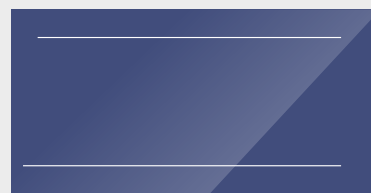




TECHNICAL COOPERATION HANDBOOK ON NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

This section of the Handbook on Notification Requirements covers the notification obligations under the **TRANSPARENCY MECHANISM FOR PREFERENTIAL TRADE ARRANGEMENTS (PTAs)**¹. It consists of the following five parts:



For Members which acceded pursuant to Article XII of the Marrakesh Agreement, their respective Protocols of Accession may contain notification obligations in addition to those set out in the WTO Agreements, and may govern the deadlines for the submission of their initial notifications.

¹ The section does not address other notification obligations relating to non-reciprocal preferential schemes which may be contained in specific "waiver" Decisions.

INTRODUCTION

The Transparency Mechanism for Preferential Trade Arrangements (PTAs) was established by the General Council Decision of 14 December 2010 ([WT/L/806](#)). The purpose of the Mechanism is to enhance transparency of the PTAs, which in this context refers to non-reciprocal preferential schemes.

The Committee on Trade and Development (CTD) is responsible for the implementation of the Transparency Mechanism. For purposes of performing the functions established under the Mechanism, the CTD is to convene in a dedicated session.

WHAT IS COVERED?

Section A of the Transparency Mechanism specifies the coverage of the Mechanism. According to Paragraph 1, the Transparency Mechanism shall apply to the following PTAs:

- PTAs falling under paragraph 2 of the Decision of 28 November 1979 on Differential and
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LISTING OF THE NOTIFICATION OBLIGATION

NOTIFICATION OF A PTA

	WHAT MUST BE NOTIFIED?		WHICH MEMBERS MUST NOTIFY?	WHEN TO NOTIFY?		HOW TO NOTIFY?		
	Notification requirements	Type of measure	Members notifying	Periodicity	Comments on Periodicity	Format	To whom ³	Notification Symbol
1.	Transparency Mechanism for PTAs , paragraph 1(a).	Establishment of a PTA under paragraph 2 of the Decision of 28 November 1979 on Differential and More Favourable Treatment Reciprocity and Fuller Participation of Developing Countries ("Enabling Clause"), with the exception of regional trade agreements under paragraph 2(c).	Members granting the non-reciprocal preferences.	One time	As early as possible; when practicable before the application of preferential treatment by the notifying Member and, at the latest, three months after the PTA is in force.	Yes (WT/COMTD/73)	Committee on Trade and Development (CTD)	WT/COMTD/PTA*/N/* ⁴

³ All notifications, regardless of their subject content or the requirement under which they are being submitted, must be directed to the administrator of the Central Registry of Notifications (CRN), as indicated in document [WT/INF/25/Rev.2](#). Notifications may be submitted through online submission systems, as electronic attachments to emails, or on paper. As it may be practice, a copy of the notification may be sent to the Secretariat unit substantively handling the notification.

⁴ This is the notification symbol for PTAs agreed to by the CTD at the 108th Regular Session held on 5th April 2019. Prior to this, notifications of PTAs were circulated using the symbol WT/COMTD/N/*.

LISTING OF THE NOTIFICATION OBLIGATION

NOTIFICATION OF A PTA

	WHAT MUST BE NOTIFIED?		WHICH MEMBERS MUST NOTIFY?	WHEN TO NOTIFY?		HOW TO NOTIFY?		
	Notification requirements	Type of measure	Members notifying	Periodicity	Comments on Periodicity	Format	To whom ³	Notification Symbol
2.	Transparency Mechanism for PTAs , paragraph 1(b).	Establishment of a PTA by any Member taking the form of preferential treatment accorded by any Member to products of least developed countries.	Members granting the non-reciprocal preferences.	One time	As early as possible; when practicable before the application of preferential treatment by the notifying Member and, at the latest, three months after the PTA is in force.	Yes (WT/COMTD/73)	Committee on Trade and Development (CTD)	WT/COMTD/PTA*/N/*
3.	Transparency Mechanism for PTAs , paragraph 1(c).	Establishment of a PTA by a Member offering any other non-reciprocal preferential treatment authorized under the WTO Agreement.	Members granting the non-reciprocal preferences.	One time	As early as possible; when practicable before the application of preferential treatment by the notifying Member and, at the latest, three months after the PTA is in force.	Yes (WT/COMTD/73)	Committee on Trade and Development (CTD)	WT/COMTD/PTA*/N/*

³ All notifications, regardless of their subject content or the requirement under which they are being submitted, must be directed to the administrator of the Central Registry of Notifications (CRN), as indicated in document [WT/INF/25/Rev.2](#). Notifications may be submitted through online submission systems, as electronic attachments to emails, or on paper. As it may be practice, a copy of the notification may be sent to the Secretariat unit substantively handling the notification.



LIMITING OF THE IDENTIFICATION OBLIGATION

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS CONCERNING GUIDELINE AND FORMATS

The format for notification of a PTA is contained in document [WT/COMTD/73](#). Notifying Members are also invited to consult the information note on "Modalities and Operation of the Integrated Database (IDB)" ([G/MA/367](#)) provided by the WTO Secretariat through the Committee on Market Access and adopted on 28 May 2019. The note summarizes various notification requirements of tariff and import data to the WTO's Integrated Data Base (IDB), including notification requirements as set out under the PTA Transparency Mechanism ([WT/L/806](#)). Specific examples of tariff and import data notifications are found in the Annex of the note [G/MA/367](#).

LIST OF NOTIFICATION SINCE 2011

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Transparency Mechanism for Preferential Trade Arrangements – General Council Decision of 14 December 2010 [WT/L/806](#).