



World
Organisation
for Animal
Health
Fondada en 1967

Organisation
mondiale
de la santé
animale
Fondée en tant qu'OIE

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal
Fundada como OIE

Developing Trust and Confidence in Government Veterinary Authorities through SPS Transparency

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**Workshop to Strengthen Capacities of Veterinary Services to Facilitate Safer International Trade
12 to 14 December 2023 Bangkok, Thailand**



Presentation covers

- What is transparency? Why be transparent?
- How transparency supports SPS Safe Trade
- Can complexity be solved with transparency?
- National Stakeholder perspectives
- Trading Partner perspectives





Legal origins

Principles of Natural Justice (English Common Law, European Law, International Law):

- Fairness
- Reasonableness
- Equality

The duty to act fairly.





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HISTORY OF TRADE

History of the multilateral trading system

From the early days of the Silk Road to the creation of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the birth of the WTO, trade has played an important role in supporting economic development and promoting peaceful relations among nations. This page traces the history of trade, from its earliest roots to the present day.

The early days of trade

Trade and foreign policy have been intertwined throughout history, with foreign policy often tailored to promote trade interests. In the 3rd century BC, during the Han Dynasty, China used its military power to maintain the Silk Road for its value for trade. In the year 30 BC, Rome conquered Egypt in large part to have a better supply of grain.

[Trade and foreign policy have always been intertwined](#) – speech delivered by DDC Wolf

[WTO photo galleries by year](#)

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ARTICLE X

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WTO Trade Agreements under GATT Framework

- Sanitary Phyto-sanitary (SPS) Agreement
 - Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement
 - Trade Facilitation Agreement
- Non-Tariff Trade Barriers
- Technical Barriers to Trade
- Scientific complexity
- Administrative clarity

Relevant International Organisations

- WTO
 - SPS Committee
 - TBT Committee
 - Trade Facilitation Facility
- SPS 3 Sisters (WOAH, IPPC, Codex Alimentarius)
- World Customs Organisation

Relevant National Government Agencies

- Foreign Affairs and Trade
 - Agriculture
 - Customs
- Veterinary Authority





Transparency (trade)

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From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Transparency is a [World Trade Organization](#) principle stipulating that a country's policies and regulations affecting foreign trade should be clearly communicated to its trading partners.^[1]

For example, out of recognition that sanitary and phytosanitary measures may (sometimes deliberately) be unclear, arbitrary, or capricious, recent international trading agreements have provisions calling on countries to notify others, in advance, about any measures that could affect trade, to fully explain them, and to provide a means for commenting on them.^[2]

The main provision dealing with transparency in WTO is Article X of [GATT](#).^[citation needed]

References [edit]

- ↑ "[UNDERSTANDING THE WTO: THE AGREEMENTS Trade policy reviews: ensuring transparency](#)" ↗. World Trade Organization. Retrieved 5 September 2019.
- ↑ Ⓒ This article incorporates [public domain material](#) from Jasper Womach. *Report for Congress: Agriculture: A Glossary of Terms, Programs, and Laws, 2005 Edition* ↗. Congressional Research Service.

Category: [World Trade Organization](#)



International Trade is complex!

Marketing and relationship development
Commercial contracts for purchase
Commercial contracts for deliver
Insurance (FOB, CIF)
Tariffs and other taxes

International trade in food products introduces new levels of complexity!

Rules of Origin
Rules of Free Supply
Labelling
SPS Certification

What is the role of Veterinary Services in international trade?

1. Defining national priorities and engaging in international trade
2. Building trust between trading partners, through transparency and good governance of Veterinary Services
3. Developing trade through a three-phase process
4. Maintaining trade in the case of disease outbreaks.



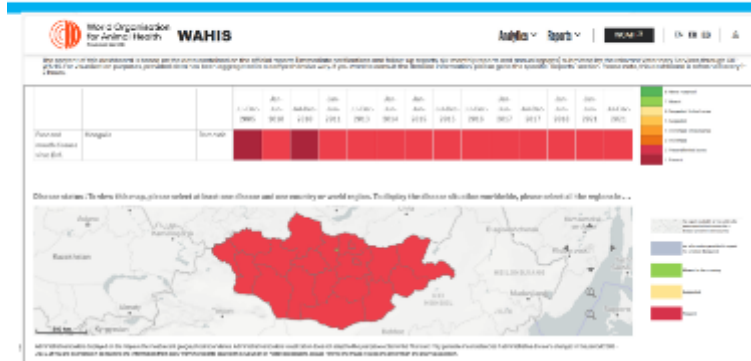
WOAH Technical Report 2020, Access [here](#)



Why be transparent?

Trading Partners' perspective

- Initiating trading relationships:
 - Understand the national animal health situation
 - Quality of Veterinary Services
 - SPS Official Assurances Programme
- Official Veterinary Export Certification
 - Delegation of risk management responsibilities
- Obligations to facilitate visits



Risks to the Mongolian Red Meat Sector Compartmentalisation Programme Evaluation of Government VS Capability through WOAHH PVS

Project Risk	Reference (WOAHH Standards and PVS Reports)
1. Unclear roles and responsibilities across public sector agencies	WOAHH PVS CC 1.6.4 (Chain of Command)
2. Government Veterinary Services technical capacities and programme gaps - Risk analysis and epidemiology - National AMR and AMU surveillance programmes - Control of antimicrobials and specified risk materials	WOAHH PVS CC 1.6 (Disease control and eradication) WOAHH PVS CC 1.9 (AMR & AMU) WOAHH PVS CC 1.11 (Animal feed safety)
3. Veterinary supervision at slaughterhouses	WOAHH PVS CC 1.7.2 (Supervision of premises)
4. Diagnostic services not up to international requirements	WOAHH PVS CC 1.7.1 (AMR/AMU resistance) WOAHH Internal ISO 17025
5. Auditor/verifier roles unclear and not up to international requirements	WOAHH PVS CC 1.4 (ISO 9001 or ISO 17020)
6. Roles and responsibilities clearly established for Public Private Partnership between government and industry	WOAHH PVS CC 1.6 (Joint programmes)
7. Biosecurity breakdowns limit ability to demonstrate benefits	FMD outbreaks 2021/22
8. Export benefits constrained by traceability and food safety requirements	WOAHH PVS CC 1.13 (Traceability) WOAHH PVS CC 1.1.8 (Food Safety)

Member	Region	Status
Mongolia	Member	Endorsed

WOAHH Endorsement of Mongolian Official Control Programme for FMD

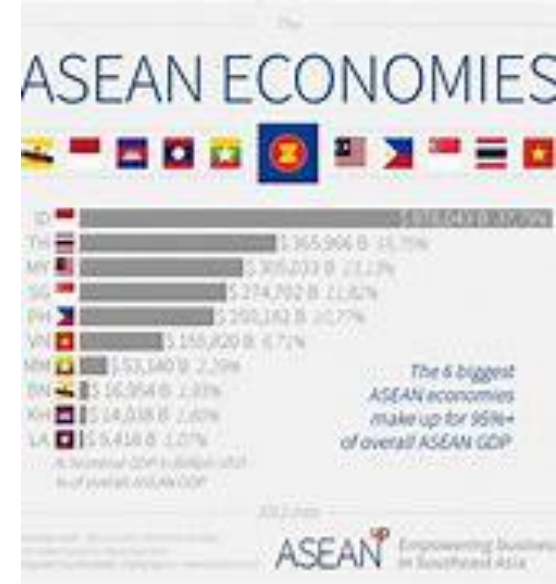
- Endorsed 2016
- Withdrawn 2023
- Failure to manage FMD in a coherent and transparent manner
- NOT a reflection of outbreaks
- Is a reflection on control strategy
- Direct and harmful impact on export prospects



Why be transparent?

National stakeholders' perspective

- Trade benefits the national economy
 - Imports: industry access to genetics and goods for national development
 - Imports: public access to food/goods at competitive prices
 - Exports: foreign exchange earnings
- Trade is complex! Commercial, Customs, and SPS frameworks
- Government role to enable safe trade – decomplexify, lay out clear process
- Encourage use of the legal pathways for trade
 - Assists in disincentivising non-compliance and grey trade with inherent biosecurity risks



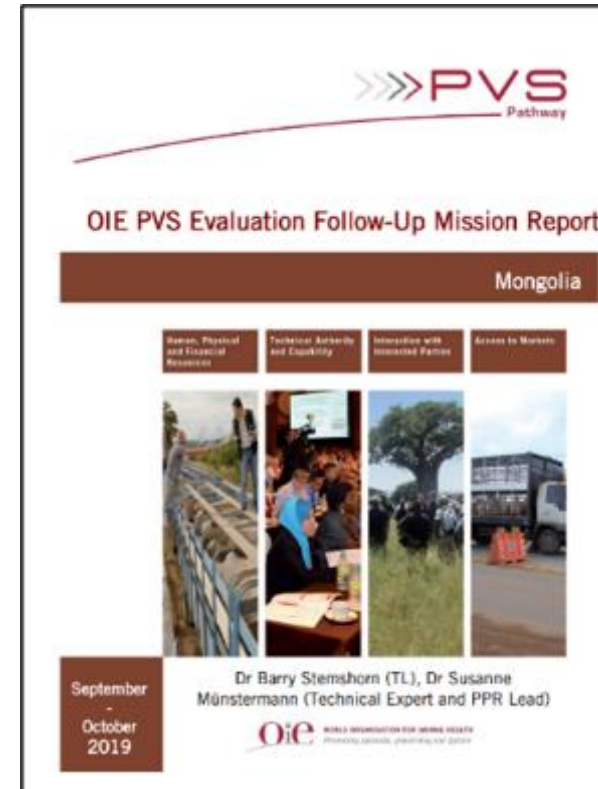
Building Trust through Transparency

WOAH Tools:

- WOAHPVS Pathway
- WOAHOfficial Recognition
- Member reports to WAHIS
- Member Self-Declarations to WOAHO

WTO Tools:

- Notification of draft SPS measures
- Publication of procedures for import, export and transit



WTO Trade Policy Review for Mongolia 2021 – Access [here](#)



The screenshot shows the WTO website header with the logo and navigation menu. The main content area features the title "TRADE POLICY REVIEW: MONGOLIA" and the dates "17 AND 19 MARCH 2021". The main heading is "Concluding remarks by the Chairperson".

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home —> trade topics —> trade policy reviews —> list of reviews —> mongolia 2021

TRADE POLICY REVIEW: MONGOLIA 17 AND 19 MARCH 2021

Concluding remarks by the Chairperson

“Mongolia's SPS regime was characterized as lacking alignment with international SPS standards and Mongolia was encouraged to make improvements in this area.”

“Transparency was identified by several Members as needing improvement on a number of fronts.”



China Member profile

SPS

SPS NATIONAL NOTIFICATION AUTHORITY (NNA)

Name/Agency

China WTO Notification and Enquiry Center
Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM)
2, Dong Chang An Avenue
Beijing 100731

Contact information

Email: tbtspsnna@mofcom.gov.cn
Phone: +[8610] 65197362
Website: <http://sms.mofcom.gov.cn/>

SPS ENQUIRY POINT(S) (NEP)

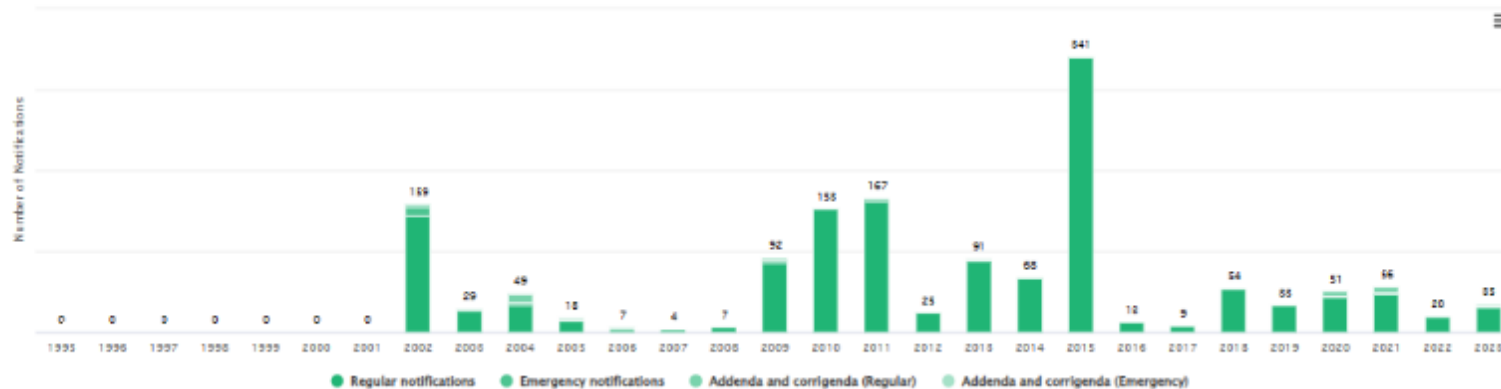
Name/Agency

SPS Notification and Enquiry Division
Research Center for International Inspection and Quarantine Standards and Technical Regulations
General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China
No. 20-3, Hepingli East Street
Dongcheng District
Beijing
100013

Contact information

Email: spis@customs.gov.cn
cc: tbtspsnna@mofcom.gov.cn
Phone: +[8610] 5795 4690/5795 4642

Number of SPS notifications per year



WTO SPS e-ping

- Country profile
- SPS and TBT Notification Authorities and contact points
- HS Codes associated with SPS notifications
- Search function for specific SPS notifications

List of Members with an endorsed official control programme for FMD

According to [Resolution No. 12](#) (90th General Session, May 2023)

Endorsed official control programme for FMD

Members with an endorsed official control programme for FMD, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.8. of the [Terrestrial Code](#)

Botswana	Kyrgyzstan	Namibia
China (People's Rep. of)	Morocco	Thailand
India		

WOAH Endorsement of Mongolia Official Control Programme for FMD

- Endorsed 2016
- Withdrawn 2023
- Direct and harmful impact on export prospects

[Foot and mouth disease - WOA - World Organisation for Animal Health](#)

WOAH Self-Declaration

- Available to all Members
- NOT a replacement for Official Status Recognition
 - Cannot self-declare Country, Zones and Official Control Programmes for the 7 Official Status diseases
- CAN self-declare Compartments, including for FMD and PPR
- Standard format, signed by CVO
- Published on WOAH website for benefit of trade partners

SELF-DECLARATION OF ANIMAL HEALTH STATUS

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF SELF-DECLARATION?

- Increase visibility of animal health status
- Promote good animal health practice & quality of Veterinary Services
- Demonstrate transparency in animal disease situation & continuous compliance with the WOAH Codes*
- Facilitate safe trade of animals and animal products following the recommendations of the Codes

*The WOAH Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Health Codes

WHAT IS A SELF-DECLARATION OF ANIMAL HEALTH STATUS?

A self-declaration of animal health status is a documented statement from the Delegate of the Member regarding the absence of one or several diseases* in a country, zone or compartment.

*Including WOAH listed and non-listed diseases

DOES WOAH ENDORSE MEMBERS SELF-DECLARATIONS?

No. The responsibility of information contained lies entirely under the Delegate of the Member.

The publication of self-declarations does not reflect the official opinion of WOAH.

HOW TO MAKE A SELF-DECLARATION?

1. Follow the steps described in the Standard Operating Procedure on: <http://www.woah.org/self-declaration>
2. Refer to the relevant disease-specific Chapters of the Codes
3. Document compliance with the provisions of the Codes
4. Ensure consistency with the information reported in WAHIS

WHEN CAN YOU ASK WOAH TO PUBLISH A SELF-DECLARATION?

- When a Member country, zone or compartment is free from a disease
- When information documenting compliance with the provisions of the Codes has been compiled






WHY DOES WOAH PUBLISH SELF-DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS?

To increase visibility of favourable animal health situation of WOAH Members.

WARNING: Self-declaration of animal health status cannot be made for diseases for which WOAH has established an official recognition procedure.

International standards to be implemented in Mongolia

- WTO's SPS Agreement defines following 3 sister standards for global agriculture products trade.

Standards	Actions needed in Mongolia
<p>IPPC (International Plant Protection Convention)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue: ~ impossible to export crops from Mongolia due to inability to guarantee crop health. Approving package of laws to be in compliance with IPPC. Necessary to establish dedicated agency for Plant Protection.
<p>WOAH (World Organization for Animal Health)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue: ~ impossible to export raw meat from Mongolia due to inability to guarantee livestock health. “Compartmentalization” (Individual producers driven) in accordance with WOAH requirement is way to go → to be drafted/approved/implemented. “Free of Disease of Zone” trials failed multiple times → State driven procedure.
<p>CODEX (Food Safety Convention)</p>   	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue: implementation is way behind international standards hindering Mongolian food exports. Completing required legislation to be in compliance with CODEX. Implementation structure / procedures shall be developed. Certified laboratory is also required.

SPS Safe Trade: Key competencies for Government Veterinary Authorities

- Disease Management: Official Control Programme development, design, implementation and reporting
- Regulatory Systems: using WOAAH Standards to support programme design and implementation
- Using WTO and WOAAH transparency mechanisms to demonstrate credibility and develop trust
- SPS Market Access – import risk management using WOAAH standards
- SPS Market Access – export negotiation based on equivalence principle
- Official Assurance Programme – design, document and implement
- Audit/Inspection of SPS programmes – government oversight and supervision function
- Export Certification by Official Veterinarians – “first hand knowledge” and “supporting documents”



Thank you



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