



www.epingalert.org

ePing is a free online web service that provides businesses and governments with up-to-date information on regulations in export markets around the world, including product requirements and standards.

ePing's two key functions allow users to easily track regulations for different products or export markets by registering to receive customised email alerts, or to search manually to analyse existing regulations.

The system brings together notifications of changes to New Zealand's trading partners' Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures, which have been notified to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

If you have questions or concerns about a trading partner's measures you should contact the relevant New Zealand Government agency:

- For TBT enquiries: Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment:
wto@standards.govt.nz
- For SPS enquiries: Ministry for Primary Industries: sps@mpi.govt.nz.
- For general trade concerns: Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade:
exports@mfat.govt.nz

The New Zealand Government can work directly with governments of our trading partners or raise issues in the relevant WTO Committees to help address questions or concerns.

ePing user guide

You can use ePing in two main ways:

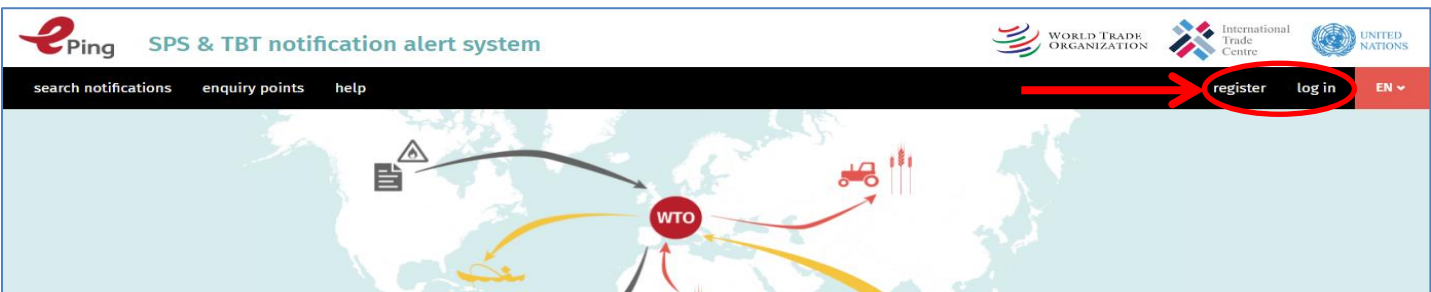
Function 1: Register for email alerts and customise them to your specific export products and markets.

Function 2: Search manually for relevant notifications.

Function 1: Register for alerts

The alert option allows you to subscribe to emails about new or revised SPS and TBT notifications on regulations that countries have submitted to the WTO. You can customise these emails so that you only receive notifications relevant to your specific export products or markets. To use this option:

1. Click 'Register' or 'Log in' on the homepage (as shown below).



2. Fill in basic personal information, including your name, email, and organisation.

3. Filter preferences for the type of content you would like in the emails you receive. This can be refined by:

- **product selection** – name, harmonised system (HS) code and international classification for standards (ICS) code
- **subject** – type of regulation (either SPS or TBT)
- **country** – the country or 'notifier' imposing the regulation and making the notification.

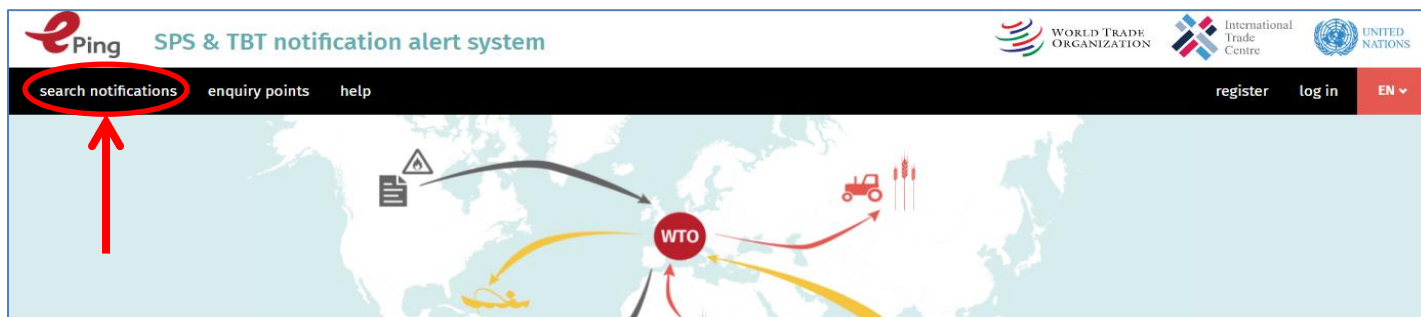
Start typing product names or codes and the corresponding options will appear in a drop down list to select from.

4. Select your email preferences including how often you would like to receive alerts – on a daily or weekly basis.

Function 2: Search for relevant notifications

With the search function, you can search all notifications made since 2012 onwards, using several criteria or 'filters' such as keyword, objective and product. To use this function:

1. Click 'Search notifications' on the homepage.



2. Complete any relevant fields in the horizontal search bar (as below). This includes:
 - **Notifying member** – select the country that imposes the regulation. The default search is 'all countries' or you can select specific countries of interest.
 - **Title, Symbol or description of the regulatory content** – type in key words related to your notification search. This is a free text search of all words in the notification's title and description.
Tip: this is the most effective way to search.
 - **Distribution date** – select a date range in which the notification was distributed by the WTO.
 - **Products** – type in the product name or search by ICS code and/or HS code.
 - **Objectives** – select from a drop down list of regulatory objectives.
 - **Keywords** (for SPS only) – select from a range of key words.
 - **Regions or countries affected** (for SPS only) – select specific countries targeted by the notification (as they might have a pest/disease that other countries do not).
 - **Comment deadline** – select a date that the consultation process for the notification ends. Note: not all notifications have a comment period. If a regulation has been imposed immediately due to an emergency, 'emergency measure' appears.
3. View the list of results on the webpage or click 'export results' to download the list as an excel sheet.
4. Click the symbol, such as G/TBT/N/IND/47 or G/SPS/N/USA/2754 for a link to countries' notification of the regulation.

search notifications enquiry points help register log in EN

Notifying M... Symbol, title and description of content Distribu... Products Objectives Keywords Regions or countries ... Comme...

All Members x Search by word or symbol x From x Product name(s) x All objectives x All keywords x All trading partners x From x Clear
Notification type: All SPS TBT To x ICS x HS x for SPS only for SPS only To x

Colombia	G/TBT/N/COL/133/Add.2 La República de Colombia comunica con relación a la Resolución N° 1057 del 23 de Marzo de 2010 del Ministerio de la...	12/02/18	Sugar, Sugar products, Starch	Protection of Human health or Safety	ES 📄 🗨️
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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is a Technical Barrier to Trade (TBT)?

TBTs refer to mandatory technical regulations and voluntary standards for products that are more trade restrictive than necessary. TBTs can include requirements for consumer information and product labelling, as well as any size, shape, design, marking, packaging, functionality, performance, or quality requirements. TBTs can also be present in conformity assessment procedures such as certification, testing and inspection of products.

For further information on TBT, refer to the Standards New Zealand or MFAT websites at:

- www.standards.govt.nz/international-engagement/technical-barriers-to-trade/
- www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/how-we-help-exporters/

Alternatively, the WTO website has detailed information on TBT at:
www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tbt_e/tbt_e.htm

What does Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) mean?

SPS refers to mandatory regulations for the safety and health of human, animal, and plant life applied to food and feed. SPS measures can take many forms, such as requirements for products to come from disease-free areas, inspection of products, specific treatment or processing of products, setting of allowable maximum levels of pesticide residues or limitations on the permitted use of additives in food.

For further information on SPS, refer to the MPI website:

www.mpi.govt.nz/importing/overview/access-and-trade-into-new-zealand/world-trade-organization-notifications/

What is an SPS and TBT enquiry point?

Enquiry points are positions in WTO Member governments with responsibility for responding to enquiries on SPS and TBT measures. Each WTO Member must have an SPS and TBT enquiry point. Before contacting another government's enquiry point, please contact the relevant New Zealand enquiry point with your concern:

For TBT: wto@standards.govt.nz

For SPS: sps@mpi.govt.nz

Can I submit comments on a TBT Notification?

Yes. If a proposed TBT could have an effect on your exports, and provided the comment period is still open, you can submit relevant comments to the New Zealand TBT enquiry point, for sending to the enquiry point in the country that made the notification.

What is the harmonised system or HS code?

The HS is an international classification system used for classifying goods involved in international trade. It has been adopted as the basis for describing and classifying goods, and applying tariffs for customs purposes by most trading nations.

If you do not know your HS code, there are a number ways to identify it. The simplest way is to use an online search engine or search the Customs Department working tariff for the HS code that matches the description of your product(s):

www.customs.govt.nz/business/tariffs/working-tariff-document/

What is an international classification for standards or ICS code?

The ICS has been developed by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) as a way of classifying standards into consistent fields, such as electrical engineering or paper technology. Standards can be searched in the ISO catalogue:

www.iso.org/standards-catalogue/browse-by-ics.html

Is the information current?

Yes. ePing is updated as new notifications and documents are provided to the WTO. The regulatory information on ePing is as up-to-date as the information that WTO Members have provided to the WTO.

How is the information collected?

WTO Members are obliged to notify the WTO of all proposed technical regulations that do not comply with an international standard or that may have a significant impact on the trade of other WTO Members. The notification obligation also applies to conformity assessment procedures or SPS regulations. WTO Members must provide other WTO Members an opportunity to comment on a proposed draft or change to a regulation before it takes effect.

Why was ePing developed?

ePing was developed by the United Nations (UN) Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), the International Trade Centre (ITC) and the WTO. It was identified that there was a gap in the knowledge and understanding of exporters about changes to regulations in their export markets which affect their exports. ePing aims to bridge that gap and provide timely information about changes in TBT and SPS requirements from trading partners to producers, exporters, governments, and other interested users.