

A world map with various trade routes indicated by colored arrows (red, yellow, cyan) connecting different regions. A red circle labeled 'WTO' is positioned over Europe. Icons include a red factory, a yellow truck, a red envelope, and a cyan headset. The text 'DO YOU EXPORT GOODS?' is overlaid in large black letters.

DO YOU EXPORT GOODS?

THEN YOU NEED ePING



[www.epingalert.org](http://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 Australia'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 Australian Government agency:

- Department of Agriculture & Water Resources (DAWR): [sps.contact@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:sps.contact@agriculture.gov.au);
- Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade (DFAT): [tbt.enquiry@dfat.gov.au](mailto:tbt.enquiry@dfat.gov.au); and/or
- Department of Industry, Innovation & Science (DIIS): [tradepolicy@industry.gov.au](mailto:tradepolicy@industry.gov.au)

The Australian 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/or markets; and/or

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 which are relevant to your specific export products and/or markets. To use this option:

1. Click 'Register' or 'Login' 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

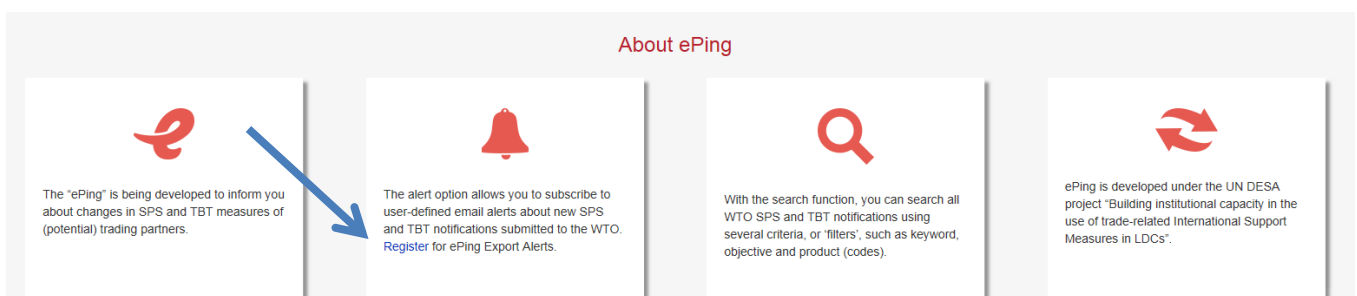
Start typing product names or codes and the corresponding options will appear in a drop down list to select from.

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



### Our Goal

Search and track product requirements in your export markets with easy access to TBT and SPS notifications from WTO Members

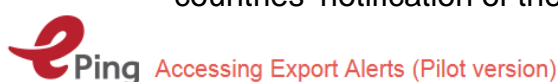


## Function 2: Search for relevant notifications



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:
  - **Notifier** – select the country that imposes the regulation. The default search is 'all countries' or you may 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.
  - **Key word** – for SPS only – select from a range of key words.
  - **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.



About ePing Search notifications Enquiry point contacts

Notifier	Title, Symbol and Description of content	Distribution date	Products	Objectives	Keywords	Countries affected
All countries x	Free text or Symbol search x Subject: <input checked="" type="radio"/> All <input type="radio"/> SPS <input type="radio"/> TBT	From x To x	ICS x HS x	All objectives x	All keywords x for SPS only	All countries x for SPS only
Peru	G/SPS/N/PER/638	29/02/16	Coffee, tea, mate and spices, Not decaffeinated	Plant protection	Pests, Plant health, Seeds	All countries

Tip: If you would like to refine by product(s), it helps to have the:

- Product name;
- HS code; and/or
- ICS code.

See FAQs for more information about HS, ICS, SPS and TBT.

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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## What is a Technical Barrier to Trade (TBT)?

TBTs refer to mandatory technical regulations and voluntary standards for products that are not for quarantine and biosecurity reasons (see SPS below). TBT includes requirements around consumer information and product labelling, as well as any size, shape, design, marking, packaging, functionality, performance or quality requirements. TBT also covers conformity assessment procedures such as certification, testing and inspection of products.

For further information on TBT please refer to the DIIS or DFAT websites at:

- [www.industry.gov.au/industry/IndustryInitiatives/TradePolicies/TechnicalBarrierstoTrade/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.industry.gov.au/industry/IndustryInitiatives/TradePolicies/TechnicalBarrierstoTrade/Pages/default.aspx)
- [www.dfat.gov.au/international-relations/international-organisations/wto/Pages/technical-barriers-to-trade-tbt.aspx](http://www.dfat.gov.au/international-relations/international-organisations/wto/Pages/technical-barriers-to-trade-tbt.aspx).

## 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 please refer to the DAWR website:

[www.agriculture.gov.au/market-access-trade/sps/recent-australian-sps-notifications](http://www.agriculture.gov.au/market-access-trade/sps/recent-australian-sps-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 Australian enquiry point with your concern:

For TBT: [tbt.enquiry@dfat.gov.au](mailto:tbt.enquiry@dfat.gov.au)

For SPS: [sps.contact@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:sps.contact@agriculture.gov.au)

## 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 of ways to identify it. The simplest way is to use an online search engine or search the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) [working tariff](#) for the HS code that matches the description of your product(s): <http://www.border.gov.au/Busi/Tari/Curr>.

## **What is an International Classification for Standards or ICS code?**

The ICS has been developed by the International Standards Organization (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:

[http://www.iso.org/iso/home/store/catalogue\\_ics](http://www.iso.org/iso/home/store/catalogue_ics).

## **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 under a United Nations (UN) Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) project. 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.