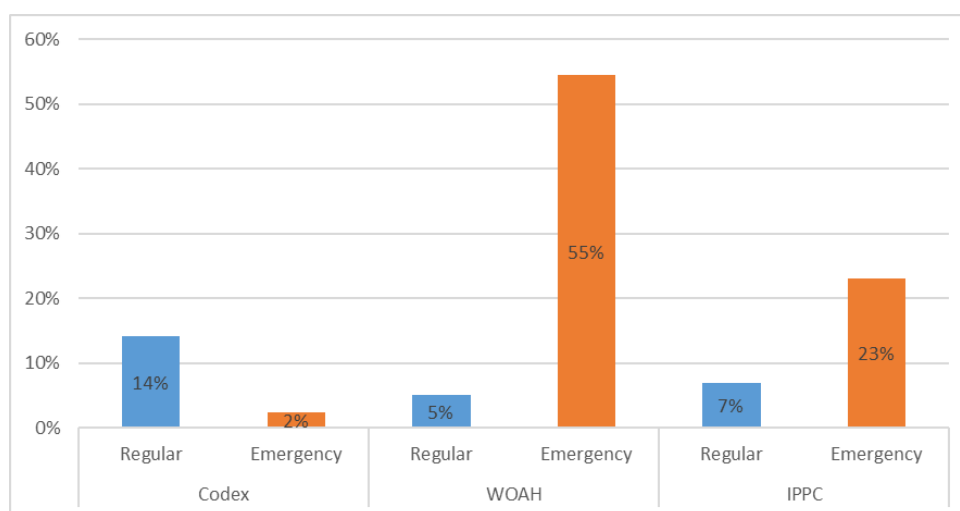
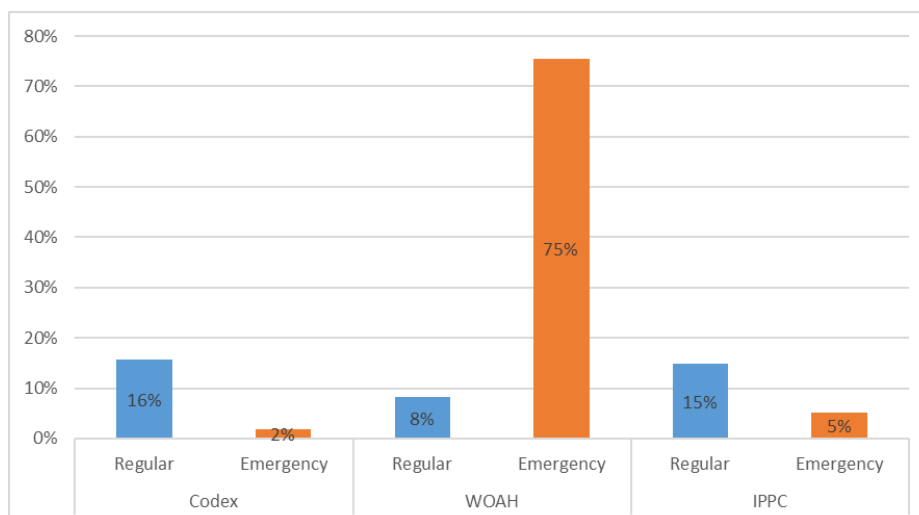


Chart A.21 – Conformity with international standards of measures notified by developing Members (including LDCs) since 2008 (excluding addenda)



2.2.8 Proposed date of adoption/publication/entry into force

2.38. In accordance with paragraphs 1 and 2 of Annex B to the SPS Agreement, Members must ensure that all SPS regulations which have been adopted are published promptly. Except in urgent circumstances, Members are also obliged to allow a reasonable interval between the publication of a measure and its entry into force. Paragraph 3.2 of the Doha Decision on Implementation-Related Issues and Concerns states that this interval "shall be understood to mean normally a period of not less than 6 months".¹⁸

2.39. The regular notification format contained in the Recommended Transparency Procedures includes separate fields for entering the "proposed date of publication", the "proposed date of adoption" and the "proposed date of entry into force". In addition, it includes a default checkbox for a six-month interval between the publication and entry into force of a new measure. For each of these items, Members submitting notifications online through the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#) can easily enter dates from a calendar, allowing for a more accurate analysis.

2.40. For 2022, about 34% of the regular notifications identified either a specific date or a wider period (months or quarters, mainly) for adoption (compared to 55% in 2021), while in the remaining 66%, the date of adoption was still to be determined. This illustrates that, at the time of notification, Members are not always able to foresee the exact date of adoption of a regulation.

2.41. During the reporting period, 285 regular notifications (25%, compared to 31% in 2021) indicated a specific date of publication. Of these, 216 (76%, compared to 29% in 2021) had been published on the day, or prior to the date of distribution of the notification, and 74 of these concerned measures identified as trade facilitating. Regarding the interval between publication of the measure and its entry into force, 256 regular notifications (22%, compared to 13% in 2021) had selected the checkbox for a six-month interval provided in the notification format. A total of 314 notifications provided a specific date of entry into force. Of these, only five provided a period of six months or more and, of the remaining, 73 provided one day or more. A total of 833 notifications did not provide a specific date of entry into force. It should be noted that, in some cases, such dates are not yet determined at the time of the notification, as the nature and extent of comments received on the proposed measure may affect the dates of adoption, publication and entry into force.

2.42. As provided for in the Recommended Transparency Procedures, notifying Members sometimes follow up on their original notification with an addendum to alert Members to the adoption, publication, or entry into force of a previously notified proposed measure. About 77% of the addenda submitted in 2022 indicated the adoption, publication or entry into force of regulations as shown in [Chart A.24](#) (see [Section 2.2.10](#)).

2.2.9 Final date for comments

2.43. Paragraph 5 of Annex B to the SPS Agreement provides that notifications should take place at an early stage, when amendments can still be introduced and comments taken into account. The Recommended Transparency Procedures state that the comment period provided for regular notifications should last at least 60 days. Where domestic regulatory mechanisms allow, the 60-day comment period should normally begin with the circulation of the notification by the WTO Secretariat. The notification formats also offer a checkbox option for such a 60-day comment period to encourage Members to follow this recommendation.¹⁹ Members submitting notifications online can easily enter the final date for comments from a calendar, allowing for a more accurate analysis. A total of 674 (59%, same share as in 2021) regular notifications submitted in 2022 used the checkbox to provide a 60-day comment period.

2.44. An analysis of the notifications issued during 2022 shows that 903 (79%) provided a comment period, ranging from a minimum of 2 day to a maximum of 96 days, with an average of 57 days (calculated as the difference between the date of circulation of the notification and the final date for comments; see Table A.2). More specifically, 741 regular notifications (65%) provided a comment period of 60 or more days. On average, developed Members provided 55 days for comments and developing Members (including LDCs) 58 days.

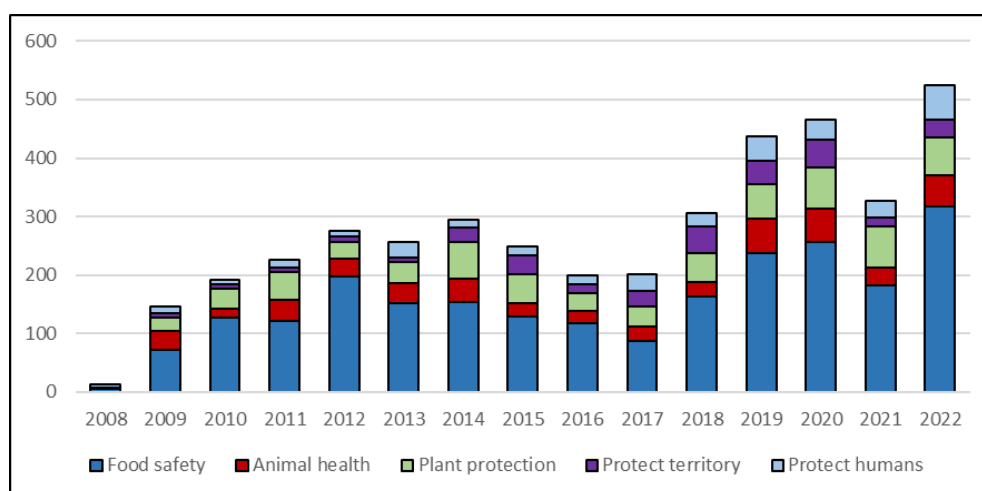
¹⁸ [WT/MIN\(01\)/17](#); see also para. 4.3 of [G/SPS/7/Rev.5](#).

¹⁹ See [G/SPS/7/Rev.5](#), para. 2.8.

Table A.2. Comment period provided in regular notifications (2022)

All Members		
	No.	Share
No. of regular notifications	1,147	-
Comment period available	903	79%
Comment period not indicated/not available	242	21%
Comment period ends before or equal to distribution date	2	<1%
Average length (in days)	57	
Developed Members		
	No.	Share
No. of regular notifications	344	-
Comment period available	213	62%
Comment period not indicated/not available	130	38%
Comment period ends before or equal to distribution date	1	<1%
Average length (in days)	55	
Developing Members		
	No.	Share
No. of regular notifications	803	-
Comment period available	690	86%
Comment period not indicated/not available	112	14%
Comment period ends before or equal to distribution date	1	<1%
Average length (in days)	58	

2.45. It should be noted that no comment period needs to be provided in the case of proposed measures which facilitate trade and those which are substantially the same as an international standard. In 2022, 414 (36%) regular notifications have been identified to be trade facilitating. Of these, 324 (78%) still provided a comment period, of which 291 (90%) provided a comment period of 60 days or more. In addition, 159 (45%) of the 414 indicated conformity with a relevant international standard and, of these, 97 (61%) still provided a comment period, which in 78 (80%) was of 60 days or more. It is interesting to note that most of the trade facilitating measures refer to food safety (Chart A.22).²⁰

Chart A.22 – Number of trade facilitating regular measures, per objective

²⁰ It must be noted that many notifications identify more than one objective.

2.46. While Members must notify other WTO Members of draft, new or changed measures, they are not required to submit the text of the relevant regulations along with their notifications. However, Members have raised concerns in the SPS Committee regarding difficulties to access the full text of the regulations, only summarized in the notifications. Members have also pointed out that the process of obtaining the texts of regulations reduces the period actually available for providing comments.

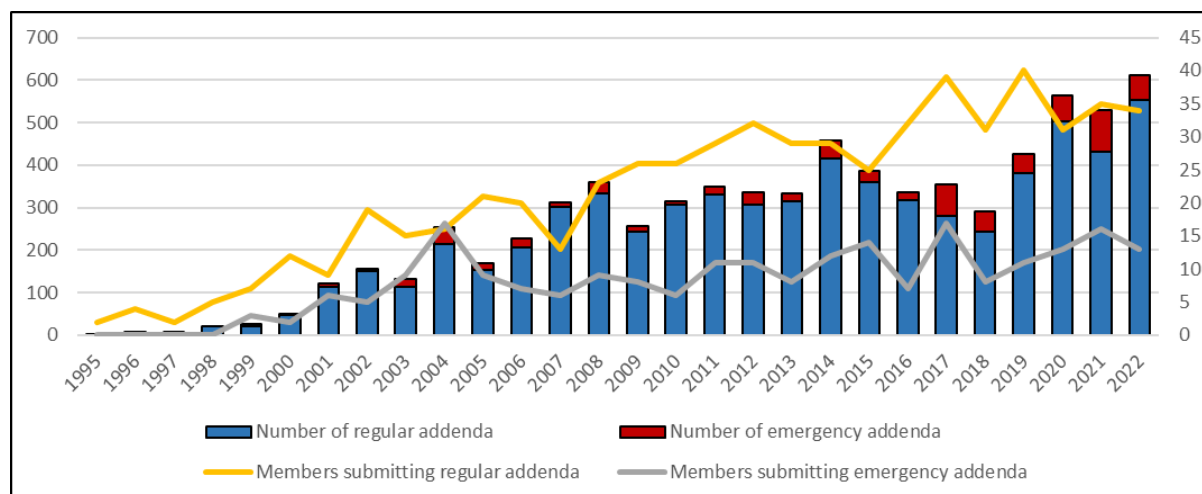
2.47. Since February 2008, to address these concerns and facilitate access to notified draft regulations, Members may, on a voluntary basis, provide the Secretariat with an electronic version of the text of the notified draft regulation as an attachment to the notification. The submitted text is then made electronically accessible to other Members through a hyperlink in the notification format.²¹ Many Members include a hyperlink to their own electronic version of the notified regulation as part of the text of the notification, in addition to or instead of the above option. Through the submission of notifications functionality of the ePing SPS&TBT Platform, Members can upload documents, that become automatically available for all Members through the Platform. In 2022, around 1,078 regular notifications (94%) and 180 emergency notifications (45%), submitted by 60 Members, included a link to the full text or a summary of the notified draft regulations using this facility. Members may wish to remind their notification authorities of the availability of this facility.

2.2.10 Addenda to regular and emergency notifications

2.48. Since 1995, Members have been submitting increasing numbers of addenda to regular and emergency notifications, as shown in Chart A.23. This increase has led to an historical maximum in 2022, reaching a total of 612 (553 regular and 59 emergency) addenda (see [Chart A.1](#)).

2.49. It is also interesting to note that an increasing number of Members are following the good practice of submitting addenda to regular and emergency notifications, as shown in Chart A.23. In total, 70 and 49 Members have submitted, at least once, addenda to regular and emergency notifications, respectively. In 2022, 34 and 13 Members have submitted addenda to regular and emergency notifications, respectively.

Chart A.23 - Evolution of the number of addenda and number of Members submitting addenda to regular and emergency notifications²²



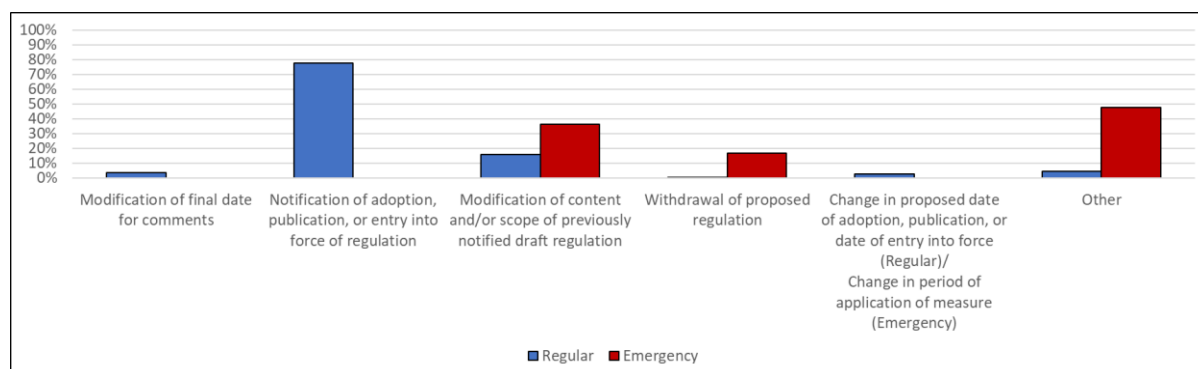
2.50. According to the Recommended Transparency Procedures, Members are asked to select the reason for an addendum from a list of options. Chart A.24 shows the share of each option for 2022. Note that the "Notification of adoption, publication, or entry into force of regulation" is an option available for addenda to regular notifications only. Also, the format for addenda to regular notifications includes the option "Withdrawal of proposed regulations", while emergency notifications refer to "Withdrawal of regulations". Other reasons mentioned in the formats include, for instance, lifting an import ban or the inclusion of a new country in the list of affected regions. It is interesting

²¹ See [G/SPS/7/Rev.5](#), para. 2.17 and Annex C.

²² Please note the different scales of the axis.

to note that the large majority (77%) of addenda to regular notifications inform of the adoption, publication, or entry into force of regulation while, for emergency notifications, 36% inform of the modification of content and/or scope of previously notified draft regulation and almost half (47%) refer to "Other" reasons.

Chart A.24 - Reasons for addenda (percentage) in 2022²³



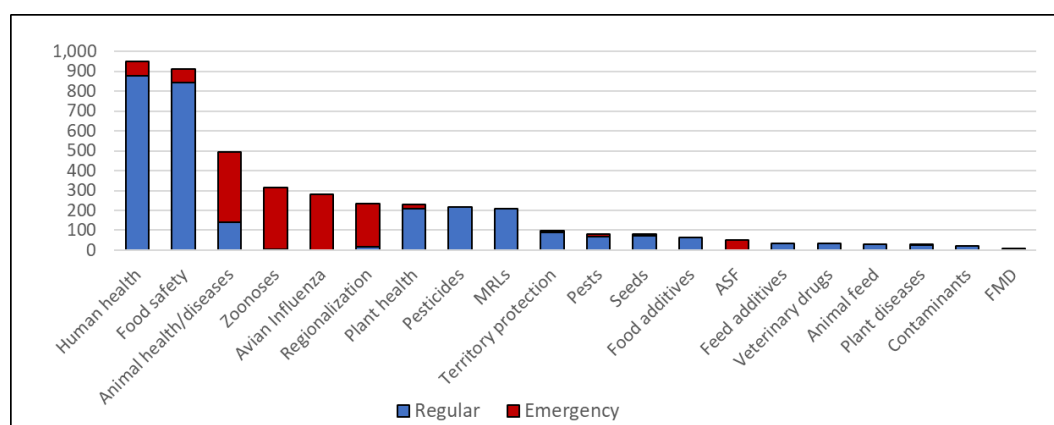
2.51. In addition, Members can notify their decision on special and differential treatment provided in reference to a specific request, through another addendum notification format. As previously mentioned, no Member has ever notified such a decision to the Committee.

2.3 Notification keywords

2.52. In the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#), notifications can also be categorized according to a list of about 90 predefined keywords, which describe issues appearing frequently in notifications. The CRN has assigned these keywords since 2003, and they assist searching for notifications in certain areas. While the keywords include the objectives of the notification (e.g. food safety, animal health, plant protection), they also include other notification subjects, specific animal and plant diseases, etc.

2.53. As shown in Chart A.25, the keywords which have been most frequently assigned to regular notifications, in descending order for the current reporting period, are human health, food safety, pesticides, maximum residue limits (MRLs) and plant health. For emergency notifications, the most frequent keywords in descending order are animal health/animal diseases²⁴, zoonoses, avian influenza and pest- or disease- free regions/regionalization. It must be noted that most of the notifications are assigned more than one keyword. The COVID-19 SPS keyword created in 2020 was assigned to two emergency notifications only (see [Section 2.4](#)).

Chart A.25 - Keywords of notified regular and emergency SPS measures in 2022 (number)



²³ Each notification can have multiple entries for the reasons for addenda.

²⁴ "Animal health" and "Animal diseases" keywords have been merged into "Animal health/animal diseases". Both keywords were assigned to the same notifications in 2022.

2.4 COVID-19 related notifications and documents

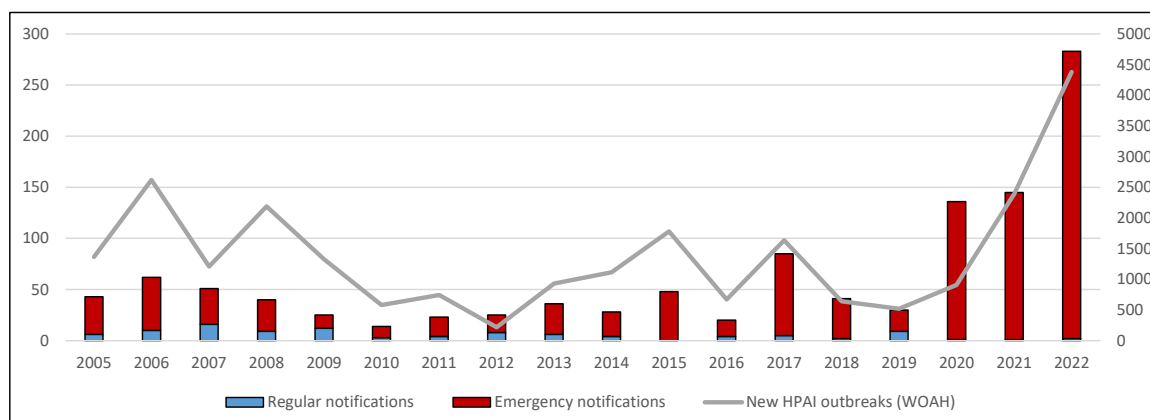
2.54. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Members have continued to fulfil their transparency obligations, including the notification of specific COVID-19 related SPS measures. The WTO created the dedicated website [COVID-19 and world trade](#) to inform of trade-related developments in light of the pandemic. In 2020, the Secretariat created a COVID-19 SPS keyword that was assigned to notifications and other documents based on the presence of the words COVID-19, nCoV or coronavirus in the text of the notification. This keyword can be searched for in the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#) and in [DocsOnLine](#).

Box 1. Avian influenza

The keyword "avian influenza" was assigned to 281* (71%) of the 396 emergency notifications submitted in 2022. When comparing the number of outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)* notified per year through the [OIE-WAHIS system](#) with the SPS notifications submitted to the WTO, we observe that since 2019 an increase in the number of outbreaks notified to the WOAHP coincides with an increase in the number of measures notified to the WTO in relation to avian influenza.

Despite the high number of outbreaks of HPAI notified to the WOAHP and the measures notified by WTO Members in relation to this disease, since 1995 only 21 of the 558 (3.8%) STCs raised in the Committee were assigned the keyword "avian influenza", corresponding to 10% of "animal health/animal diseases" related STCs. Members have also raised issues on the use of the WOAHP standard for HPAI under the agenda item "Monitoring of the use of international standards" in the SPS Committee meetings.

Number of regular and emergency notifications and number of new HPAI outbreaks notified to the OIE



*166 (58%) out of 281 were submitted by one Member.

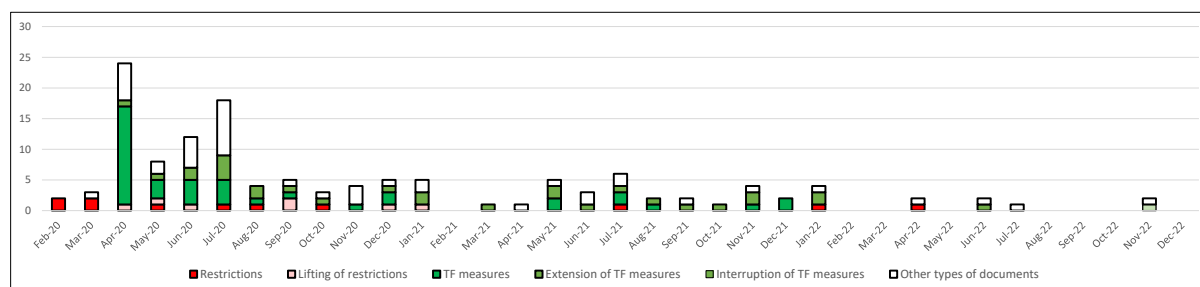
**Please note that data in the OIE-WAHIS refer to HPAI while the keyword avian influenza assigned to WTO SPS notifications refers to both HPAI and low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI).

2.55. Between February 2020 and December 2022, Members submitted a total of 131 documents informing of measures adopted in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2022, the number of COVID-19 SPS documents was significantly lower than in the previous two years. A total of seven notifications (two emergency notifications and five addenda to regular notifications) and four communications (three GEN documents and an addendum to a previous GEN document) were submitted in 2022 (Chart A.26). The emergency notifications submitted in 2022 established a temporary ban on keeping minks and a temporary suspension on commercial imports of live hamsters on grounds of COVID-19. The addenda to regular notifications amended or extended previously notified measures. The three GEN documents circulated contain the statements delivered by a Member in the SPS Committee on a COVID-19 related concern. The addendum to a previous communication repealed the provisions set out during the pandemic, which established facilities for the submission of original phytosanitary export certificates. The two temporary restrictions imposed in 2022 were subsequently lifted through addenda to the original notifications, issued in 2023. Likewise, most of the restrictions on the importation, and sometimes transit, of live animals and animal products, or on certain species imposed in 2020 have already been lifted. Almost two-thirds of the measures adopted facilitated trade, mainly through the acceptance of electronic copies or scanned certificates. While several of these measures were extended through addenda to the original

notifications, Members have not recently informed of further extensions of their trade facilitating measures. As of 31 December 2022, SPS COVID-19 related documents represented 27% of all COVID-19 related documents submitted by Members to the WTO. The last SPS COVID-19 document was submitted on 16 January 2023.

2.56. In light of the acceleration of the use and development of methods to conduct remote assessments, such as audits and inspections, in agricultural and food supply chains, a Member proposed to hold a thematic session on the use of remote (virtual) audit and verification in regulatory frameworks that was held on the margins of the 2022 June Committee meeting.²⁵

Chart A.26 – Objective of COVID-19 related SPS notifications and communications from 1 February 2020 to 31 December 2022 (number)



2.57. In May 2020, the Secretariat published a technical note on "[Standards, regulations and COVID-19 - What actions taken by WTO members?](#)" (SPS and TBT) that was updated in December 2020. In June 2020, the SPS Committee organized an [information-sharing session on COVID-19](#) on the margins of the Committee meeting²⁶ and, since then, it has included a dedicated item in all informal meetings prior to the regular Committee meetings.²⁷ At the June 2022 Committee meeting, the Chairperson noted that there had not been interventions under this agenda item in recent meetings and the Committee agreed to delete this agenda item for the following SPS Committee meeting.²⁸

2.58. A report to the Council for Trade in Goods circulated in December 2022 summarizes the SPS COVID-19 related actions undertaken by the SPS Committee.²⁹

3 PART B - SPECIFIC TRADE CONCERNS

3.1. Part B of the present document contains information on STCs, maintaining the previously assigned numbers according to the chronological order of the Committee meetings in which they were first raised, although titles may be updated to reflect the latest state of the concern. These numbers serve as unique identifiers and are intended to facilitate the tracking of issues raised over time. The Secretariat has revised this report annually to include new information provided by Members ([G/SPS/GEN/204/Rev.1](#) to [G/SPS/GEN/204/Rev.22](#)). As mentioned above, in preparing this report, the Secretariat has largely relied on the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#). More detailed searches have been undertaken in the [Trade Concerns Database \(TCD\)](#).

3.2. Part B is divided into two sections:

- [General overview of specific trade concerns \(1995-2022\)](#); and
- [Specific trade concerns considered in 2022](#).

²⁵ The dedicated page and the recordings of the sessions are available here: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/thematic_session_21jun22_e.htm.

²⁶ The report of the information-sharing session is contained in [G/SPS/R/98](#).

²⁷ The reports on the SPS Committee informal meetings held in March and June 2022 are contained in Annex A of document [G/SPS/R/105](#) and Annex C of document [G/SPS/R/107](#), respectively.

²⁸ See section 6.3 of the summary report of the June 2022 Committee meeting in document [G/SPS/R/107](#).

²⁹ The report is contained in document [G/L/1477; G/SPS/66](#).

3.3. The first section of Part B presents a general overview of STCs, including summary statistics and graphs for all the STCs raised in the SPS Committee between the first regular meeting of 1995 and the last regular meeting of 2022. It provides detailed information on the concerns raised per meeting, as well as the relation between the number of notifications and the number of concerns. In addition, the STCs are categorized by their primary subject keyword (food safety, animal or plant health, or other concerns). Information is also provided on the participation of Members in STCs, by development status, on the average number of times that STCs are raised, as well as on reported status of resolution.

3.4. The second section of Part B contains information regarding all STCs which were raised in the SPS Committee in 2022 ([Section 3.2](#)). This includes STCs raised for the first time in 2022, STCs which were previously raised and discussed again in 2022 and STCs resolved in 2022. Information is also provided on the first request for the use of the Good Offices of the Chair under Article 12.2 of the SPS Agreement and the *ad hoc* consultations procedure, as well as on STCs for which substantive action occurred under the Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU). All STCs discussed in 2022 are presented by responding Member ([Table B.2](#)).

3.1 General overview of specific trade concerns (1995-2022)³⁰

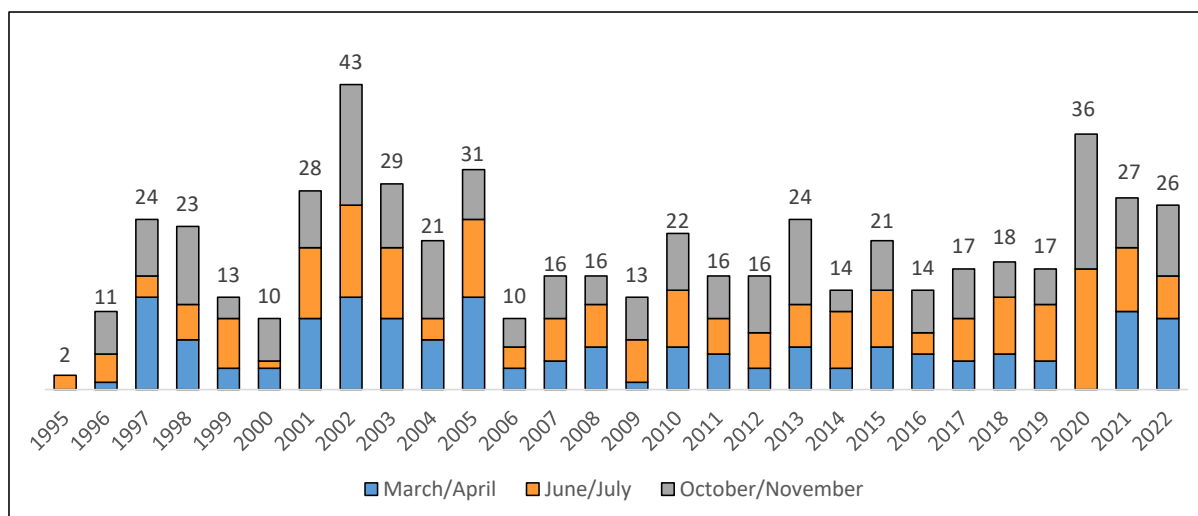
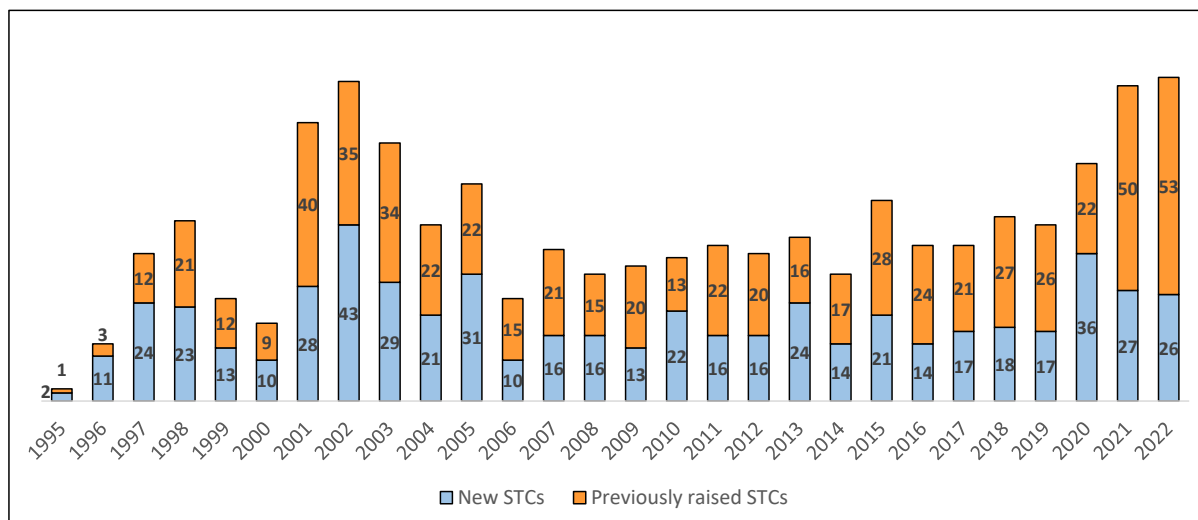
3.5. Altogether, 558 STCs have been raised between 1995 and the end of 2022. The full list of STCs raised since 1995 can be found in the [Trade Concerns Database](#). Chart B.1 shows the number of new STCs raised each year, per Committee meeting, and Chart B.2 shows the number of new and previously raised STCs per year. A total of 26 new STCs were raised in the three SPS Committee meetings held in 2022. As in previous years, this number is higher than the average since 1995, although still lower than the high number of new STCs raised in 2020 (36), despite the fact that only two meetings were held in 2020.³¹

3.6. In 2022, 53 previously raised STCs were discussed again (including 10 new STCs raised again in the same year), the highest number since 1995 (specific information on STCs discussed in 2022 is available in [Section 3.2](#)). Although it may be early to say, there appears to be an emerging upward trend in the total number of STCs discussed each year. A total of 39 STCs were discussed in 2018 and in 2019, while 53, 64 and 69 STCs were discussed in 2020, 2021 and 2022, respectively.³² In 2020, this increase seems to be related to a higher number of new STCs but, in 2021 and 2022, the increase was primarily due to a higher number of previously raised STCs. The increase coincides with the introduction of virtual/hybrid meetings since 2020 and could indicate that the possibility for capital-based officials to participate virtually in meetings facilitates the raising of STCs. The increase also coincides with the introduction of the eAgenda system, which may also facilitate the raising of STCs. Whether this trend continues will have to be confirmed in subsequent years.

³⁰ Small discrepancies in the data between the current reporting period and past reporting periods are due to the transition to the new ePing SPS&TBT Platform.

³¹ The March 2020 Committee meeting was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic (see document [JOB/SPS/5/Rev.1/Corr.1](#)).

³² New STCs raised again in the same year are not considered, unlike in Chart B.2.

Chart B.1 – Number of new STCs raised since 1995, per Committee meeting**Chart B.2 – Number of new and previously raised STCs discussed per year since 1995³³**

3.7. It is interesting to note that, although both numbers of STCs and of notifications³⁴ have grown in recent years, there does not seem to be a clear correlation between the number of notifications and the number of new STCs raised. Only 218 (39%) STCs referred to a notified measure; specifically, 185 STCs referred to a regular notification while 33 STCs referred to an emergency notification. Additionally, 20 STCs referred to a TBT notification and seven STCs raised in the TBT Committee referred to a notification submitted to the SPS Committee. This reinforces the idea that increased transparency does not necessarily lead to a higher number of concerns raised in the Committee.

3.8. Chart B.3 categorizes the 558 STCs raised since 1995 into food safety, animal or plant health, or other concerns. Overall, 188 (33%) of STCs raised relate primarily to food safety, 182 (33%) to animal health/animal diseases (animal health), 123 (22%) to plant health, and 65 (12%) to other issues such as certification requirements, or control, inspection or approval procedures.³⁵ A closer

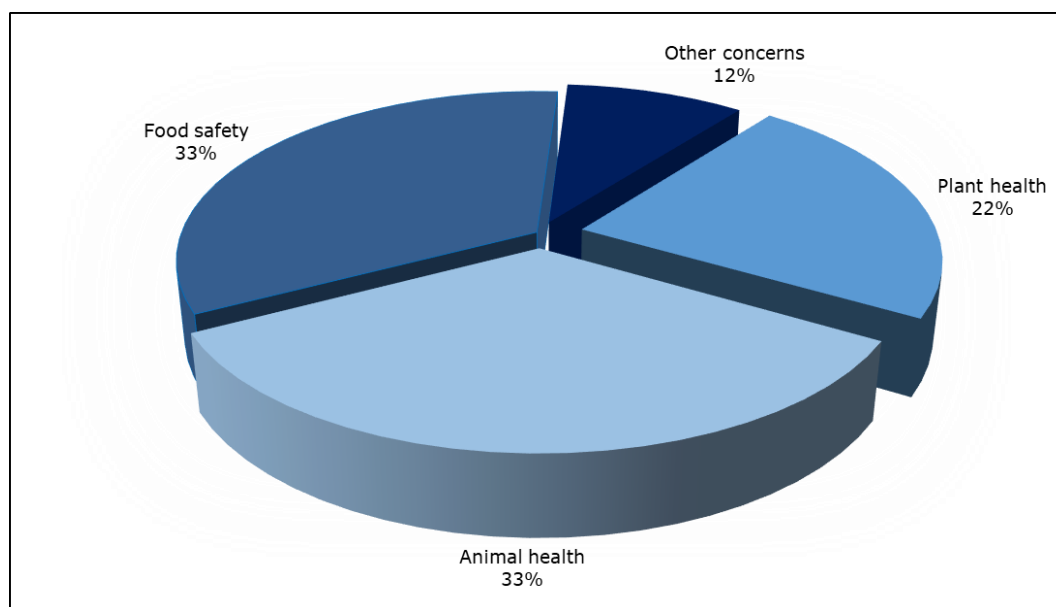
³³ Please note that the number of times an STC is raised during the year is not taken into account. New STCs raised again in the same year are also included in the total of previously raised STCs.

³⁴ See [Chart A.1](#).

³⁵ Many STCs concern both food safety, animal or plant health and control, inspection or approval procedures. Where this is the case, the primary subject keyword "food safety", "animal health/animal diseases" or "plant health" has been assigned. In addition, the keyword "control, inspection and approval procedures" has also been assigned to such STCs.

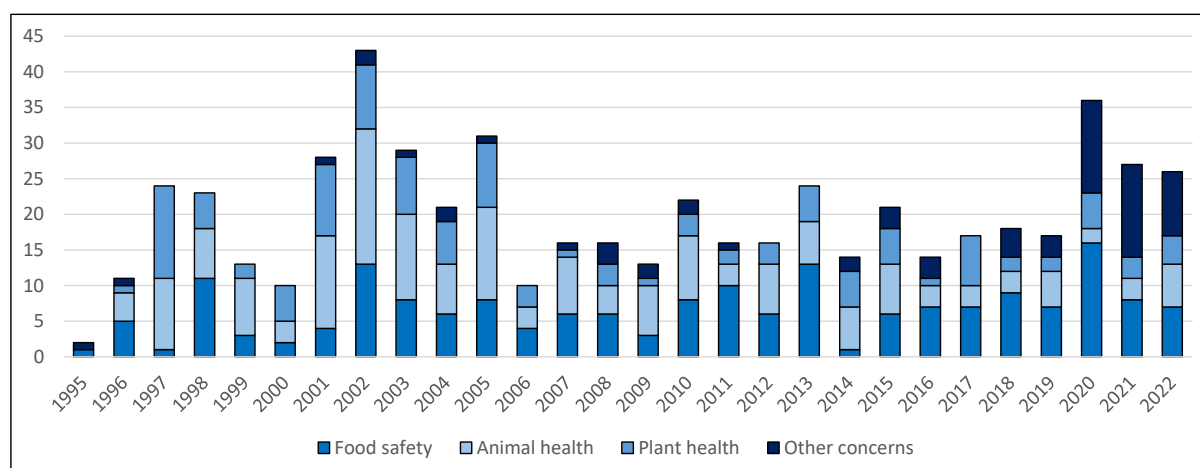
look at the primary objectives of STCs raised in 2022 compared to previous years shows a change of pattern compared to the aggregated data ([Chart B.12](#)). On average, STCs have been raised three times, with concerns related to plant health being raised slight less frequently, on average, than concerns with other primary objectives. These statistics are summarized in [Table B.1](#).

Chart B.3 – STCs by subject (1995-2022)



3.9. There does not seem to be a clear pattern in the primary subject keywords (food safety, animal health, plant health or other concerns) of new STCs submitted since 1995. Overall, food safety has been the most frequent primary keyword of new STCs raised in recent years, alternating with animal health. Compared to the previous years, in 2021-22 there was a decrease in the number of STCs related to food safety and other concerns, and a slight increase in STCs related to animal and plant health. In general, plant health has been the least frequently assigned primary subject keyword of new STCs since 2000 (Chart B.4).

Chart B.4 - Primary subject keywords of new STCs per year

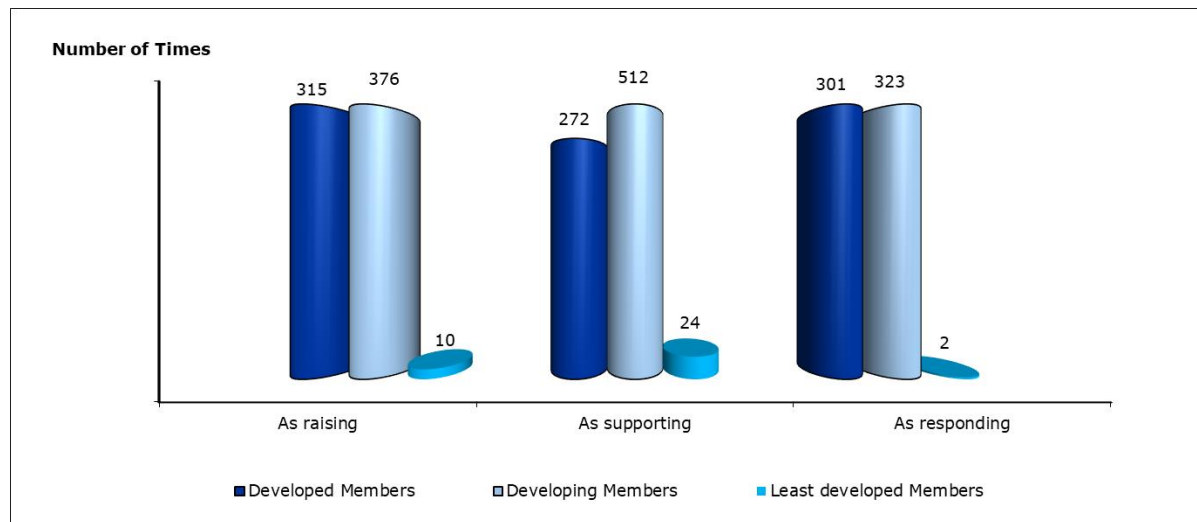


3.10. Chart B.5 reflects the participation of Members in the 558 STCs³⁶ raised since 1995, according to their development status, regardless of how often the same STC was discussed in the Committee.

³⁶ STCs can be raised, supported or responded to by more than one Member, which explains the apparent double-counting shown in Chart B.5 compared with the overall count of the 558 STCs raised since 1995.

A developing Member has participated 376 times in STCs as a raising Member, compared to 315 times in the case of a developed Member and 10 times for a least developed Member. A developing Member has participated 512 times in STCs as a Member supporting a concern raised by other Members, compared to 272 times and 24 times for a developed Member and a least developed Member, respectively. Finally, 323 times the concern raised related to measures maintained by a developing Member, compared to 301 times and two times to measures maintained by a developed Member and a least developed Member, respectively.

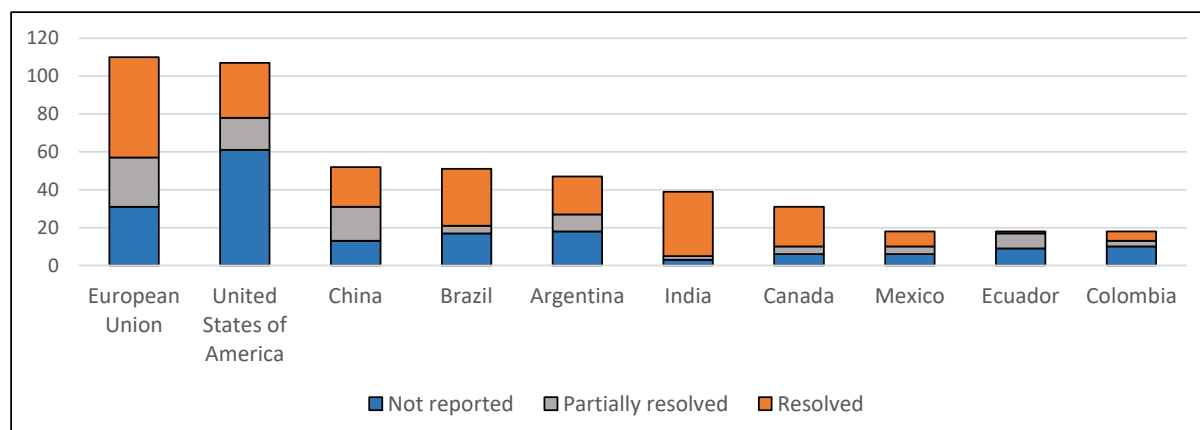
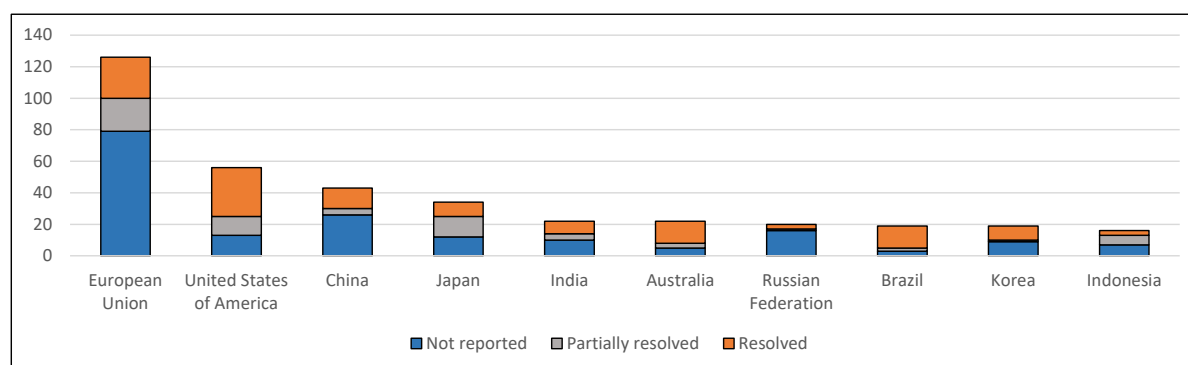
Chart B.5 – Participation of Members in STCs according to their development status, since 1995



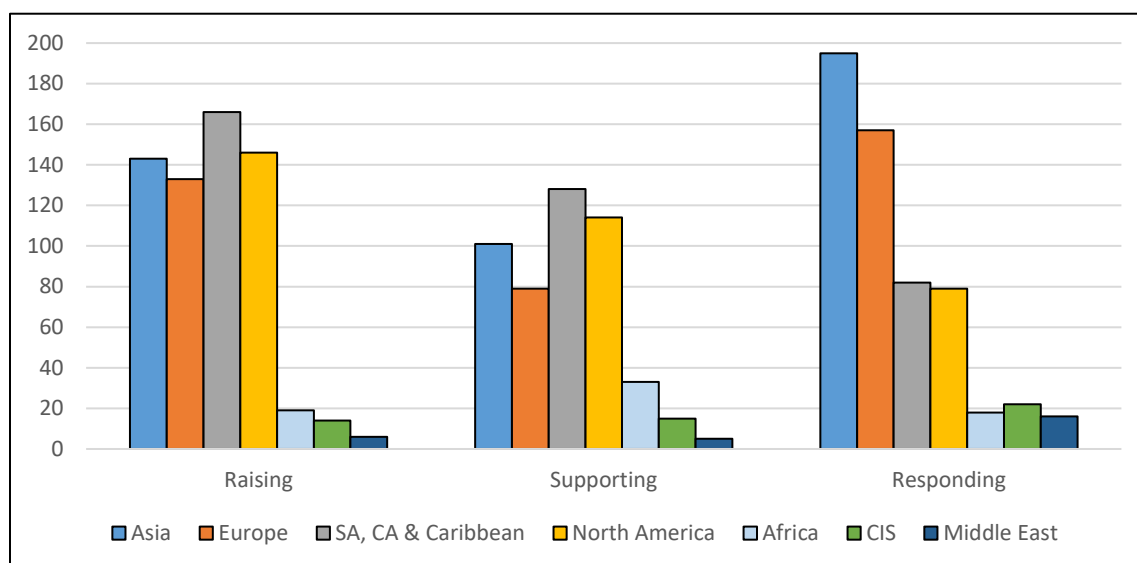
3.11. A total of 66 Members (40% of the membership) have raised at least one STC since 1995. This includes 19 developed Members (including eight EU member States), 43 developing Members and four LDCs. A total of 78 Members have supported at least one STC since 1995 (14 developed Members-including three EU member States; 50 developing Members and 14 LDCs). A total of 68 Members' measures have been subject to an STC at least once (16 developed Members, including six EU member States; 50 developing and two LDCs). These numbers confirm that developing Members and LDCs are very active in the SPS Committee.

3.12. Charts B.6 and B.7 show the 10 Members that have raised the highest number of new concerns and the 10 Members that have responded to the highest number of STCs, respectively, since 1995 up to the last Committee meeting in November 2022. Out of the 10 Members that have raised the highest number of STCs since 1995, three are developed Members and the remaining seven are developing Members. When it comes to Members responding to STCs, five are developed and five are developing Members. Chart B.6 shows that, in some cases, more than 90% of the STCs raised have been resolved or partially resolved.³⁷

³⁷ Members can report on the resolution of STCs under the corresponding agenda item in the SPS Committee. Where an STC has been raised by more than one Member but not all those who raised the STC have reported it to be resolved, the STC is considered to be partially resolved. Also, for partially resolved STCs, for the concern may have been resolved for selected products or by some of the importing Members maintaining the measure in question.

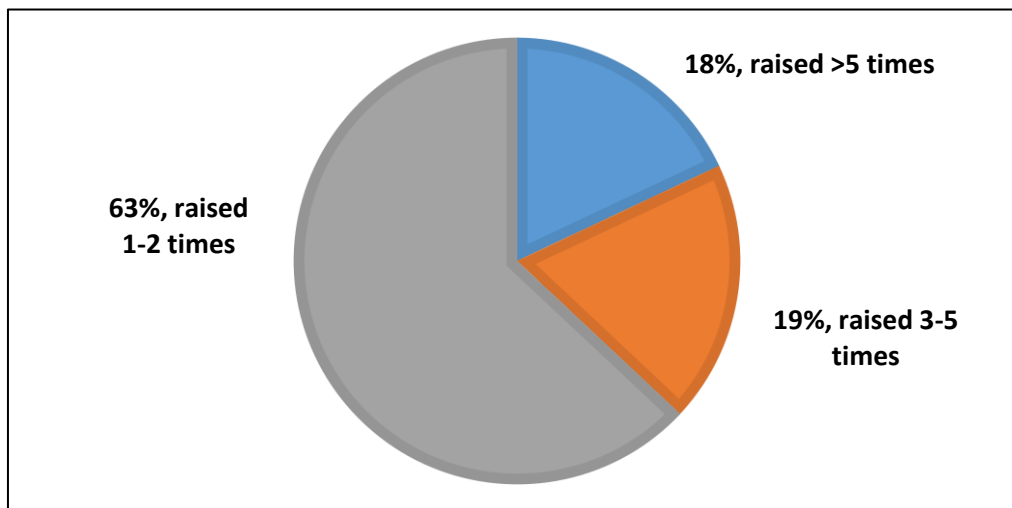
Chart B.6 - Members who have raised the most STCs since 1995**Chart B.7 - Members responding to the most STCs since 1995**

3.13. South America, Central America and the Caribbean is the region that has raised more STCs since 1995, followed by North America and Asia (both 26%). Asia is the region responding to a higher number of STCs (35%), followed by Europe (28%). Finally, South America, Central America and the Caribbean is also the region that most frequently supports STCs (53%) (Chart B.8). It is interesting to note that animal health is the primary objective of the majority of concerns raised by North America (47%), as well as South America, Central America and the Caribbean (38%), while the majority of concerns (47%) raised by Asian Members relate to food safety.

Chart B.8 – Number of STCs by geographical region since 1995

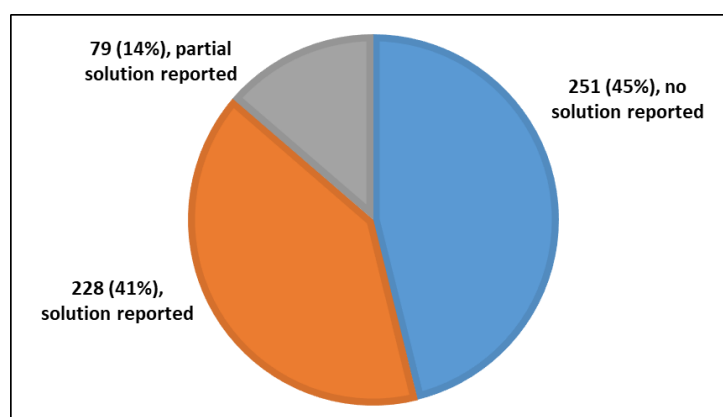
3.14. Chart B.9 refers to the average number of times STCs have been raised since 1995.³⁸ A total of 352 (63%) have only been raised one or two times, 108 (19%) have been raised three to five times and 98 (18%) have been raised more than five times. Of the 251 STCs for which no solution has been reported, 101 (40%) have only been raised once (excluding the 10 raised for the first time at the November 2022 Committee meeting). This suggests that following the raising of an STC in the Committee, Members may engage in bilateral discussions, and some of these STCs may even have been resolved without the Committee being informed.

Chart B.9 - Average number of times STCs have been raised since 1995



3.15. Chart B.10 shows that out of the 558 STCs raised since 1995, 228 (41%) and 79 (14%) have been reported to be resolved and partially resolved, respectively. In the case of the partially resolved STCs, the concern may have been resolved for selected products or by some of the importing Members maintaining the measure(s) in question. No solutions have been reported for the remaining 251 (45%) STCs. Thus, more than 55% of the STCs raised have been resolved or partially resolved. Specifically, 53% of STCs raised by developing Members and LDCs are considered to be resolved or partially resolved. These data confirm the importance of the Committee for the resolution of trade concerns.

Chart B.10 – Resolution of STCs



3.16. On average, resolved STCs were raised 2.2 times. Of the 228 STCs for which a solution has been reported, 89 (39%) relate to animal health, 65 (29%) to plant health, 58 (25%) to food safety, and 16 (7%) to other concerns. It is interesting to note that STCs relating to food safety and animal health issues each represent 33% of the total number of STCs raised since 1995 ([Chart B.3](#)), while they correspond to 25% and 39%, respectively, of the total STCs reported as resolved.

³⁸ These figures do not include the time the STC was raised in the Committee to report on its resolution.

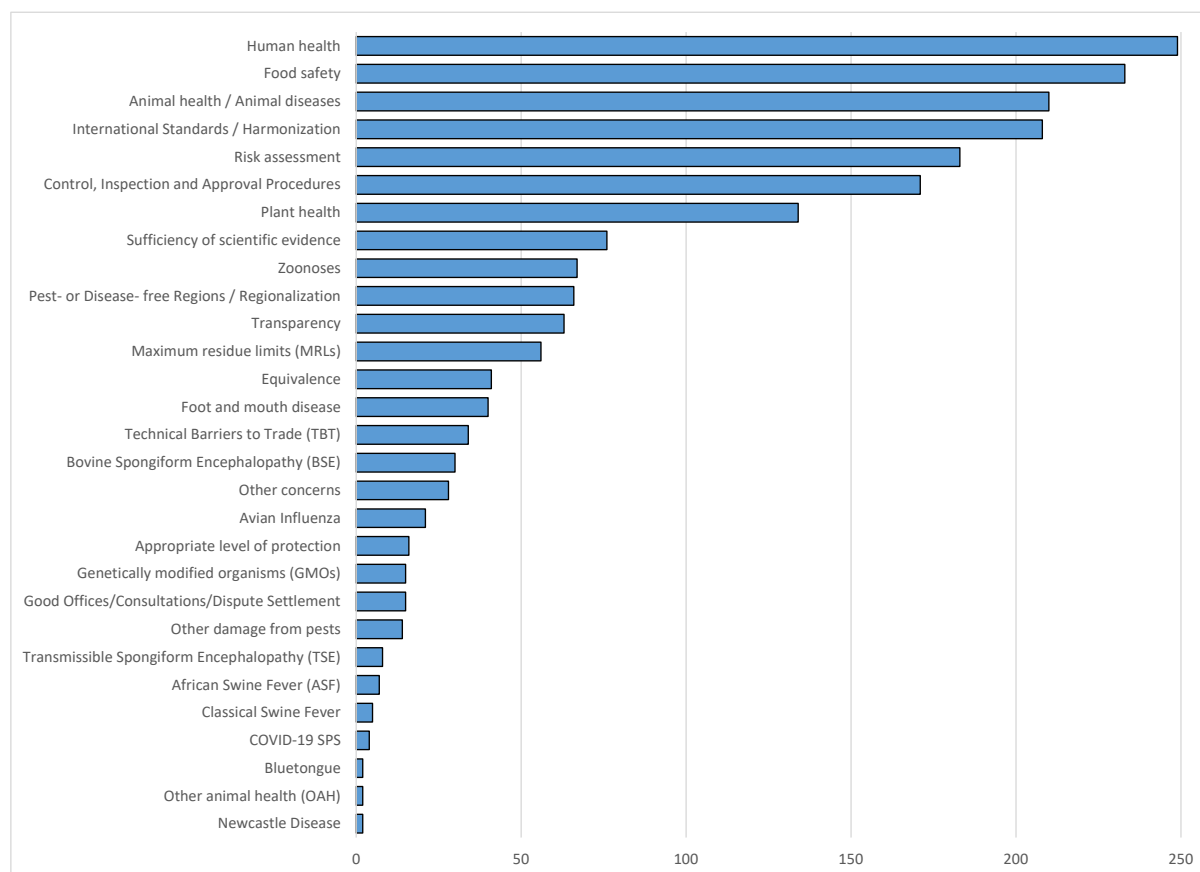
STCs related to plant health and other concerns represent 22% and 12% of the total, and constitute 29% and 7% of the resolved STCs, respectively. These statistics are summarized in Table B.1.

Table B.1 - Summary of statistics on resolution of STCs, by primary subject keyword

Primary keyword subject	Food safety	Animal health	Plant health	Other concerns	All STCs
All STCs	188 (33%)	182 (33%)	123 (22%)	65 (12%)	558
Number of times raised (average)	3	3.1	2.7	2.9	3
STCs reported as resolved (R)	58 (25%)	89 (39%)	65 (29%)	16 (7%)	228 (41%)
Partially resolved (PR) STCs	26 (33%)	33 (42%)	14 (18%)	6 (8%)	79 (14%)
STCs for which no solution has been reported (NR)	104 (41%)	60 (24%)	44 (18%)	43 (17%)	251 (45%)

3.17. In 2022, the list of keywords assigned to STCs was reduced to streamline searches. Chart B.11 shows that a large number of STCs discussed are related to human health and food safety. Other keywords frequently assigned are animal health and international standards/harmonization.

Chart B.11 – Keywords assigned to STCs



3.2 Specific trade concerns considered in 2022

3.18. Despite the hybrid character of the 2022 meetings and the fact that some delegates were not gathering in Geneva, several STCs were removed either before the adoption of the agenda or during the Committee meetings due to progress in bilateral consultations. In particular, in March 2022 China withdrew three new STCs: 1) Concerns regarding EU detection of bitter ginseng alkaloids in honey; 2) Thailand's suspension of imports of live poultry, pigs and their carcasses; and 3) Brazil's

frequent adjustments of technical regulations affecting fishery trade.³⁹ In November 2022, before the adoption of the agenda, India withdrew two new STCs: 1) Japan's compulsory inspection of farmed shrimps; and 2) Canada's SPS notification ([G/SPS/N/CAN/1366/Rev.1](#)) pertaining to aquatic animals requirement of zoosanitary certificate. Regarding previously raised STCs, Brazil withdrew the concern "US undue delays in opening its citrus market (ID 542)", and China did not raise the concern "EU regulatory approach to maximum levels for contaminants (ID 519)", that was only raised by Canada.⁴⁰

3.19. A total of [69 STCs](#) were brought to the attention of the Committee during 2022, of which 26 were new STCs and 43 had been raised previously ([Table B.2](#)). In addition, ten STCs raised for the first time in 2022 were again discussed in subsequent meetings during the same year, bringing the number of previously raised STCs considered in this document to 53. In 2022, 31 STC were considered as resolved and another 14 as partially resolved (see [Section 3.2.1](#) below). In 2022, substantive action occurred under the DSU in the case of five STCs (IDs [185](#), [356](#), [394](#), [432](#) and [495](#)) ([Table B.3](#)).

3.20. The number of new STCs raised in 2022 (26) is similar to that of 2021 (27), but smaller than in 2020 (36), despite the fact that only two meetings were held that year ([Chart B.1](#)).⁴¹ It is interesting to note that, in 2022, only eight Members raised new STCs, compared to 14 Members in 2021. On the other hand, the 53 STCs previously raised discussed again in 2022 represent a historical maximum ([Chart B.2](#)). Eighteen Members raised a previously raised STC, compared to 20 Members in 2021. Only 12 (27%) of these 53 STCs were raised for the first time more than three years ago. Half of these 53 STCs have been discussed five times or less since they were first raised. One of these STCs has been raised 46 times.

3.21. Despite the high number of notifications circulated every year ([Chart A.1](#)), only seven⁴² of the 26 new STCs raised in 2022 referred specifically to SPS notifications, which were submitted in 2021 or 2022. For instance, while 131 COVID-19 related SPS notifications and documents had been submitted since the beginning of the pandemic until December 2022 ([Chart A.26](#)), only two new COVID-19 related STCs have been raised in the Committee since the beginning of the pandemic, and only one of these has been raised again in 2022.⁴³

3.22. As mentioned earlier, a total of 69 (new and previously raised) STCs were discussed in 2022. [Table B.2](#) provides further information on Members' participation in these STCs, i.e. the Members raising, supporting or responding to concerns. In 2022, 19 Members (12% of the membership) raised at least one STC, including eight Members that raised at least one new STC and 18 that raised at least one previously raised STC. Of these 19, six (32%) are developed Members and the remaining 13 (68%) are developing Members. Seven previously raised STCs, discussed three times or more, have gathered the support of 10 Members or more.⁴⁴ Concerning Members responding, the 26 new STCs were raised against measures maintained by 13 Members (four developed and nine developing Members). The 53 previously discussed STCs were raised against measures maintained by 21 Members, including three developed and 18 developing Members. Additionally, one STC was raised again against measures maintained by at least 15 Members.

3.23. Out of the 26 new STCs raised in 2022, nine (35%) relate primarily to food safety; seven (27%) refer to animal health and zoonoses⁴⁵, noting that this category includes issues that are also relevant from a food safety perspective; six (23%) refer to other concerns; and four (15%) refer to plant health. [Chart B.12](#) shows all new and previous STCs raised in the Committee in 2022 compared to all STCs discussed between 1995 and 2021, by primary subject keywords assigned. In 2022, we can see a sharp increase in the STCs related to other concerns, which mainly refer to issues related

³⁹ See paragraph 3.1 of the summary report of the March 2022 SPS Committee meeting ([G/SPS/R/105](#)). These three STCs had been included in the annotated draft agenda circulated as [JOB/SPS/19](#).

⁴⁰ See paragraph 3.1 of the summary report of the March 2022 SPS Committee meeting ([G/SPS/R/108](#)). These three STCs had been included in the annotated draft agenda circulated as [JOB/SPS/23](#).

⁴¹ The March 2020 Committee meeting was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic (see document [JOB/SPS/5/Rev.1/Corr.1](#)).

⁴² These STCs were [533](#), [536](#), [537](#), [540](#), [545](#), [548](#) and [550](#).

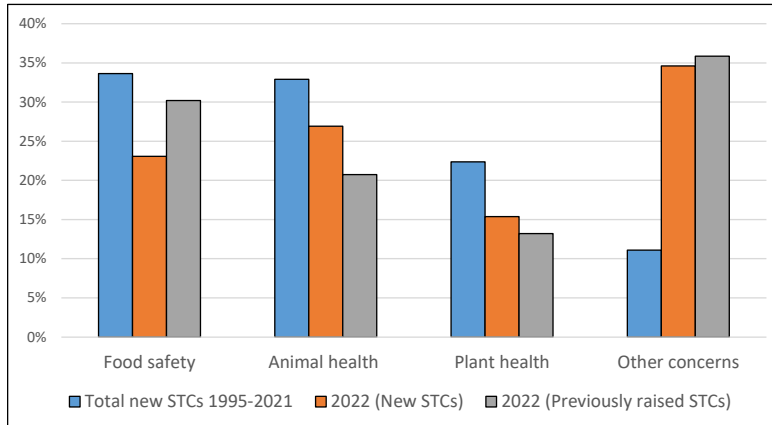
⁴³ These STCs were [487](#) (raised seven times since 2020) and [488](#) (raised once in 2020).

⁴⁴ STCs [382](#), [446](#), [448](#), [485](#), [487](#), [501](#) and [534](#).

⁴⁵ Among the new STCs raised in 2022 with animal health as a primary keyword, ASF ([544](#)), avian influenza ([556](#) and [558](#)), BSE ([538](#) and [543](#)), classical swine fever ([538](#)), and foot and mouth disease ([555](#)) are the major diseases of concern.

to control, inspection and approval procedures, and a decrease in the percentage of new STCs relating to the other three primary objectives, compared with the period 1995-2021.

Chart B.12 – New and previous STCs raised in 2022, by primary subject keywords, compared to all STCs raised between 1995 and 2021 (percentage)



3.2.1 Resolution of STCs in 2022

3.24. In September 2022, the Secretariat contacted 37 Members to seek information regarding the status (resolved, partially resolved or not resolved) of their specific trade concerns (STCs) that had not been raised since November 2020. Based on responses received from 18 Members, 31 STCs could be considered as resolved, and 14 STCs as partially resolved.⁴⁶ The STCs reported as resolved in 2022 referred to food safety (nine STCs, 30%), animal health (eight STCs, 26%), plant health (seven STCs, 22%) and other concerns (seven STCs, 22%). On average, these STCs had been raised 1.5 times. Only three of these STCs had been raised by more than one Member. Overall, these STCs related to measures maintained by 16 Members. The results of the exercise were circulated to Members in document [G/SPS/GEN/2062/Rev.1](#) and presented in the November 2022 SPS Committee meeting.⁴⁷

3.2.2 Good offices of the Chair

3.25. In 2022, Brazil requested the Good Offices of the Chair under Article 12.2 of the SPS Agreement and the *ad hoc* consultations procedure ([G/SPS/61](#)) regarding issues pertaining to the export of swine meat to Mexico, which were related to three previously discussed STCs (IDs [263](#), [271](#) and [489](#)). STC ID [489](#) was raised in all three SPS Committee meetings held in 2022 ([Table B.2](#)).

3.26. On 27 October 2022, Mexico provided a response in accordance with paragraph 2.3 of the *ad hoc* consultations procedure. Mexico rejected the request because it had published the requirements to be met for the importation of pork from Brazil to Mexico and thus was of the view that it was not necessary to continue with the Good Offices of the Chair. Brazil's request and Mexico's response to the request were circulated in documents [G/SPS/GEN/2078](#) and [G/SPS/GEN/2079](#).

4 PART C – OTHER TRANSPARENCY-RELATED ASPECTS

4.1 Transparency recommendations in the Fifth Review

4.1. The Report of the Fifth Review on the Operation and Implementation of the SPS Agreement⁴⁸ was adopted at the June 2020 Committee meeting. The Report contains the following recommendation on Notification Procedures and Transparency (paragraph 7.13):

⁴⁶ As per footnote 37, where an STC has been raised by more than one Member but not all those who raised the STC have reported it to be resolved, the STC is considered to be partially resolved. STCs where trade may have been allowed for selected products or by some of the importing Members maintaining the measure in question, but not by all, are also considered partially resolved.

⁴⁷ See Section 3.3 of the summary report of the November 2022 Committee meeting, [G/SPS/R/108](#).

⁴⁸ [G/SPS/64](#) and [G/SPS/64/Add.1](#).

- a. Members are encouraged to clearly indicate in their SPS Committee notifications when a measure has been notified to another Committee.⁴⁹ Members should include this information under the point of the notification format titled "Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available".

4.2. The Report also contains the following recommendations on National SPS Coordination Mechanisms (paragraph 6.7):

- a. Members are encouraged to implement appropriate national coordination mechanisms to enable consultation and communication between relevant technical and trade policy experts to enable the development of coordinated SPS positions that are consistent with the obligations of the SPS Agreement. Members are further encouraged to consider ways to strengthen internal coordination on SPS matters.
- b. Members should continue to share experiences on their national coordination mechanisms and discuss strategies and approaches to improve SPS coordination and engagement at the national level with the aim of strengthening implementation of the SPS Agreement, including resolving specific trade concerns.
- c. The Committee requests the Secretariat to prepare a collection of resources that can be useful for Members in implementing their national coordination mechanisms, starting with those mentioned at the 2019 Workshop on Transparency and Coordination, and including additional resources as suggested by Members.⁵⁰

4.2 Technical assistance and workshops

4.3. In light of the steadily increasing volume of documents circulated, managing the flow of notifications, and coordinating at the national level on SPS matters is a challenge for many Members. This is one of the areas where Members have sought technical assistance and guidance on best practices.⁵¹

4.4. The WTO Secretariat regularly provides hands-on training on all its tools, as part of its technical assistance programmes.⁵² Some Members significantly increase their notification activity following a dedicated training on transparency. Similarly, some Members have updated the contact details of their NNAs and NEPs available in the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#) (see [Section 4.3.1.1.2](#)) following dedicated trainings, further facilitating communication between Members.

4.5. Additionally, transparency workshops, usually organized every other year, have provided highly interactive training on the use of the SPS IT tools. Likewise, these dedicated trainings have also led to an increased use of these tools. A Workshop on Transparency was organized on 20 June 2022, aimed at providing an update on recent developments related to transparency and present the main functions of the new [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#), including the notification and outreach/communication functionalities. In addition, a "notifications clinic" afforded SPS notification authorities and enquiry points the possibility to address any concerns on the use of the notification submission functionalities of the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#), in direct consultation with the Secretariat.⁵³

4.6. A new SPS Transparency Champions Course, inspired by the longstanding flagship Advanced SPS Course, is currently on-going. A similar course is also offered in the TBT area. This is a comprehensive capacity building programme, piloted by the SPS (and TBT) team, offering officials from NNAs and NEPs an opportunity to gain knowledge and practical skills to implement as well as benefit from the WTO's transparency framework. The goal of this programme is to bring about concrete and sustainable results in operationalizing the transparency framework of the WTO.

⁴⁹ Please refer to section 2.7 of the Recommended Procedures for Implementing the Transparency Obligations of the SPS Agreement (Article 7) in document [G/SPS/7/Rev.5](#), which makes reference to notifying a regulation containing SPS and TBT measures under both the SPS and TBT Agreements.

⁵⁰ See document [G/SPS/GEN/1850/Rev.1](#).

⁵¹ See the Analysis of Replies to the Questionnaire on the Operation of Enquiry Points and National Notification Authorities ([G/SPS/GEN/751/Rev.1](#)) for further elaboration on this issue.

⁵² See the latest version of the [G/SPS/GEN/521](#) document series.

⁵³ Information on this workshop, including the programme, the presentations and the recording of the session, is available in https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/workshop_transparency_20jun22_e.htm. The report is contained in document [G/SPS/R/106](#).

The first week of the course, which benefitted 18 government officials from 13 English-speaking African countries, successfully enhanced participants' understanding of the transparency provisions of the SPS Agreement, allowed for the exchange of information and experiences regarding the implementation of SPS transparency provisions, and facilitated the discussion of key challenges and ideas to improve the transparency framework in participants' countries. The participants have continued to work on the elaboration of action plans to address challenges/difficulties encountered in their respective countries, have met in virtual sessions from October to November 2022, and were invited to virtually attend the November 2022 SPS Committee meetings. They are expected to return to Geneva in 2023, to follow up on the implementation of their action plans, subject to the submission of periodic progress reports.⁵⁴

4.7. All the information from previous workshops and thematic sessions on transparency and dedicated trainings organized by the Secretariat is available in the revamped [Members' transparency toolkit](#) on the SPS gateway.

4.3 SPS IT tools

4.3.1 The new ePing SPS&TBT Platform

4.8. The new [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#) integrates all SPS and TBT transparency tools, as well as the ePing alert system, into a single platform. The Platform allows searches of SPS (and TBT) notifications, specific trade concerns, as well as contact information of NNAs and NEPs. Registered users benefit from additional features, including receiving email alerts on notifications on products and/or markets of interest. Officials with additional rights can use the ePing SPS&TBT Platform to submit notifications to the WTO, update NNA and NEP contact details, and, on a voluntary basis, disseminate their comments/replies on notifications.⁵⁵ Extracting data from a single source reduces errors and maintenance costs. Additionally, under the single sign-on system recently developed by the WTO Secretariat, users can access all WTO databases to which they have rights with a single set of credentials. The following paragraphs summarize the functions that are integrated in the ePing SPS&TBT Platform.⁵⁶ New training materials will be developed in due course.

4.9. Since the beginning of the project in 2021, the SPS (and TBT) Committee has been regularly informed of progress made in the development of the Platform. SPS (and TBT) delegates participated in the pilot testing phase carried out in the first quarter of 2022. On the SPS side, feedback received from 48 Members was considered for improvement of the Platform. In March 2022, the Platform went live in beta version and numerous sessions were undertaken to train interested Members on the use of the Platform, namely on the online submission of notifications and communication/outreach functions. The [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#) was [officially launched](#) on 13 July 2022, with the participation of senior officials from the three ePing partner agencies, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the International Trade Center (ITC) and the WTO.⁵⁷

4.3.1.1 Functionalities

4.3.1.1.1 Notifications and STCs

4.10. The new Platform integrates and improves the search functions for [notifications](#) and [STCs](#) previously available in the SPS IMS, and allows searches across both SPS and TBT domains. Since notifications are increasingly being submitted online (see [Section 4.3.1.1.4](#)), the information available is more complete and harmonized, further improving the quality of searches. Members can register to the Platform to have access to additional features, such as saving filters, defining favourite documents, or accessing chats previously available in the ePing alert system.

⁵⁴ See [WTO | 2022 News items - DG Okonjo-Iweala stresses importance of SPS, TBT transparency to facilitate trade](#).

⁵⁵ For more information, see the Members' transparency toolkit page: [WTO | Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures – members' transparency toolkit](#).

⁵⁶ Currently, the [Practical Manual for NNAs and NEPs](#), first circulated in 2011 and revised in 2018, offers guidance for governments to facilitate the implementation of the transparency provisions of the SPS Agreement. The Secretariat has prepared an updated [overview of the SPS and TBT IT tools](#). These materials will be reviewed in light of the on-going development on IT tools.

⁵⁷ See [G/SPS/GEN/2058](#); [G/TBT/GEN/336](#).

4.11. For searches on STCs, the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#) mirrors the data contained in the WTO [Trade Concerns Database \(TCD\)](#), available to Members since February 2021.⁵⁸ This advanced analytical tool for STCs integrates concerns raised in the SPS, TBT and Market Access committees. It may incorporate concerns raised in other WTO bodies in the future. The mirroring of the TCD in the new Platform allows for data to be extracted from a single source, ensuring consistency and reducing maintenance costs and errors. For more advanced searches, the ePing SPS&TBT Platform will redirect users to the TCD, which contains more granular information, organized on a per meeting basis, facilitating in-depth analysis and reporting. The TCD includes Members' profiles and allows users to explore and visualize results by objectives, keywords, and HS codes, among other options. This analytical tool is fed from the data available in [eAgenda](#) and has been manually completed with historical data on trade concerns available in the summary reports of the SPS Committee meetings, previously searchable through the SPS IMS. The ePing SPS&TBT Platform also includes the possibility to search both [notifications and STCs](#) at the same time.

4.12. For searches on [other SPS documents](#), users are currently redirected to the SPS IMS. This feature should be fully integrated in the Platform in the first quarter of 2023.

4.3.1.1.2 Contact details of NNAs and NEPs

4.13. [Contact details of NNAs and NEPs](#), previously available in the SPS IMS and ePing alert system, are also available in the new Platform. Members are responsible, through their notification admin (see Section [4.3.1.1.4](#)), of updating their contact details.

4.3.1.1.3 Outreach/Communication function

4.14. The functions previously available in the ePing alert system have been integrated and enhanced in the new [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#). As such, the new Platform includes a publicly available alert system for SPS and TBT notifications. By filling a registration form, users can identify particular products and/or markets of interest and subscribe to receive email alerts regarding SPS and TBT notifications. In addition, users continue to be able to share notifications, upload additional information and related documents, as well as participate in discussion forums. As in the previous alert system, an NNA/NEP management tool is available to facilitate domestic as well as international information sharing and discussion on notifications. Users with outreach rights also have access to a chat function to discuss topics of their choice, whether related to a specific notification or not. As such, the Platform continues to help public and private stakeholders, in particular small and medium enterprises, to track, consult and comment on measures that are being developed and adapt as necessary to changing regulatory conditions.

4.15. In 2021, the Secretariat undertook a survey to get better insights on the use of the ePing alert system, and how it could be improved. The results of the survey reflected an overall user satisfaction as well as some concrete suggestions for further improvements, including the development of an ePing mobile application.⁵⁹ Such mobile application was made available on the Platform in the second half of 2022, and allows users to access some of the functionalities of the Platform.

4.16. As of 31 December 2022, the number of subscribers had grown to over 19,500 (including over 7,790 users from private sector) from 187 countries, up from 15,443 users (including 6,204 users from the private sector) from 184 countries at the end of 2021. Some of these users registered after a TA activity had been delivered in their country or their region, confirming the efficiency of TA activities to spread the word about the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#) and get users started with the registration process and the subscription to receive email alerts. 76% of users receive daily or weekly email alerts of SPS and/or TBT notifications. Some additional functionalities, such as the national and international discussion fora and the chat for users with admin rights, are also of interest to many Members. In total, 399 ePing Outreach admin users were registered on the Platform, covering 133 countries and territories. In the case of SPS, a total of 195 Outreach admin users from 89 countries were registered.

⁵⁸ The WTO TCD was launched in beta version in the margins of the February 2021 TBT Committee meeting and presented to the SPS Committee at its March 2021 meeting.

⁵⁹ See [G/SPS/GEN/1933](#); [G/TBT/GEN/317](#).

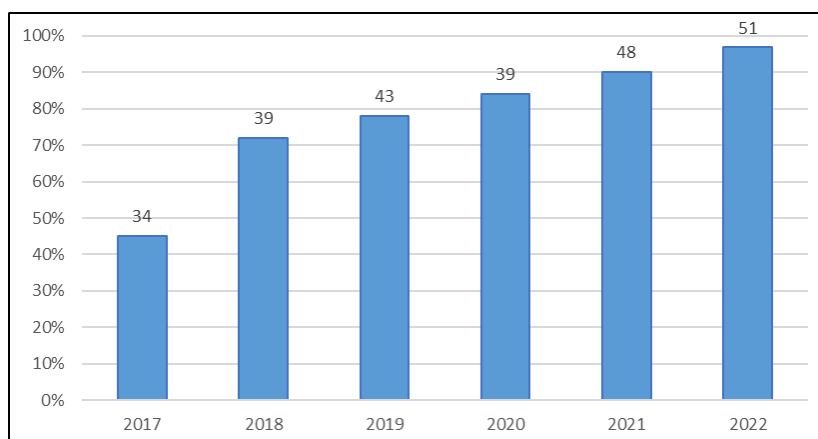
4.3.1.1.4 Online submission of notifications

4.17. The online submission of notifications, previously available through the SPS NSS, has been integrated in the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#). The submission of notifications through the new Platform provides the same functions as the SPS NSS, with improved and streamlined processes. Since March 2022, Members with the relevant rights can easily and accurately complete and submit all SPS notification formats via the Platform. Increased online submission helps improving the amount and quality of information provided by Members in the various notification formats, as well as the information available for searches. For instance, among other features, the Platform includes all versions of the Harmonized System (HS) nomenclature. Also, notifications submitted online can be faster processed by the Secretariat and circulated to Members. Some regional groupings are currently submitting joint notifications through the ePing SPS&TBT Platform, circulated in one multi-symbol notification, and several other regions are exploring the possibility of doing so.

4.18. Online submission of notifications is restricted. Upon registration, users may be granted with the following types of rights: notification drafting rights, allowing the user to draft a notification but not to submit it to the WTO; or notification submission rights, allowing the user to draft and submit notifications to the WTO. Within a Member, these rights are granted by the notification admin, who can draft and submit notifications, grant these rights to the relevant users, and update the contact details for their NNAs and NEPs. Members should contact the Secretariat (spscommittee@wto.org) to designate the SPS notification admin(s) to be granted with admin rights. To date, 101 users have received SPS notification admin rights. A total of 203 users benefit from drafting rights and 136 from submission rights.

4.19. Since the creation of the decommissioned SPS NSS, the number of Members submitting notifications online has constantly increased. A total of 65 Members have officially submitted notifications through the Platform. Following the Secretariat's initiative to promote online submission of notifications, in 2022 two additional Members have started notifying online. In 2022, about 97% of notifications (7% more than in 2021), by 51 Members, were submitted online. Since 2017, the percentage of SPS notifications submitted through the online platform has risen from 45% in 2017 to 97% in 2022 (Chart C.1).

Chart C.1 – Percentage of notifications submitted via the SPS NSS since 2017, and number of Members using the system per year⁶⁰



4.20. The Secretariat has provided training on online submission of notifications in numerous transparency activities delivered in 2022⁶¹, as well as in the dedicated "notifications clinic", held virtually during the June 2022 SPS Workshop on Transparency.⁶² This session, held for the first time ever for SPS officials, afforded SPS notification authorities and enquiry points the possibility to

⁶⁰ For comparison, [Chart A.1](#) shows the number of Members who have submitted at least one notification in a given year.

⁶¹ See the latest version of the [G/SPS/GEN/521](#) document series.

⁶² Information on the Workshop on Transparency is available in the dedicated webpage: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/workshop_transparency_20jun22_e.htm.

address any concerns on the use of the notification submission functionalities of the ePing SPS&TBT Platform, in direct consultation with the Secretariat.

4.3.1.1.5 Facts and Figures

4.21. Under the Facts & figures tab of the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#), users can visualize premade graphics and statistics for one specific Member or globally. [Member profiles](#) displays the NNA and NEP(s) contact details, graphics and data of the Member's notification activity, HS codes associated with SPS notifications, and Member's involvement in STCs. Users can also access trade policy review data if available, and other SPS documents. The [notifications](#) tab allows users to view a wide range of notifications statistics. For more specific information on STCs, the site redirects users to the [TCD](#).

4.3.2 eAgenda

4.22. The [eAgenda](#) platform, launched in 2020, is a collaborative online tool meant to support the work of WTO bodies, including the SPS Committee. The SPS eAgenda platform allows Members, ahead of a meeting, to insert interventions under any item in the proposed agenda, including to raise and support STCs. Members can also upload statements that are shared with all users in real time, significantly contributing to increased transparency prior to the meeting. While it will remain a stand-alone tool, eAgenda users can reach the system from the new [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#) benefitting from the single sign-on system, without having to log in again.

4.23. The SPS eAgenda was pilot tested in February 2020 by nine Members and actively used for the first time during the June 2020 SPS Committee meeting. Since November 2020, the SPS eAgenda tool is regularly used by most Members to add agenda items, raise STCs and upload statements. In 2022, most agenda items and STCs raised were included directly by Members in eAgenda, increasing transparency ahead of the meeting and leading to efficiency gains in the preparation of the annotated draft agenda by the Secretariat.

4.24. Since March 2021, Members have the possibility to support STCs and other agenda items through eAgenda until they are discussed in the formal meeting, provided that these STCs and agenda items were already raised by another Member before the established deadline. As per the usual procedure, Members are also able to support items orally during the Committee meeting. Members can add other items to the agenda (apart from STCs and items under monitoring of the use of international standards) at the beginning of the formal meeting, before adoption of the agenda. Only Members who take the floor during the meeting are reflected in eAgenda (for example, included as supporting Member) and their oral statements recorded in the summary report of the meeting. Most Members upload written versions, sometimes more detailed, of the oral interventions made in SPS Committee meetings. Registered users have the possibility to download statements, complementing the summary reports prepared by the Secretariat.

4.25. As of 31 December 2022, 334 users from 79 Members were registered in SPS eAgenda, of which 138 (41%) had reading rights only, allowing them to consult the proposed agenda for the meeting without being able to raise items nor upload statements. The Secretariat remains available to provide additional training upon request.

4.4 Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF)

4.26. In 2021, the [STDF](#) launched a new [practical guide on the use of Good Regulatory Practices \(GRPs\)](#)⁶³ to strengthen and improve the design, development and review of SPS measures. In 2022, the STDF also produced [French](#) and [Spanish](#) versions of the guide. The GRP guide includes a focus on transparency, which is a cross-cutting principle of GRPs and relevant throughout the regulatory lifecycle of SPS measures. It is embodied in various GRPs, such as stakeholder engagement (e.g., consultations), information dissemination, or cooperation and coordination mechanisms. The guide also provides an overview of the transparency tools available to help with consultations, information dissemination, publication, notifications, etc. WTO Members are encouraged to consult and use the new STDF guide in efforts to enhance the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and overall fitness-for-purpose of their SPS measures.

⁶³ French and Spanish versions, and a short STDF Briefing Note on GRPs, will become available shortly.

4.27. As part of its ongoing [work on Trade Facilitation](#), the STDF has identified a number of experiences, lessons and good practices to improve the implementation of SPS controls in a way that facilitates safe trade, while minimizing transaction costs. This work has underlined the importance of transparency on SPS measures. For example, improving clarity on control, inspection and approval procedures is a simple step that can produce big benefits. If producers and traders are to implement SPS measures, they need to understand what they are. Publication of SPS regulations, forms and fees (preferably online) will open up markets and support good governance. This STDF work also highlighted the importance of regular public-private dialogue so that businesses (including MSMEs) know what is required of them, including when SPS regulations or procedures change.

4.28. Finally, STDF's [P-IMA framework](#) offers an evidence-based approach to inform and improve SPS planning and decision-making processes and link SPS investments to public policy goals such as export growth, agricultural productivity or poverty reduction. In this process, P-IMA encourages public-private dialogue, boosts transparency and accountability, and improves the economic efficiency of investment decisions. Many other projects developed and financed by the STDF have also resulted in increased transparency levels by promoting inter-agency coordination at the national and/or regional level, and by strengthening linkages between government agencies and the private sector.

4.29. Delegates are invited to contact the STDF Secretariat (stdfsecretariat@wto.org) to obtain further information on the work carried out by the Facility.

Table B.2 – STCs (new or previously raised) discussed and resolved in the SPS Committee in 2022, organized in alphabetical order of Members responding to the concern⁶⁴

The table below contains all the STCs, new and previously raised, that were discussed in 2022, organized alphabetically by responding Member. The full list of STCs can be accessed [here](#).

Member responding	STC ID	In 2022	Title	Member(s) raising	Member(s) supporting	Primary subject keyword	First raised (subsequently raised)	Status
Argentina	193	Subsequently raised	General import restrictions due to BSE	European Union; United States	Canada; Switzerland; United States; Uruguay	Animal health	01/06/2004 (45 times)	PR*
Australia	193	Subsequently raised	General import restrictions due to BSE	European Union; United States	Canada; Switzerland; United States; Uruguay	Animal health	01/06/2004 (45 times)	PR*
Bolivia	530	Subsequently raised	Bolivia's import restrictions on agricultural and livestock products	Peru		Plant health	03/11/2021 (3 times)	NR
Brazil	193	Subsequently raised	General import restrictions due to BSE	European Union; United States	Canada; Switzerland; United States; Uruguay	Animal health	01/06/2004 (45 times)	PR*
China	193	Subsequently raised	General import restrictions due to BSE	European Union; United States	Canada; Switzerland; United States; Uruguay	Animal health	01/06/2004 (45 times)	PR*
China	392	Subsequently raised	China's import restrictions due to African swine fever	European Union		Animal health	15/07/2015 (15 times)	NR
China	406	Subsequently raised	China's import restrictions due to highly pathogenic avian influenza	European Union; United States	European Union	Animal health	16/03/2016 (17 times)	NR
China	485	Subsequently raised	China's administrative measures for registration of overseas manufacturers of imported food (26 November 2019)	Australia; Canada; European Union; Japan; United States	Canada; European Union; Japan; Republic of Korea; Norway; Philippines; Senegal; Switzerland; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; United Kingdom	Other concerns	24/06/2020 (7 times)	NR
China	487	Subsequently raised	China's actions related to COVID-19 that affect trade in food and agricultural products	Australia; Canada; European Union; India; Russian Federation; Chinese Taipei; United States	Australia; Brazil; European Union; India; Japan; Kenya; Mexico; New Zealand; Norway; Paraguay; Russian Federation; Switzerland; Chinese Taipei; United Kingdom	Food safety	05/11/2020 (6 times)	NR

⁶⁴ Please note that a hyperlink in the ID number redirects to the corresponding STC in the Trade Concerns Database.

Member responding	STC ID	In 2022	Title	Member(s) raising	Member(s) supporting	Primary subject keyword	First raised (subsequently raised)	Status
China	506	Subsequently raised	China's proposed new health certificate format for shrimp imports	India		Other concerns	25/03/2021 (4 times)	NR
China	510	Subsequently raised	China's restrictions on bovine meat imports	India		Animal health	25/03/2021 (2 times)	NR
China	516	Subsequently raised	China's delay in approving requests for new listing and reinstatement of export establishments	Australia; Canada; European Union	Canada; European Union; United Kingdom	Other concerns	25/03/2021 (5 times)	NR
China	524	Subsequently raised	Concerns with transparency, delays and due process associated with China's import requirements for agricultural goods	Australia	Russian Federation	Other concerns	14/07/2021 (4 times)	NR
China	531	New	China's import restrictions on fishery products	Mexico		Other concerns	03/11/2021 (0 times)	NR
China	532	Subsequently raised	China's import suspension of fresh fruits	Chinese Taipei		Plant health	03/11/2021 (3 times)	NR
Ecuador	193	Subsequently raised	General import restrictions due to BSE	European Union; United States	Canada; Switzerland; United States; Uruguay	Animal health	01/06/2004 (45 times)	PR*
Ecuador	498	Subsequently raised	Ecuador's import restrictions on grapes and onions	Peru		Food safety	05/11/2020 (6 times)	NR
Egypt	193	Subsequently raised	General import restrictions due to BSE	European Union; United States	Canada; Switzerland; United States; Uruguay	Animal health	01/06/2004 (45 times)	PR*
Egypt	547	New	Egypt's Customs Circular Decision No. 4060: Radioactivity checks on imported food	European Union		Other concerns	22/06/2022 (0 times)	NR

Member responding	STC ID	In 2022	Title	Member(s) raising	Member(s) supporting	Primary subject keyword	First raised (subsequently raised)	Status
European Union	382	Subsequently raised	European Union legislation on endocrine disruptors	Argentina; China; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; Guatemala; India; Panama; Paraguay; United States	Argentina; Australia; Benin; Brazil; Burkina Faso; Burundi; Canada; Central African Republic; Chile; China; Colombia; Costa Rica; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; Egypt; El Salvador; The Gambia; Ghana; Guatemala; Guinea; Honduras; India; Indonesia; Israel; Jamaica; Kenya; Republic of Korea; Madagascar; Malaysia; Mexico; Mozambique; New Zealand; Nigeria; Pakistan; Panama; Paraguay; Peru; Philippines; Russian Federation; Senegal; Sierra Leone; South Africa; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; Togo; United States; Uruguay; Viet Nam; Zambia; Certain Members	Food safety	25/03/2014 (23 times)	NR
European Union	446	Subsequently raised	EU review of legislation on veterinary medicinal products	Argentina; United States	Argentina; Australia; Brazil; Canada; Chile; Colombia; Japan; Norway; Paraguay; Uruguay	Food safety	12/07/2018 (9 times)	NR
European Union	448	Subsequently raised	EU MRLs for alpha-cypermethrin, buprofezin, chlorothalonil, chlorpyrifos, chlorpyrifos-methyl, diflubenzuron, ethoxysulfuron, glufosinate, imazalil, ioxynil, iprodione, mancozeb, molinate, picoxystrobin and tepraloxydim	Colombia; Costa Rica; Côte d'Ivoire; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; Guatemala; India; Panama; Paraguay; United States	Argentina; Australia; Brazil; Canada; Chile; Colombia; Costa Rica; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; El Salvador; Guatemala; Honduras; Indonesia; Japan; Kenya; Malaysia; Nicaragua; Panama; Paraguay; Peru;	Food safety	01/11/2018 (11 times)	NR

Member responding	STC ID	In 2022	Title	Member(s) raising	Member(s) supporting	Primary subject keyword	First raised (subsequently raised)	Status
					Philippines; Russian Federation; Türkiye; United States; Uruguay; Certain Members			
European Union	503	Subsequently raised	EU restrictions on exports of chocolate and cocoa products due to the application of the Commission Regulation (EU) N° 488/2014 of 12 May 2014 Amending Regulation (EC) N° 1881/2006 as regards maximum levels of cadmium in foodstuff	Peru	Colombia; Ecuador; Indonesia; Malaysia	Food safety	05/11/2020 (6 times)	NR
European Union	504	Subsequently raised	Proposed new EU rules on composite products	Australia; China; Russian Federation; Chinese Taipei	China; Japan; Malaysia; New Zealand; Philippines; Russian Federation; Chinese Taipei; United States	Other concerns	05/11/2020 (5 times)	NR
European Union	518	Subsequently raised	EU's classification of 'anthraquinone' as a pesticide and the MRL for imported tea	India		Food safety	14/07/2021 (3 times)	NR
European Union	519	Subsequently raised	EU regulatory approach to maximum levels for contaminants	Canada	Brazil; Ecuador; United States	Food safety	14/07/2021 (4 times)	NR
European Union	526	Subsequently raised	EU delays in authorizing imports of Samgyetang (Korean ginseng chicken soup)	Korea		Other concerns	03/11/2021 (3 times)	NR
European Union	533	New (subsequently raised in 2022)	EU restrictions on spice imports and other food products due to European Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/2246 of 15 December 2021	India		Food safety	22/06/2022 (1 time)	NR
European Union	534	New (subsequently raised in 2022)	EU import tolerances for certain pesticides to achieve environmental outcomes in third countries	Australia; China	Argentina; Brazil; Canada; Colombia; Costa Rica; Ecuador; Guatemala; Kenya;	Other concerns	23/03/2022 (2 times)	NR

Member responding	STC ID	In 2022	Title	Member(s) raising	Member(s) supporting	Primary subject keyword	First raised (subsequently raised)	Status
					Japan; New Zealand; Paraguay; United States; Uruguay			
European Union	535	New (subsequently raised in 2022)	EU restrictions on the importation of collagen for human consumption	China		Food safety	22/06/2022 (1 time)	NR
European Union	536	New	EU residue limits of ethylene oxide and dichloroethanol	China		Food safety	22/06/2022 (0 times)	NR
European Union	543	New (subsequently raised in 2022)	EU recognition of Mexico as a country with OIE negligible BSE risk	Mexico	Brazil	Animal health	22/06/2022 (1 time)	NR
European Union	545	New (subsequently raised in 2022)	EU regulation on animal health/official certificates for animal origin foods	China		Other concerns	22/06/2022 (1 time)	NR
European Union	546	New	EU notifications of matriline and oxymatrine in honey	China		Food safety	22/06/2022 (0 times)	NR
European Union	549	New	EU regulation No. 396/2005 setting pesticide MRLs in food and feed of plant and animal origin	India	Argentina; Brazil; China; Colombia; Costa Rica; Guatemala; Israel; Paraguay; Uruguay	Other concerns	09/11/2022 (0 times)	NR
European Union	550	New	EU Commission proposal for reduction of the current MRL for "nicotine" for imported tea from India (G/SPS/N/EU/581)	India		Food safety	09/11/2022 (0 times)	NR
European Union	551	New	EU Regulations 2021/405 and 2017/185 on vitamin D3	China		Other concerns	09/11/2022 (0 times)	NR
European Union	552	New	EU increased sampling frequency for inspection of farmed shrimps and newly listed fishery establishments not permitted to export aquaculture products	India		Other concerns	09/11/2022 (0 times)	NR
European Union	558	New	EU import restrictions on ostrich meat	South Africa		Animal health	09/11/2022 (0 times)	NR
Guatemala	413	Subsequently raised	Guatemala's restrictions on egg products	Mexico		Food safety	27/10/2016 (9 times)	NR
India	373	Subsequently raised	US high cost of certification for mango exports	United States	Brazil; Dominican Republic	Plant health	9/07/2014 (4 times)	NR

Member responding	STC ID	In 2022	Title	Member(s) raising	Member(s) supporting	Primary subject keyword	First raised (subsequently raised)	Status
India	484	Subsequently raised	India's approval procedures for animal products	Russian Federation		Other concerns	24/06/2020 (5 times)	NR
India	497	Subsequently raised	India's import requirements for pulses	Canada	Russian Federation	Plant health	05/11/2020 (5 times)	NR
India	501	Subsequently raised	India's requirement for certificate for Non-GM origin and GM-free status	China; European Union; United States	Argentina; Australia; Brazil; Canada; Chile; European Union; Japan; New Zealand; Paraguay; Russian Federation; Thailand; Türkiye; Uruguay	Food safety	05/11/2020 (6 times)	NR
India	553	New	India's Draft Food Safety and Standards (Import) Amendment Regulation	European Union	Canada; New Zealand	Other concerns	09/11/2022 (0 times)	NR
India	554	New	India's Order related to requirement of health certificate accompanied with imported food consignment of milk, pork, fish and related products	European Union	Canada; Chile; Japan; New Zealand; Norway	Other concerns	09/11/2022 (0 times)	NR
Indonesia	441	Subsequently raised	Indonesia's approval procedures for animal and plant products	European Union; Russian Federation	Brazil; Philippines; United States	Other concerns	12/07/2018 (12 times)	NR
Indonesia	537	New (subsequently raised in 2022)	Indonesia's draft regulation on heavy metals contaminants in processed food	China		Food safety	23/03/2022 (1 times)	NR
Japan	556	New	Japan's approval procedures for poultry products	Russian Federation		Animal health	09/11/2022 (0 times)	NR
Jordan	193	Subsequently raised	General import restrictions due to BSE	European Union; United States	Canada; Switzerland; United States; Uruguay	Animal health	01/06/2004 (45 times)	PR*
Korea, Republic of	193	Subsequently raised	General import restrictions due to BSE	European Union; United States	Canada; Switzerland; United States; Uruguay	Animal health	01/06/2004 (45 times)	PR*
Korea, Republic of	490	Subsequently raised	Korea's lack of progress on pending applications for authorization of beef imports	European Union	Russian Federation	Other concerns	05/11/2020 (3 times)	NR
Korea, Republic of	557	New	Korea's requirement of a health certificate with a declaration of aquatic disease status	India		Other concerns	09/11/2022 (0 times)	NR

Member responding	STC ID	In 2022	Title	Member(s) raising	Member(s) supporting	Primary subject keyword	First raised (subsequently raised)	Status
Malaysia	193	Subsequently raised	General import restrictions due to BSE	European Union; United States	Canada; Switzerland; United States; Uruguay	Animal health	01/06/2004 (45 times)	PR*
Mexico	193	Subsequently raised	General import restrictions due to BSE	European Union; United States	Canada; Switzerland; United States; Uruguay	Animal health	01/06/2004 (45 times)	PR*
Mexico	489	Subsequently raised	Mexico's import restrictions on pork	Brazil		Animal health	05/11/2020 (6 times)	NR
Morocco	548	New	Morocco's import ban on ornamental plants	European Union		Plant health	22/06/2022 (0 times)	NR
Namibia	555	New	Namibia's approval procedures for beef and meat of small ruminants	Russian Federation		Animal health	09/11/2022 (0 times)	NR
Nigeria	523	New	Nigeria's import restrictions on meat, pork, poultry, milk and dairy products, genetic material and live cattle	Brazil		Other concerns	14/07/2021 (2 times)	NR
Panama	509	Subsequently raised	Panama's undue delays in the renewal of authorizations for plants of fishery and livestock enterprises	Peru; European Union	Chile; Costa Rica; European Union	Other concerns	25/03/2021 (5 times)	NR
Panama	512	Subsequently raised	Panama's restrictions regarding the procedure to regain access for Peruvian potatoes and onions	Peru	Costa Rica	Other concerns	25/03/2021 (5 times)	NR
Peru	193	Subsequently raised	General import restrictions due to BSE	European Union; United States	Canada; Switzerland; United States; Uruguay	Animal health	01/06/2004 (45 times)	PR*
Peru	544	New (subsequently raised in 2022)	Peru's non-application of regionalization for African swine fever	European Union	Brazil	Animal health	22/06/2022 (1 times)	NR
Philippines	466	Subsequently raised	The Philippines' trade restrictions on imports of meat	European Union; Russian Federation	Russian Federation	Animal health	07/11/2019 (8 times)	NR
Qatar	529	Subsequently raised	Qatar's new import rules for dairy products	European Union	New Zealand	Food safety	03/11/2021 (3 times)	NR
Russian Federation	508	Subsequently raised	Russian Federation - Procedures for authorizing units eligible for export of fish and fish products to Eurasian Customs Union	India		Other concerns	25/03/2021 (2 times)	NR
Russian Federation	525	Subsequently raised	The Russian Federation's classification of tea as "fruits and vegetables"	India		Food safety	14/07/2021 (3 times)	NR

Member responding	STC ID	In 2022	Title	Member(s) raising	Member(s) supporting	Primary subject keyword	First raised (subsequently raised)	Status
Russian Federation	540	New	Russian Federation's SPS notification G/SPS/N/RUS/241 regarding eleven new quarantine pests	India		Plant health	23/03/2022 (0 times)	NR
Russian Federation	541	New	Russian Federation's phytosanitary certificate requirements for groundnut and sesame seeds	India		Plant health	23/03/2022 (0 times)	NR
Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of	486	Subsequently raised	Saudi Arabia's temporary suspension of Brazilian poultry exporting establishments	Brazil	Ukraine	Food safety	24/06/2020 (7 times)	NR
South Africa	193	Subsequently raised	General import restrictions due to BSE	European Union; United States	Canada; Switzerland; United States; Uruguay	Animal health	01/06/2004 (45 times)	PR*
South Africa	431	Subsequently raised	South Africa's import restrictions on poultry due to highly pathogenic avian influenza	European Union		Animal health	02/11/2017 (13 times)	NR
Chinese Taipei	193	Subsequently raised	General import restrictions due to BSE	European Union; United States	Canada; Switzerland; United States; Uruguay	Animal health	01/06/2004 (45 times)	PR*
Chinese Taipei	521	Subsequently raised	Chinese Taipei's import restrictions on poultry	Brazil		Other concerns	14/07/2021 (4 times)	NR
Chinese Taipei	538	New (subsequently raised in 2022)	Chinese Taipei's new procedure for the recognition of infectious animal disease-free status of a foreign country	European Union		Animal health	23/03/2022 (2 times)	NR
Thailand	527	Subsequently raised	Delays in Thailand's approval procedures for animal products	Russian Federation		Other concerns	03/11/2021 (1 time)	NR
Thailand	539	New (subsequently raised in 2022)	Thailand's sanitary requirements on "wet blue" leather imports	Brazil		Other concerns	23/03/2022 (2 times)	NR
United States	193	Subsequently raised	General import restrictions due to BSE	European Union; United States	Canada; Switzerland; United States; Uruguay	Animal health	01/06/2004 (45 times)	PR*
United States	439	Subsequently raised	US import restrictions on apples and pears	European Union		Plant health	01/03/2018 (13 times)	NR
United States	471	Subsequently raised	US non-recognition of the pest-free status in the European Union for Asian longhorn beetle and citrus longhorn beetle	European Union		Plant health	24/06/2020 (7 times)	NR

Member responding	STC ID	In 2022	Title	Member(s) raising	Member(s) supporting	Primary subject keyword	First raised (subsequently raised)	Status
United States	493	Subsequently raised	Non-publication of US final rule on importation of sheep, goats and certain other ruminants	European Union		Other concerns	05/11/2020 (5 times)	NR
United States	542	New (subsequently raised in 2022)	US undue delays in opening its citrus market	Brazil		Plant health	22/06/2022 (1 time)	NR
Certain Members	193	Subsequently raised	General import restrictions due to BSE	European Union; United States	Canada; Switzerland; United States; Uruguay	Animal health	01/06/2004 (45 times)	PR*

* STC 193 is considered as resolved for Philippines; Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of; Singapore; Türkiye; and Ukraine.

Table B.3 - STCs where substantive action occurred under the DSU in 2022⁶⁵

STC ID ^b	Title	Member(s) raising	Member(s) supporting	Member(s) responding	Primary subject keyword	First raised (subsequently raised)	Status
185	Restrictions due to avian influenza	European Union; United States	Australia; Canada; European Union; Switzerland; United States	India	Animal health	17/03/2004 (16 times)	PR / DS 430
356	EU phytosanitary measures on citrus black spot	South Africa	Argentina; Brazil; Zambia	European Union	Plant Health	26/06/2013 (5 times)	NR / DS 613
394	Costa Rica's suspension of the issuing of phytosanitary import certificates for avocados	Guatemala; Mexico	Ghana; Guatemala; South Africa; United States; Venezuela	Costa Rica	Plant health	15/07/2015 (4 times)	NR / DS 524
432	EU restrictions on poultry meat due to Salmonella detection	Brazil		European Union	Food safety	02/11/2017 (3 times)	NR / DS 607
495	Panama's import restrictions on animal and plant products	Colombia; Costa Rica		Panama	Other concerns	05/11/2020 (0 times)	NR / DS 599

^b Panel proceedings occurred in the context of the WTO dispute settlement system. For more information, see https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/dispu_e.htm.

⁶⁵ Please note that a hyperlink in the ID number redirects to the corresponding STC in the [TCD](#) for further details on the concern.