

Glossary

Amber box: Category of domestic support considered to distort trade and therefore subject to reduction commitments.

anti-dumping duties: Article VI of the GATT 1994 permits the imposition of anti-dumping duties against dumped goods, equal to the difference between their export price and their normal value, if dumping causes injury to producers of competing products in the importing country.

Appellate Body: An independent seven-person body that, upon request by one or more parties to the dispute, reviews findings in panel reports.

binding, bound: See 'tariff binding'

Blue box: Category of permitted domestic support linked to production, but subject to production limits and therefore minimally trade-distorting.

Codex Alimentarius: FAO/WHO Commission that deals with international standards on food safety.

commercial presence: Having an office, branch, or subsidiary in a foreign country.

counterfeit: Unauthorised representation of a registered trademark carried on goods identical or similar to goods for which the trademark is registered, with a view to deceiving the purchaser into believing that he/she is buying the original goods.

countervailing measures: Action taken by the importing country, usually in the form of increased duties to offset subsidies given to producers or exporters in the exporting country.

Dispute Settlement Body: When the WTO General Council meets to settle trade disputes.

distortion: When prices and production are higher or lower than levels that would usually exist in a competitive market.

dumping: Occurs when goods are exported at a price less than their normal value, generally meaning they are exported for less than they are sold in the domestic market or third-country markets, or at less than production cost.

Enabling Clause: The legal basis for the extension of non-reciprocal trade preferences to and among developing countries.

food security: Concept that discourages opening the domestic market to foreign agricultural products on the principle that a country must be as self-sufficient as possible for its basic dietary needs.

Generalised System of Preferences: Programmes in which developed countries grant preferential tariffs to imports from developing countries.

geographical indications: Place names (or words associated with a place) used to identify products (e.g. 'Champagne', 'Tequila', 'Roquefort') that have a particular quality, reputation or other characteristic because they come from that place.

Green box: Category of domestic support considered not to distort trade and therefore permitted with no limits.

intellectual property rights: Ownership of ideas, including literary and artistic works (protected by copyright), inventions (protected by patents), signs for distinguishing goods of an enterprise (protected by trademarks) and other elements of industrial property.

least-developed countries: The 50 poorest developing countries, which have particularly weak economies, major institutional and human resource handicaps and often geographical disadvantages.

most-favoured-nation treatment: Principle of not discriminating between one's trading partners (GATT Article I, GATS Article II and TRIPS Article 4).

national treatment: Principle of giving others the same treatment as one's own nationals.

natural persons: People as distinct from 'juridical persons' such as companies and organisations.

non-paper: A paper or proposal prepared for consultation purposes without imposing a commitment on any of the parties involved. Non-papers in the WTO bear no regular document symbol but usually have a 'JOB Number'.

Non-tariff measures: Quotas, import licensing systems, sanitary regulations, prohibitions, etc.

offer: A country's proposal for further liberalisation.

Panel: Independent body consisting of three experts that is established by the DSB to examine and issue recommendations on a particular dispute in the light of WTO provisions.

Paris Convention: Treaty, administered by WIPO, for the protection of industrial intellectual property, i.e. patents, utility models, industrial designs, etc.

Pre-shipment inspection: Practice of employing specialised private companies to check shipment details of goods ordered overseas, e.g. price, quantity, quality, etc.

principle of exhaustion of rights: In intellectual property protection, the principle that once a product has been sold on a market, the intellectual property owner no longer has any rights over it.

request and offer: A common approach to negotiating market access on goods and services. Requests for reduced tariffs on specified products or improved access or conditions of establishment for services providers are exchanged by trading partners. These are generally followed by initial offers, after which bilateral negotiations seek to find mutually advantageous results.

rules of origin: Laws, regulations and administrative procedures that determine a product's country of origin. A decision by a customs authority on origin can determine whether a shipment falls within a quota limitation, qualifies for a tariff preference or is affected by an anti-dumping duty. These rules can vary from country to country.

safeguard measures: Action taken to protect a specific industry from an unexpected build-up of imports (governed by Article XIX of the GATT 1994).

sanitary and phytosanitary measures: Regulations to protect human, animal and plant life and health.

Schedule of Specific Commitments: WTO member's list of commitments on market access and bindings regarding national treatment.

small and vulnerable economies: This category of WTO members is undefined as the Doha Declaration called for a work programme to assist the integration into the multilateral trading system of 'small, vulnerable economies' (Para. 37) without the creation of a new sub-category of WTO members.

special and differential treatment: GATT provisions (Article XVIII) that exempt developing countries from the same strict trade rules and disciplines applied to more industrialised countries.

structural adjustment programmes: Policy reforms, such as liberalisation of the economy by reducing protectionism and state intervention, that impact and effect change in the basic framework of an economy.

subsidies: An **export subsidy** is a benefit conferred on a firm by the government that is contingent on exports. A **domestic subsidy** is a benefit not directly linked to exports.

tariffs: Customs duties on merchandise imports. Levied either on an ad valorem basis (percentage of value) or on a specific basis (e.g. \$7 per 100 kegs.). Tariffs give price advantage to similar locally produced goods and raise revenues for the government.

tariff binding: Commitment not to increase a rate of duty beyond an agreed level. Once a rate of duty is bound it may not be raised without compensating the affected parties.

tariff equivalent: The level of tariff that would be the same as a given NTB, in terms of its effect (usually) on the quantity of imports.

tariff escalation: In a country's tariff schedule, the tendency for tariffs to be higher on processed goods than on the raw materials from which they are produced. This causes the effective rate of protection on these goods to be higher than the nominal rate and puts LDC producers of primary products at a disadvantage.

tariff line: A single item in a country's tariff schedule.

tariff peaks: Relatively high tariffs, usually on 'sensitive' products, amidst generally low tariff levels. For industrialised countries, tariffs of 15 per cent and above are generally recognised as 'tariff peaks'.

ratification process: Procedures relating to the agricultural market-access provision in which all non-tariff measures are converted into tariffs.

trade facilitation: Removing obstacles to the movement of goods across borders (e.g. simplification of customs procedures).

transitional economies: moving from being a controlled economy to being an open economy.

transparency: Degree to which trade policies and practices, and the process by which they are established, are open and predictable.

waiver Permission granted by WTO members allowing a WTO member not to comply with normal commitments. Waivers have time limits and extensions have to be justified.

Sources

A guide to 'WTO speak': http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/glossary_e/glossary_e.htm

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