



Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS – MEASURING THE LINK TO GOODS TRADE

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This document contains the presentation made by the delegation of the United States at the TBT Committee meeting of 29-30 March 2017 under Agenda Item 2(D) (Exchange of Experiences).

Standards & Regulations
Measuring the Link to Goods Trade

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¹ In English only.

Outline

- **WTO TBT Agreement**
- **Assumptions**
 - Data Source: WTO Member notifications
- **Findings**
 - Size of the link
 - Leading economies
 - Leading industries
- **Robustness test:** UNCTAD NTMs
- **Why does it matter?**
- **What is ITA doing about it?**

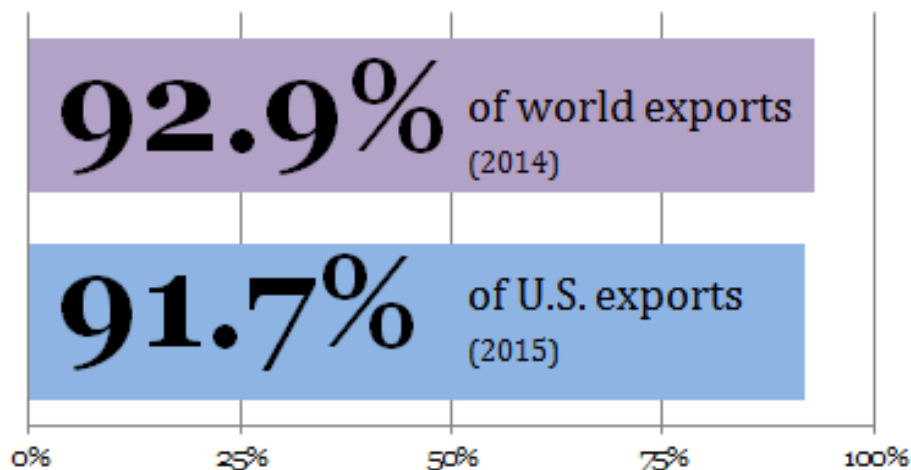
Assumptions

- WTO notifications
 - underrepresent the stock of regulations with trade impact
 - are a good proxy for the overall global regulatory environment
- **KEY ASSUMPTION:** A notification by one economy for a particular product can be linked to all global exports and U.S. exports.

Data Source: WTO Member Notifications

- WTO notifications from **January 1, 2006 to August 18, 2015**
- Commodity classification information at Harmonized System 4-digit or 6-digit level

Findings: Goods Exports Covered by WTO Notifications



Calculations based on WTO notifications from January 1, 2006 to August 18, 2015 by all WTO members

(Source: WTO notifications from WTO I-TIP database; 2015 U.S. export data from U.S. Department of Commerce; and 2014 global exports data from UN Comtrade.)

Findings: Leading Economies

Economy	Number of Notifications	...with Product Information	...with "In Force" Information
European Union*	1,198	24%	20%
China*	949	77%	9%
Saudi Arabia	857	57%	2%
United States	856	93%	36%
Israel	694	94%	7%
Uganda	502	90%	0%
South Korea	498	12%	12%
Brazil	445	57%	14%
Kenya	423	91%	8%
Qatar	390	68%	1%
All others	6,028	53%	18%
Total	12,840	59%	13%

Calculations based on WTO notifications from January 1, 2008 to August 18, 2015 by all WTO members.

* includes notifications made by the EU and its member states.

excludes Hong Kong, China and Macao, China which made a combined 25 notifications.

(Source: WTO notifications from WTO I-TIP database.)

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Top Commodities by Number of Notifications



Note: Based on entries created from notifications by all WTO members except the United States from January 1, 2008 to August 18, 2015. Only entries with an HS-4 or an HS-6 code were used. One measure may have multiple entries under the same HS classification.

(Source: WTO notifications from WTO I-TIP database.)

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Finding: Notifications in Each 4-digit Category

- **Textiles and Shoes**
 - Furniture/bedding
 - Apparel, fabrics, fibers, filaments
 - Footwear

- **Foods and agricultural products**
 - Meat, prepared meat/fish
 - Coffee/tea, sugar, vegetables, fruits
 - Milling products and cereals

- **Other chemical products**
 - Explosives
 - Fertilizers

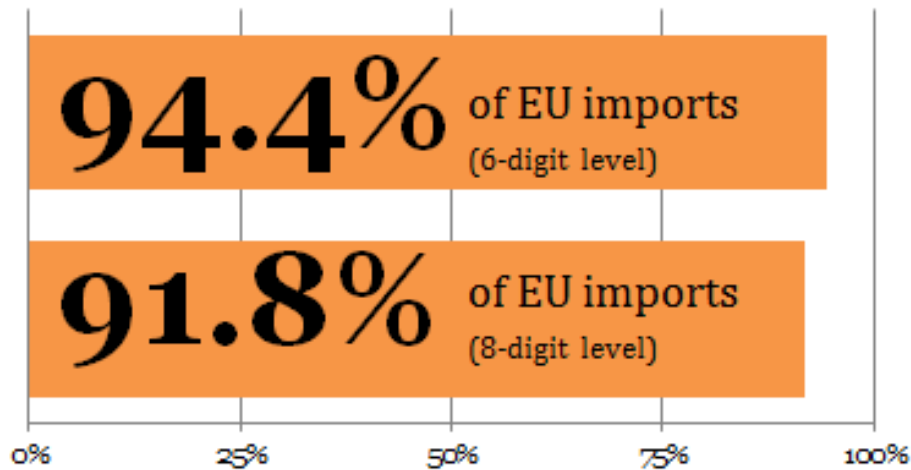
Robustness Test: UNCTAD TBT NTMs

- Classified by UNCTAD experts

- Based on official government documents

- Only available for selected economies
 - **Focus: European Union (2014)**

Robustness Test: Goods Exports Covered by UNCTAD TBT NTMs



(Source: EU TBT NTM Data from World Bank WITS; 2015 U.S. export data from U.S. Department of Commerce; 2014 HS-8 EU import data from UN Comtrade; and 2014 CN-8 EU import data from Eurostat.)

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Limitations in Notifications Data

Missing information on...

- **Products affected:** 41 percent
- **Measures in force:** 15 percent
- **International Standards**

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