



TRANSPARENCY

TENTH TRIENNIAL REVIEW

Proposal from the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu

The following submission, dated 4 March 2024, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu.

1 PROVISION OF COPYABLE DOCUMENTS UNDER BOX 11 OF THE NOTIFICATION TEMPLATE

1.1 Background

1.1. Members are encouraged to include web links or any other means to facilitate access to texts of the notified technical regulations or conformity assessment procedures in Box 11 of the notification template. Two options are mentioned in the Enquiry Point Guide¹ for this purpose, a hyperlink that links directly to the full text hosted on Members' own websites or uploading of electronic version via the notification submission dashboard in ePing.

1.2. There are cases where the document is locked or is an image file format and the text cannot be selected, highlighted, copied or pasted for further processing. This function is important for MSMEs to use technology, such as machine translation, to overcome language barriers and to be able to assess the impact of the drafted measures. The function of generating copyable documents is available in almost all word processing software.

1.2 Proposal

1.3. The Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu proposes that this practice be added to the section of "Completing the notification template" in an updated Enquiry Point Guide.

2 PRODUCT COVERAGE OF NOTIFIED MEASURES

2.1 Background

2.1. At the 9th Triennial Review, the TBT Committee decided to hold a thematic session on challenges that Members face in providing specific information on the product coverage of notified measures, with special emphasis on HS codes. At the 10th Special Meeting on Procedures for Information Exchange held on 19 June 2023, a session was dedicated to training on the Harmonized System (HS).

2.2. The WTO Secretariat introduced the work on the "product dictionary," which was designed for the automatic matching of products' HS Codes.² The Enquiry Points and notification authorities

¹ https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tbt_e/tbt_enquiry_point_guide_e.pdf, page 48.

² https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tbt_e/tbt_1906202310_e/tbt_1906202310_e.htm.

benefited a great deal from this initiative, which will reduce the burden of identifying appropriate HS codes of products covered in the notified measures. In addition, it also assists private sectors in assessing trade implication of the notified measures accurately.

2.2 Proposal

2.3. The Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu appreciates the efforts of the WTO Secretariat in improving product coverage in notifications, including the consideration of providing ePing users access to the product dictionary. We propose that a good practice guide be developed and more training activities be arranged.
