



TECHNICAL COOPERATION HANDBOOK ON NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS



PART 1

OVERVIEW OF NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

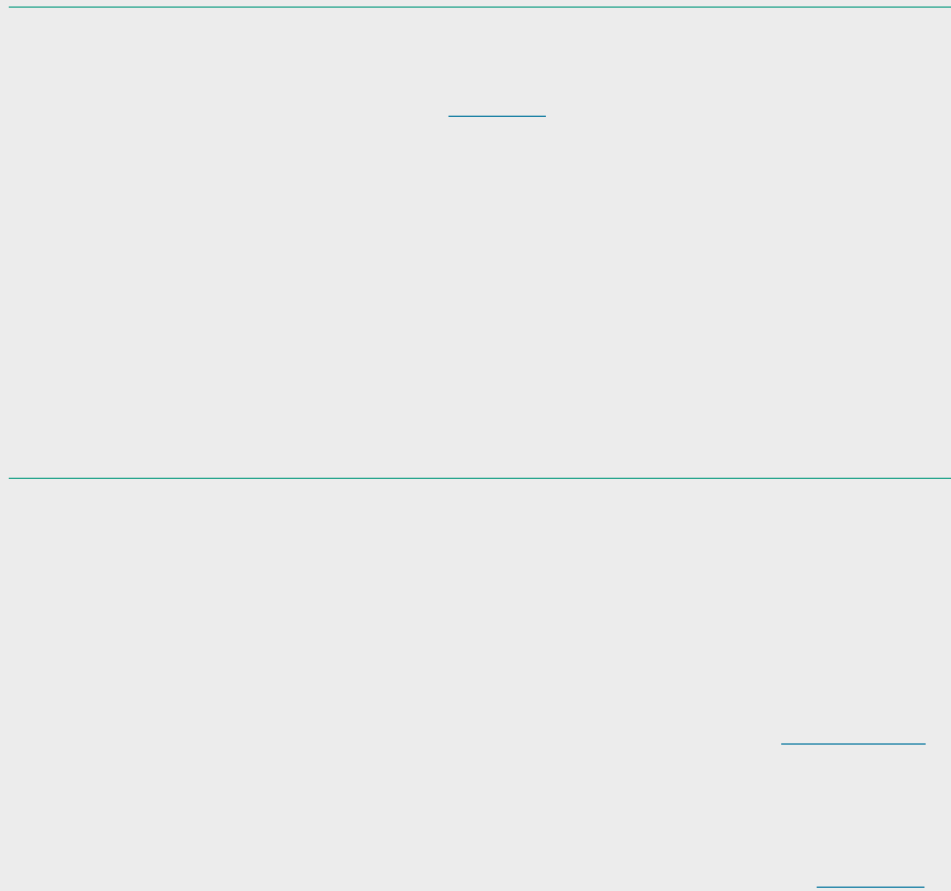


PART 3

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.

PART 1

OVERVIEW OF NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS



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(4) End-of-implementation report

A short written report on the realization of the liberalization commitments, as contained in the RTA that was originally notified is required, at the end of the RTA's implementation period. The report is referred to as the "End-of-Implementation (EOI) Report".

PART 1

OVERVIEW OF NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

HOW TO NOTIFY?²

Existing notification formats, of a voluntary or mandatory nature, are available for some of these notification/reporting requirements; these are referred to in the table that follows ([Part 2](#)). Available templates are also proposed under [Part 3](#) below.

A self-training module on notification requirements for newly concluded RTAs is available at: [How to notify a new RTA to the WTO](#).

² 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 as electronic attachments to emails, or on paper.

PART 2

LISTING OF THE NOTIFICATION OBLIGATIONS

NOTIFICATION OF THE CONCLUSION OF/ACCESSION TO AN RTA

	WHAT MUST BE NOTIFIED?		WHICH MEMBERS MUST NOTIFY?	WHEN TO NOTIFY?		HOW TO NOTIFY? ²		
	Notification requirements	Type of measure	Members notifying	Periodicity	Comments on Periodicity	Format	To whom	Notification Symbol
1.	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) Article XXIV:7(a) ; Transparency Mechanism for RTAs , paragraphs 3 and 4.	Conclusion of, or accession to, a customs union, a free trade area or an interim agreement leading to one or the other.	In principle each Member Party to an RTA. In practice, joint notifications are made.	One time	As early as possible, and no later than directly following the Parties' ratification of an RTA or any Party's decision on application of the relevant parts of an RTA, and before the application of preferential treatment between the Parties.	Yes (G/L/834)	The Ministerial Conference, though, in practice to the CRTA.	WT/REG*/N/*

² 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 as electronic attachments to emails, or on paper.



PART 2

LISTING OF THE NOTIFICATION OBLIGATIONS

NOTIFICATION OF CHANGES TO AN RTA

	WHAT MUST BE NOTIFIED?		WHICH MEMBERS MUST NOTIFY?	WHEN TO NOTIFY?		HOW TO NOTIFY? ²		
	Notification requirements	Type of measure	Members notifying	Periodicity	Comments on Periodicity	Format	To whom ¹	Notification Symbol
1.	<p>General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) Article XXIV:7(a); Understanding on the interpretation of Article XXIV of GATT 1994, paragraphs 9 and 11; Transparency Mechanism for RTAs, paragraph 14.</p>	<p>Significant changes and/or developments in an RTA, including changes in the plan or schedule (for the formation of a customs union or a free trade area).</p> <p>Changes to be</p>						

PART 2

LISTING OF THE NOTIFICATION OBLIGATIONS

NOTIFICATION OF CHANGES TO AN RTA (CONTINUATION)

	WHAT MUST BE NOTIFIED?		WHICH MEMBERS MUST NOTIFY?	WHEN TO NOTIFY?		HOW TO NOTIFY? ²		
	Noti cation requirements	Type of measure	Members notifying	Periodicity	Comments on Periodicity	Format	To whom	Noti cation Symbol
2.	Enabling Clause, paragraph 4(a) as regards measures under paragraph 2(c); Transparency Mechanism for RTAs , paragraph 14.	<p>Modi cation/ withdrawal of the RTA's preferential treatment or disciplines.</p> <p>Changes to be noti ed include, <i>inter alia</i>, modi cations to the preferential treatment between the Parties and to the RTA's disciplines.</p>	In principle each Member Party to an RTA. In practice joint noti cations are made.	<i>Ad hoc</i>	As soon as possible after the changes occur.	Yes (WT/COMTD/98)	The Ministerial Conference, though, in practice to the CTD.	WT/COMTD/RTA*/N/*

² All noti cations, 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 Noti cations (CRN), as indicated in document [WT/INF/25/Rev.2](#). Noti cations may be submitted as electronic attachments to emails, or on paper.

PART 2

LISTING OF THE NOTIFICATION OBLIGATIONS

NOTIFICATION OF CHANGES TO AN RTA (CONTINUATION)

PART 2

LISTING OF THE NOTIFICATION OBLIGATIONS

PART 2

LISTING OF THE NOTIFICATION OBLIGATIONS

END-OF-IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

WHAT MUST BE NOTIFIED?							

PART 2

LISTING OF THE NOTIFICATION OBLIGATIONS

	WHAT MUST BE NOTIFIED?		WHICH MEMBERS MUST NOTIFY?	WHEN TO NOTIFY?		HOW TO NOTIFY? ²		
	Noti cation requirements	Type of measure	Members notifying	Periodicity	Comments on Periodicity	Format	To whom ¹	Noti cation Symbol
1.	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994 Article XXIV:6 ; Understanding on the Interpretation of Article XXIV of the GATT 1994, paragraph 4 ; General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994 Article XXVIII and its related instruments.							

PART 3

RELEVANT DOCUMENT(S) CONCERNING GUIDELINES AND FORMATS

Two notification formats, including templates, have been adopted by the respective bodies responsible for handling notifications with respect to the notification of the conclusion of an RTA (1) and the notification of changes to an RTA (2).

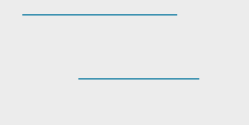
With respect to the **Notification of the conclusion of an RTA**, including accession to or enlargement of an existing RTA, since 2007, three identical templates have been adopted by, respectively, the Council for Trade in Services ([S/L/310](#)); the Council for Trade in Goods ([G/L/834](#)); and the Committee on Trade and Development ([WT/COMTD/63](#)). These templates are available for the notifications to be made pursuant to, respectively, Article V:7(a) of the GATS; Article XXIV:7(a) of the GATT 1994; and Paragraph 4(a) of the Enabling Clause.

The Parties shall specify under which provision(s) of the WTO agreements it is notified. The Parties will also provide the full text of the RTA (or those parts they have decided to apply) and any related schedules, annexes and protocols, in one of the WTO official languages; if available these shall also be submitted in an electronically exploitable format. Reference to related official Internet links shall also be supplied.

With respect to the **Notification of changes to an RTA**, since 2018, three identical templates have been adopted by, respectively, the Council for Trade in Services ([S/L/418](#)); the Council for Trade in Goods ([G/L/1295](#)); and the Committee on Trade and Development ([WT/COMTD/98](#)). These templates are available for the notifications to be made pursuant to Paragraph 14 of the Transparency Mechanism for RTAs ([WT/L/671](#)).

The Parties shall provide a summary of the changes made, as well as any related texts, schedules, annexes and protocols, [...], if available, in electronically exploitable format. In their notification, Members may refer to official internet links related to the Agreement where the relevant information can be consulted in full, in one of the WTO official languages.

For the **other notifications**, the notifying Members may wish to make use of the standard format for information on RTAs ([WT/REG/W/6](#)) or the Standard format for information on



PART 4

LIST OF NOTIFICATIONS SINCE 1995

[Regional Trade Agreements Information System \(RTA-IS\)](#) is a database that allows to retrieve information on RTAs notified to the GATT/WTO.

PART 5

TEXT OF THE LEGAL PROVISIONS

The main disciplines on notification or reporting on RTAs can be found in the following legal provisions:

- [Article XXIV of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994](#).
- [Decision on differential and more favourable treatment, reciprocity and fuller participation of developing countries \(Enabling clause\)](#).
- [Understanding on the Interpretation of Article XXIV of GATT 1994](#).
- [Article V of the GATS](#).
- Transparency Mechanism for Regional Trade Agreement (Decision of the General Council of 14 December 2006) [WT/L/671](#).

For adopted formats of notification, or endorsed guidelines and standard formats, see the above sections ([Part 2](#) and [Part 3](#)).