

THIRD TBT QUARTERLY REPORT

2016



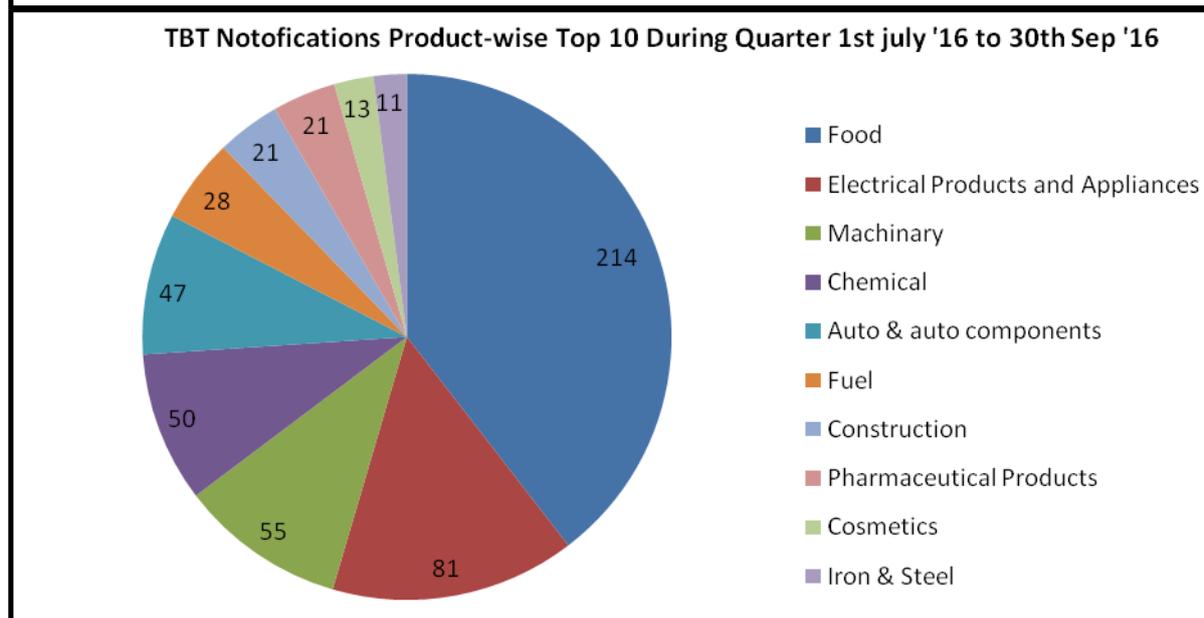
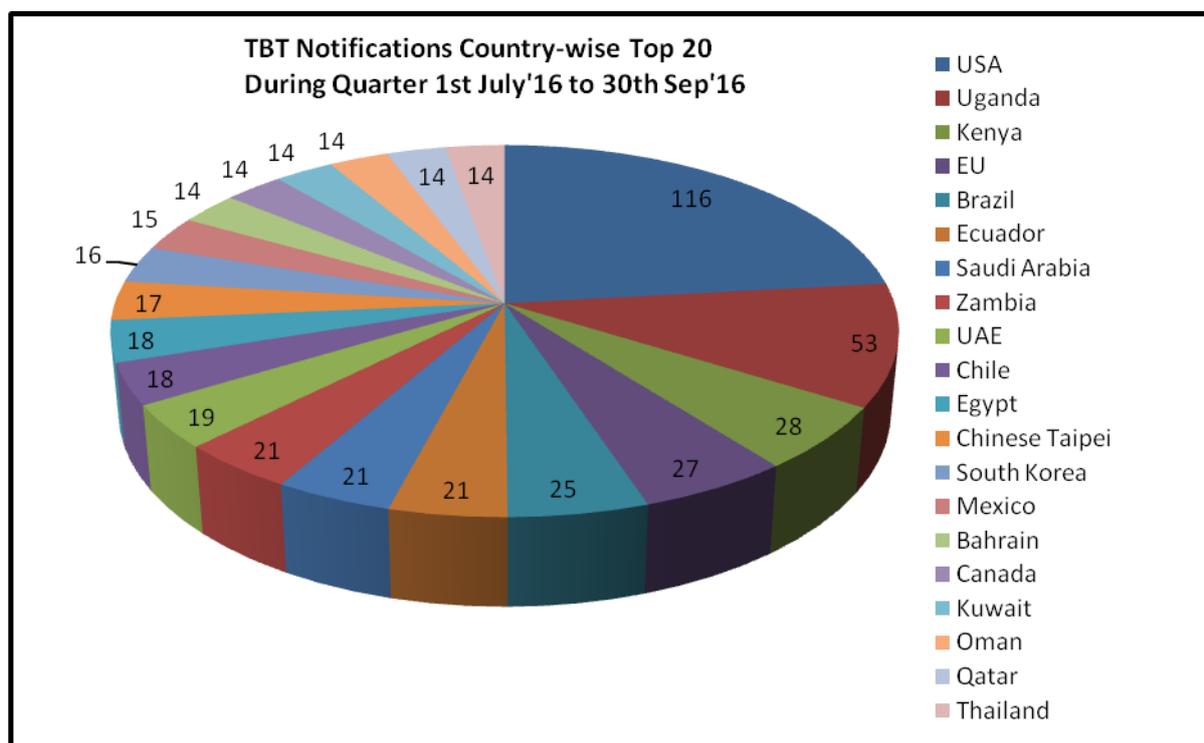
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TBT QUARTERLY REPORT (1ST OF JULY '16 TO 30TH SEPTEMBER '16): AT A GLANCE

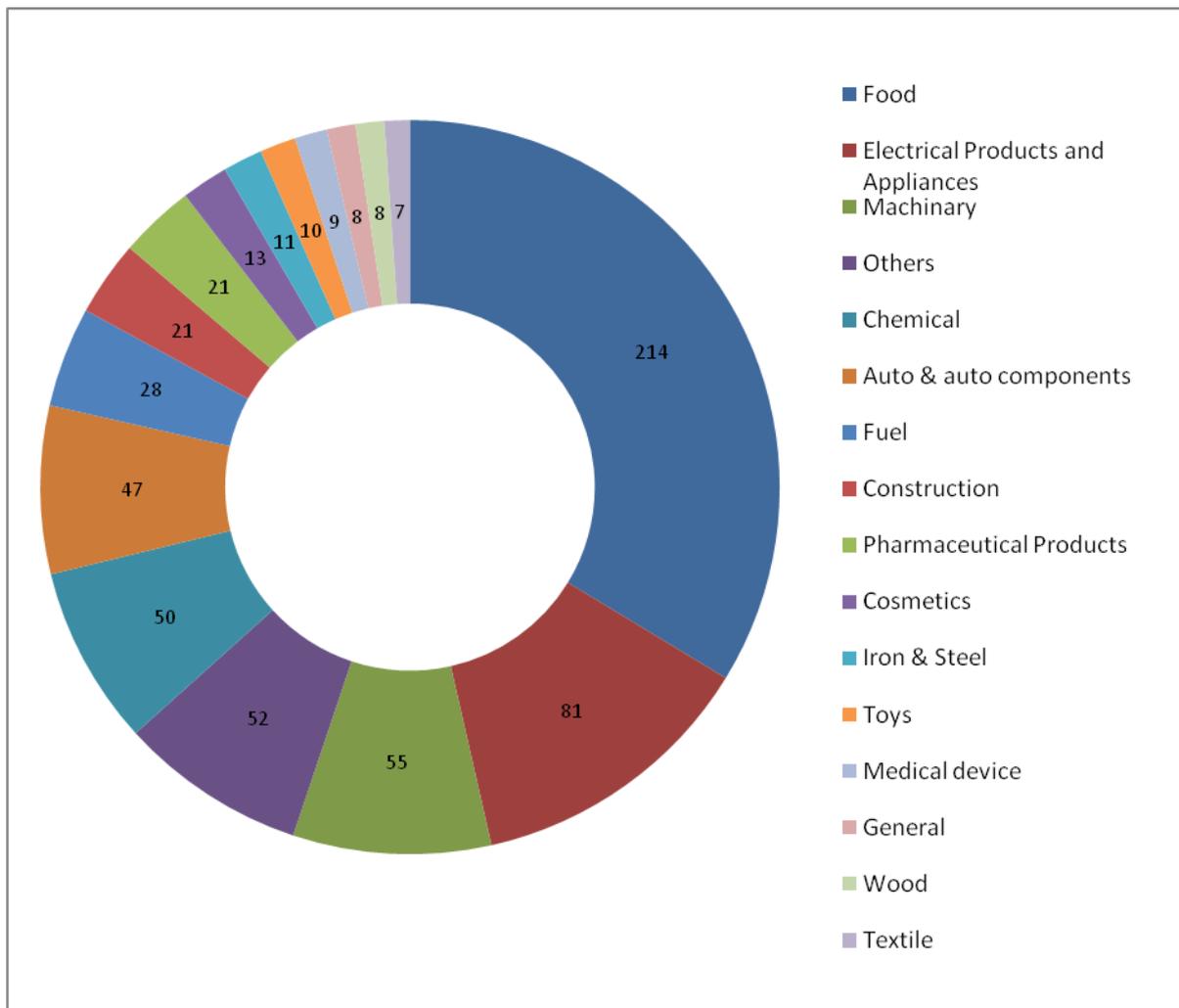
Details Pertaining to TBT Notifications Issued By All WTO Member Countries

The total number of TBT notifications issued by the various WTO-member countries from 1st of July 2016 to 30st September 2016 was 636. Out of these 636 notifications, India issued one TBT notification. Hence, a total of 635 notifications were studied in the quarter 1st July, 2016 to 30st September, 2016 which was relevant to India. Out of 635 notifications, 181 notifications were the addendum of draft regulations notified earlier in the WTO.



Details Pertaining to TBT Notifications Relevant To India

Product-wise Information: Out of the total 635 TBT notifications which were relevant to India, 214 related to food products, 81 related to electrical products and appliances, 55 machinery products, 50 chemical products, 47 auto and auto components, 28 fuel products, 21 construction products, 21 pharmaceutical products, 13 cosmetics, 11 iron and steel, 10 toys, 9 medical device, 8 general products, 8 wood products, 7 textile products and the remaining 52 related to other products.



Country-wise Information: Out of the total 635 TBT notifications relevant to India, USA issued 116 notifications, followed by Uganda, Kenya, European Union, Brazil, Ecuador, Saudi Arabia, Zambia, UAE, Chile, Egypt, Chinese Taipei, Korea, Mexico, Bahrain, Canada, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar with 53, 28, 27, 25, 21, 21, 21, 19, 18, 18, 17, 16, 15, 14, 14, 14, 14, and 14 notifications, respectively. The remaining 150 notifications were from other WTO Member countries.

Details Pertaining to Draft Responses Sent

Notifications-May Impact Indian Industry: (Draft Responses Sent)

There were 15 draft responses sent in the quarter July 2016 to September 2016. In these notifications stakeholders were of the view that, though some of the notifications were in line with International Standards, they may adversely impact Indian exports. Hence, APJ-SLG suggested that the Government of India may seek clarifications from the concerned enquiry point requesting them to provide justification for setting the proposed regulations. These notifications are mentioned below:

Sl. No:	Notification No:	Country	Product	Issue in Brief	India's Comment/Status/Reply
1.	G/TBT/N/RWA/38	Rwanda	Spices and condiments	The Rwanda Standards Board has issued this regulation announcing the specifications for chillies. It specifies requirements and methods of test for dried chillies, whole or in ground powdered form produced from varieties of Capsicum spp.	In reply, it was stated that, the draft Rwandan standard lacks information on the chemical and microbiological limits. Further, test methods for deriving the microbiological limits are not specified in the draft. In addition to, India suggested certain changes in the terminologies used in the draft.
2.	G/TBT/N/PHL/195	Philippines	Steel pipes; deformed steel bars; rerolled steel bars; equal-leg angle bars; flat glass; cement	The Bureau of Philippine Standards, Department Trade and Industry (DTI) has issued this notification amending rules and regulations concerning the product certification schemes of the bureau of Philippine standards for steel pipes, deformed steel bars, rerolled steel bars, equal-leg angle bars, flat glass and cement. The Philippine authorities have updated two mandatory standards which all manufacturers, distributors, importers and retailers of said products shall comply with	In reply, it was stated that, India also follow similar regulatory arrangements for steel and glass products. Hence, India may request the Philippine authorities to provide equivalence and accept standards prescribed by Indian regulatory bodies and also the certificates issued by them.

Sl. No:	Notification No:	Country	Product	Issue in Brief	India's Comment/Status/Reply
				the requirements of these standards. Further, the Philippine authorities proposed product certification requirements for steel products and cement products.	
3.	G/TBT/N/USA/1178	USA	Portland cement manufacturing emissions	<p>The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued this notification amending National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for portland cement manufacturing industry.</p> <p>The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to amend the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for the Portland Cement Manufacturing Industry. US is publishing a direct final rule, without a prior proposed rule, that corrects an inadvertent error and temporarily revises the testing and monitoring requirements for hydrochloric acid (HCl) due to the current unavailability of a calibration gas used for quality assurance purposes.</p>	<p>In reply, India sought clarifications on this provision, in particular on whether the emission standard is only applicable for local manufacturing facilities or is also applicable for manufacturing facilities located in other countries which import Portland cement into US.</p> <p>Further, if the proposed guideline is applicable for imports, then how the US authorities are going to execute the implementation of emission norms on imported products. India also sought clarifications on whether this proposed rule will add to the import requirements of Portland cement from countries into US.</p>
4.	G/TBT/N/USA/1179	USA	Fiberglass boat manufacturing emissions	<p>The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued this notification proposing to approve the final rule on emissions from fiberglass boat manufacturing materials.</p> <p>The EPA proposes to approve the requirements in control technique guidelines (CTG) for fiberglass boat manufacturing materials. This regulation is applicable for state and local fiberglass boat manufacturing operations.</p>	<p>In reply, India sought clarifications on this provision, in particular on whether the proposed CTG guideline is only applicable for local manufacturing facilities or is also applicable for manufacturing facilities located in other countries which import fiberglass boat into US.</p> <p>Further, if the proposed guideline</p>

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				<p>This CTG is intended to provide State and local air pollution control authorities information that should assist them in determining emission from fiberglass boat manufacturing operations.</p> <p>This CTG provides control recommendations for reducing emissions from the use of gel coats, resins, and materials used to clean application equipment in fiberglass boat manufacturing operations.</p>	<p>is applicable for imports, then how the US authorities are going to execute the implementation of CTG guidelines on imported products. India also sought clarifications on whether this proposed rule will add to the import requirements of fiberglass boat from countries into US.</p> <p>In September 2016, the US authorities have withdrawn this proposal based on various comments received from WTO member countries including India.</p>
5.	G/TBT/N/EU/383	EU	Pesticide active substances	<p>The European Commission has issued this technical regulation. This draft Commission Regulation sets the specific scientific criteria in relation to the endocrine disrupting properties for the approval of the active substances for use in plant protection products in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009. The criteria are based on the definition of endocrine disruptors published in 2002 by the World Health Organisation (WHO) through its International Programme for Chemical Safety (WHO/IPCS).</p> <p>The draft regulation was preceded by an impact assessment and a public consultation. In accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 if a substance is found to be an endocrine disruptor according to the criteria set in this draft regulation, it will not be approved for use in plant protection products</p>	<p>In reply, India sought clarifications on three points:</p> <p>Cut-off Criteria: EU has established hazard- based cut-off criteria concerning the registration of plant protection products in the Regulation (EC) No. 1107/2009. India requested the EU authorities to clarify whether this proposed measure of setting out scientific criteria has been based on any risk assessment.</p> <p>Risks and Risk Assessment: India sought explanation from the EU for intending to practice hazard based criteria for establishing risks without the exposure assessment.</p>

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				<p>unless it is demonstrated that the conditions set in Point 3.6.5.2 of Annex II of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 are met..</p>	<p>Scientific Evidences for Assessing/Establishing Risks: India requested to clarify the derivation of adverse effects from the Para 3 (1) of the proposal, as it does not indicate the usage of potency and the actual exposure assessment in delineating chemical substances as endocrine disruptors.</p>
6.	G/TBT/N/EU/384	EU	Biocidal active substances	<p>EU has issued a TBT Notification No G/TBT/N/EU/384/Add.1 dated 27th July 2016 on draft regulation on endocrine disrupting properties in pesticides.</p> <p>The European Commission has issued this regulation concerning ENDOCRINE DISRUPTORS. It is titled as 'Draft Commission Regulation setting out scientific criteria for the determination of endocrine disrupting properties and amending Annex II to Regulation (EC) 1107/2009.</p> <p>This notification is for transparency purposes and does not prejudice the position of the European Union on the applicability of the SPS Agreement to the notified measures, or on the nature and effects of the measure itself.</p> <p>This draft Commission Regulation sets the specific scientific criteria in relation to the endocrine disrupting properties for the approval of the active substances for use in plant protection products in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009.</p>	<p>In reply, India sought clarifications on three points:</p> <p>Cut-off Criteria: EU has established hazard- based cut-off criteria concerning the registration of plant protection products in the Regulation (EC) No. 1107/2009. India requested the EU authorities to clarify whether this proposed measure of setting out scientific criteria has been based on any risk assessment.</p> <p>Risks and Risk Assessment: India sought explanation from the EU for intending to practice hazard based criteria for establishing risks without the exposure assessment.</p> <p>Scientific Evidences for Assessing/Establishing Risks: India requested to clarify the derivation of adverse effects from</p>

Sl. No:	Notification No:	Country	Product	Issue in Brief	India's Comment/Status/Reply
				<p>The criteria are based on the definition of endocrine disruptors published in 2002 by the World Health Organisation (WHO) through its International Programme for Chemical Safety (WHO/IPCS).</p> <p>The draft regulation was preceded by an impact assessment and a public consultation. In accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 if a substance is found to be an endocrine disruptor according to the criteria set in this draft regulation, it will not be approved for use in plant protection products unless it is demonstrated that the conditions set in Point 3.6.5.2 of Annex II of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 are met.</p>	<p>the Para 3 (1) of the proposal, as it does not indicate the usage of potency and the actual exposure assessment in delineating chemical substances as endocrine disruptors.</p>
7.	G/TBT/N/THA/480	Thailand	8536-Electrical apparatus for switching or protecting electrical circuits, or for making connections to or in electrical circuits (for example, switches, relays, fuses, surge suppressors, plugs, sockets, lamp-holders, junction boxes), for a voltage not	<p>The Thai Industrial Standards Institute (TISI), Ministry of Industry has issued this notification concerning standards for electrical apparatus for switching or protecting electrical circuits, or for making connections to or in electrical circuits (for example, switches, relays, fuses, surge suppressors, plugs, sockets, lamp-holders, junction boxes), for a voltage not exceeding 1,000 volts.</p> <p>The Thai Industrial Standards Institute (TISI) has proposed to enforce TIS 166-2549(2006) Plugs and socket-outlets for household and similar purposes: (plugs and socket-outlets with rated voltage not exceeding 250 V as a mandatory standard).</p> <p>The standard applies to plugs and fixed or portable socket-outlets for a.c., with a rated</p>	<p>In reply, it was stated that, India also follow similar regulatory arrangements for electronic products.</p> <p>Hence, India requested the Thai authorities to provide equivalence and accept standards prescribed by Indian regulatory bodies and also the certificates issued by them.</p>

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			exceeding 1,000 volts.	voltage not exceeding 250 V and a rated current not exceeding 16 A, intended for household and similar purposes, either indoors or outdoors at ambient temperatures not exceeding 40°C. This standard also applies to plugs incorporated in cord sets, to plugs and portable socket-outlets incorporated in cord extension sets and to plugs and socket-outlets which are a component of an electrical appliance, unless otherwise stated in the standard for the relevant electrical appliance.	
8.	G/TBT/N/ARE/326	GCC	Tyres of multi-purpose vehicles, trucks, buses and trailers	Gulf countries (UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Yemen) have issued three TBT notifications on standards for tyres used in multi-purpose vehicles, trucks, buses and trailers. These draft technical regulations concern standards for new tyres for multi-purpose vehicles, light trucks, heavy trucks, buses and trailers. These regulations are not applicable for tyre types identified by speed category less than 80km/h. These are also not applicable to motor cycle, road equipment or agricultural equipment tyres.	In reply, it was stated that, India also follow similar regulatory arrangements for tyres. Hence, India requested the GCC authorities to provide equivalence and accept standards prescribed by Indian regulatory bodies and also the certificates issued by them.
9.	G/TBT/N/ARE/327	GCC		Gulf countries (UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Yemen) have issued three TBT notifications on standards for tyres used in multi-purpose vehicles, trucks, buses and trailers. These draft technical regulations concern standards for new tyres for multi-purpose	In reply, it was stated that, India also follow similar regulatory arrangements for tyres. Hence, India requested the GCC authorities to provide equivalence and accept standards prescribed by Indian regulatory bodies and

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				vehicles, light trucks, heavy trucks, buses and trailers. These regulations are not applicable for tyre types identified by speed category less than 80km/h. These are also not applicable to motor cycle, road equipment or agricultural equipment tyres.	also the certificates issued by them.
10.	G/TBT/N/ARE/328	GCC		Gulf countries (UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Yemen) have issued three TBT notifications on standards for tyres used in multi-purpose vehicles, trucks, buses and trailers. These draft technical regulations concern standards for new tyres for multi-purpose vehicles, light trucks, heavy trucks, buses and trailers. These regulations are not applicable for tyre types identified by speed category less than 80km/h. These are also not applicable to motor cycle, road equipment or agricultural equipment tyres.	In reply, it was stated that, India also follow similar regulatory arrangements for tyres. Hence, India requested the GCC authorities to provide equivalence and accept standards prescribed by Indian regulatory bodies and also the certificates issued by them.
11.	G/TBT/N/EGY/153	Egypt	Hospital equipment (ICS: 11.140)	The Egyptian Organization for Standardization and Quality has issued this notification concerning hospital equipments, which covers the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surgical Drapes, Gowns and Clean Air Suits, Used as Medical Devices for Patients, Clinical Staff and Equipment • General Requirements for Manufacturers, Processors and Products, Test Methods, Performance Requirements and Performance Levels The Ministerial decree mandates that the producers and importers must abide by ES	In reply, it was stated that, in India, the manufacturing, import, sale, and distribution of medical devices are regulated under India's Drugs & Cosmetic Act and Rules (DCA). Medical devices, which do not conform to the standards set out by CDSCO, are not allowed to be used in India. Besides, the timeline given by the Egyptian authorities for complying with this draft decree is six months. Hence, in reply, India

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				7411/2016. Producers and importers are given a transitional period of six months. This standard applies to surgical coverings, gowns and clean air suits, used as medical devices for patients, clinical staff and equipment. Worth mentioning is that this standard complies with EN13795:2011+A1:2013.	mentioned that this transition period is too short for the Indian industry to comply with.
12.	G/TBT/N/EGY/155	Egypt	Organic detergent disinfectants for vegetables and fresh fruit	The Egyptian Organization for Standardization and Quality has issued this notification concerning mandating the Egyptian Standard ES 8011/2016 on "Organic detergent disinfectant for vegetables and fresh fruits". The Ministerial Decree mandates that the producers and importers must comply with ES 8011/2016. Producers and importers are given a transitional period of six months to abide by the standard.	In reply, India sought clarifications from the Egyptian authorities that, whether Egypt will allow the use of other chemicals, which are not listed in these EN norms. India also requested the Egyptian authorities to provide the details of Egyptian Standard ES 8011/2016, so that it may be analyzed to assess the impact on India's trade of fruits and vegetables. Besides, the timeline given by the Egyptian authorities for complying with this draft decree is six months. Hence, in reply, India mentioned that this transition period is too short for the Indian industry to comply with.
13.	G/TBT/N/AFG/1	Afghanistan	252310-- Cement clinkers, 681011-- Building blocks and bricks, 721310-- Containing	The Afghan National Standards Authority (ANSA) has issued this notification concerning standards for construction materials like cement, steel products, and concrete. As per the notification, the draft	In reply, it was stated that, India also follow similar regulatory arrangements for cement products. India also stated that, BIS has already signed a Memorandum of

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			indentations, ribs, grooves or other deformations produced during the rolling process	<p>requirements for the import, production, and supply of portland cement, steel for reinforced concrete and non load bearing concrete masonry are based on the following standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AS 124/ASTM C 150 - Standard Specification for Portland Cement • AS 191/ISO 6935-1 and ISO 6935-2 - Specification of Steel for the Reinforcement of Concrete - Part 1 Plain Bars and Part 2 Ribbed Bars • AS 135/ISIRI 70-1 - Specification of Non Load Bearing Concrete Masonry 	<p>Understandings (MoU) with ANSA in the fields of standardization and conformity assessment.</p> <p>Hence, India requested the Afghan authorities to provide equivalence under the existing MoU and allow exports which confirm to Indian standards. In this regard, India sought bilateral consultation with the Afghan authorities as to avoid any disruption in trade.</p>
14.	G/TBT/N/ZAF/206	South Africa	Medium voltage cables	<p>The National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS) has issued this notification concerning compulsory specification for safety of medium-voltage electric cables.</p> <p>This proposed compulsory specification covers safety of single core and three-core cross-linked polyethylene (XLPE) insulated cables for rated voltages 3,8/6,6 kV to 19/33 kV, and impregnated paper insulated metal-sheathed cables for rated voltages 3,3/3,3 kV to 19/33 kV (excluding pressure assisted cables).</p>	<p>In reply, it was stated that, Indian industry is in line with the requirements prescribed in SANS 1339 and SANS 97. However, the proposed draft "Compulsory Specification for Safety of Medium-Voltage Electric Cables" is not available in the public domain. Hence, Indian industry is not a position to analyze the draft for comment.</p> <p>In this regard, India sought clarifications from the South African authorities, whether the draft compulsory specification is in line with SANS 1339 and SANS 97 and requested to provide the draft "Compulsory Specification for Safety of Medium-Voltage Electric Cables", so that it may be</p>

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					analyzed to assess the impact on India's trade of electric cables.
15.	G/TBT/N/EGY/162	Egypt	MRLs of pesticide residues in food and feed, pesticides and other agrochemicals in general (ICS: 65.100.01)	<p>The Egyptian Organization for Standardization and Quality has issued this regulation concerning MRLs of pesticide residues in food and feed, pesticides and other agrochemicals in general. It has issued a Ministerial Decree.</p> <p>It mandates the use of the Maximum Residue limits listed in the Codex database "Codex Pesticides Residues in Food" issued by Codex Alimentarius Commission.</p> <p>In case the Codex database doesn't include a certain value of Pesticides Residues or a certain agriculture product, the values listed in the EU pesticides database issued by the European Commission shall be used. If the European Commission has no adopted values, the tolerance values determined by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) shall apply.</p> <p>In case of the absence of the allowed maximum pesticide residue limit values for any agricultural crop or product, the maximum pesticide limit values of the nearest group of agricultural crops or products shall be used in the same sequence mentioned above.</p>	<p>In reply, it was stated that, India establishes MRLs in accordance with the international practice and also adheres to the Codex limits. Since, the pesticide usage differs between countries to suit the topographical situation of the country, the MRLs may differ. Thus, Indian levels may differ from the other countries in certain cases.</p> <p>It was also stated that that the mandatory compliance to EU and US levels, in absence of Codex limits may pose a hindrance on India's trade on food and feed. Hence, India requested the Egyptian authorities to consider the Indian levels in absence of the Codex limits.</p>

Notification Trends During July 2016 To September 2016

Food Products

In quarter July 2016 to September 2016, 214 TBT notifications were related to food products which were more than 33 per cent of the total notifications issued in the quarter.

Out of the 214, 67 notifications were issued by African countries e.g. Egypt, Kenya, South Africa, Uganda and Zambia. Uganda issued the majority of TBT notifications in this region having 35 TBT notifications during July 2016 to September 2016. The notifications were related to fresh fruits and vegetables, fresh and processed tomato prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid, tomato ketchup and other tomato sauces, tomato juice, tomato paste, tomato puree, sauces and preparations, oil seeds, ground-nuts, not roasted or otherwise cooked, animal and vegetable oil, cereals, cereal products, and marine products, etc. Secondly, Kenya issued 22 notifications on food products related to opaque beer, beer, vodka, sparkling wine, fortified wine, still table wine, potable water, packaged drinking water, rum, gin, neutral spirit, brandy, whisky, alcoholic beverages, palm olein, palm oil and its fractions, whether or not refined, but not chemically modified, edible oils and fats, oilseeds, raw and roasted groundnuts for table use, butter and other fats and oils derived from milk, dairy spreads, animal and vegetable fats and oils, groundnuts for oil extraction and edible fats and oils. The Ugandan and Kenyan authorities have proposed these notifications concerning the ingredient and chemical specifications for the above mentioned products.

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member countries like Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates (UAE) issued 72 TBT notifications related to preserved tomatoes, dehydrated green beans, dried shark fins, materials and articles in contact with foodstuffs, food additives, dairy products, fruits and vegetables, cereal products, quick frozen lobsters, labelling and expiration dates of processed foods. GCC members issued draft technical regulation deriving the basic requirements that must be met while exporting these products into GCC member countries; which include the definitions, requirements, sampling, methods of testing, packaging, transportation, storage and labelling. The Gulf countries are of view that, the focus of this notification is safety and consumer protection.

Asian countries such as China, Taiwan, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Korea, Turkey and Vietnam issued 23 TBT notifications related to food products. The products referred in these notifications were chocolate products, pre-packaged food grade salt products, alcoholic beverages, food additives, food enzymes and food flavourings, processed animal products, soy sauce products, milk

products, special dietary foods for patients, sweet biscuits, waffles and wafers, organic processed foods and organic plants.

Latin American Countries (LAC) such as Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay issued 29 TBT notifications in this quarter. The products referred in this quarter were beverages, sugar products, fruits, vegetables and derived products, bread and biscuits, seeds, organic products, dairy products, processed fruits and vegetables, meat and meat products.

NAFTA countries e.g. USA, Canada and Mexico issued 16 TBT notifications related to food products mainly adoption of earlier issued notifications. The products referred in these adoptions were marine products, specifications for food facilities, peanuts, cereals, fruits and vegetables, organic products, labeling foods produced with genetic engineering, milk products, alcohol products, plant and plant products, sugar, including chemically pure lactose, maltose, glucose and fructose.

Electrical and Electronics Products

In quarter July 2016 to September 2016, 81 TBT notifications were related to electrical and electronic products which were more than 12 per cent of the total notifications issued in the quarter. Mauritius, Malaysia, Viet Nam, Argentina, Kenya, UAE, Mexico, Taiwan, Ukraine, Thailand, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, Peru, Chile, Saudi Arabia, Korea, Egypt, Canada, Ecuador, Brazil and USA were the notifying country in this sector. The products referred in these notifications were low-voltage electrical products, televisions, LCD, transmission apparatus incorporating reception apparatus, radio-communications equipments, vacuum cleaners, fluorescent, hot cathode, primary cells and primary batteries, vacuum cleaners, headphones and earphones, whether or not combined with a microphone, and sets consisting of a microphone and one or more loudspeakers, audio, video and audiovisual equipment, domestic and household appliances and similar equipment, automatic circuit breakers, air conditioners, medium voltage cables, lamp holders

The main focus of these TBT notifications was mandatory specifications, certification requirements, and enforcement of *Energy Conservation Program* in electrical products.

Machinery Products

In quarter July 2016 to September 2016, 55 TBT notifications were related to machinery products which were nearly 9 per cent of the total notifications issued in the quarter. South Korea,

Argentina, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, Sri Lanka, European Union, UAE, Mexico, Singapore, Zambia, Chile, Egypt, Thailand, Ecuador, Czech Republic and USA are the notifying country in this sector.

Products referred in these notifications were compressors, nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; commercial weighing and measuring instruments, fire safety standards for fire extinguishers used in cargo compartments, air conditioning machines, gas utilities and equipment, agricultural equipment and amusement devices. The main focus of these notifications were adopting Energy Conservation Standards, performance specifications and test procedures, fire prevention code, safety standard for machinery products.

Chemical and Allied Products

In quarter July 2016 to September 2016, 50 TBT notifications were related to chemical products which were nearly 8 per cent of the total notifications issued in the quarter. Egypt, Costa Rica, Mexico, Argentina, Colombia, Japan, Canada, Uganda, Brazil, USA and European Union are the notifying country in this sector.

Chemical products covered chemicals under biocidal products and pesticide active substances, Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA), soap products for bathing, closed cell foam products, e-liquids, transportation systems for liquids and slurries, hazardous materials, chemical bulk storage and control of volatile organic compound emissions from fiberglass boat manufacturing and surface coating facilities.

For instance, in September 2016, the European Commission has proposed authorization of active substances for use in biocidal products. Chemical listed in the proposed notifications are epsilon-Momfluorothrin (to be used in Product Type 18), Peracetic acid (to be used in Product Type 11 and 12), Piperonyl butoxide (to be used in Product Type 18) and L+ Lactic Acid (to be used in Product Type 1).

Auto and Auto-component Sector

In quarter July 2016 to September 2016, 47 TBT notifications were related to automotive and auto component products which were nearly 8 per cent of the total notifications issued in the quarter. Kazakhstan, Ecuador, Brazil, Japan, Canada, Taiwan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, China, Oman, Chile, Qatar, Bahrain, Yemen, UAE and USA the notifying country in this sector.

Automotive and auto component products covering regulation on airplanes, safety seat belts, baby carriages and parts, child restraint systems, road vehicle systems, carriages and strollers, trailers and semi-trailers. The main focus of these notifications were emissions, air quality, safety and fuel norms for automotive and auto component products.

One of the major issues proposed by Thailand in September 2016 was on draft industrial standards for vehicle tyres. Thailand issued draft specifications for Pneumatic Tyres to be used in motor vehicles, trailers, commercial vehicles, motor cycles and mopeds. Automotive industry is one of the main industries of Thailand, which accounts for about 10% of Thailand's total GDP (Gross Domestic Product). Thailand is one of the biggest producers of automobiles in the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) region. According to Thailand tyre forecast 2018, with the increasing automobile production, domestic vehicles sales and automobile exports the domestic demand for tyres has also surged in the country. With the abundant resources for high quality Natural Rubber, Thailand has also emerged as the largest producer of natural rubber which is encouraging global tyre manufacturers to setup their production plants in the country, in order to cater to the growing domestic market as well as export demand.

Fuel and Petroleum Products

In quarter July 2016 to September 2016, 28 TBT notifications were related to fuel and petroleum products which were nearly 5 per cent of the total notifications issued in the quarter. El Salvador, Afghanistan, Sweden, Chile, Uganda, Taiwan, USA, Mexico and Zambia were the notifying country in this sector. Products referred in these notifications were handling, storage and distribution of liquefied petroleum gas, engine oil for light duty and heavy duty internal combustion, greases, anti - wear hydraulic oils, diesel engine oils, greases, safety of gas, greases and hydrocarbons and natural gas. These notifications mainly proposed mandatory specifications. The standards prescribed by Afghanistan and Uganda were in line with ISO and US norms.

For instance, in September 2016, Zambia issued technical regulations on various petroleum products including liquefied petroleum gas, engine oil, greases, lubricants, anti-wear hydraulic oils, industrial oils, etc. Zambia is self-sufficient in all its energy sources with the exception of petroleum. The country imports all its petroleum requirements. Petroleum contributes about nine (9) percent to the national's total energy requirements. Petroleum plays a crucial role in the running of Zambia's economy particularly in the agriculture, transport, and mining sectors.

All petroleum products in the country are currently imported. The procurement of the petroleum feedstock is done through an international competitive bidding process. In the recent years, there is a significant increase in the consumption of petroleum products in Zambia. This demand is projected to grow at average of about 40 percent per annum, mainly due to the growing economy. Investment opportunities exist in the petroleum industry in the country with regards to upstream petroleum projects, as well as downstream petroleum projects. Hence, Indian industry should look forward in meeting these specifications in order to capture the Zambian market.

Construction Products

In quarter July 2016 to September 2016, 21 TBT notifications were related to construction products which were nearly 4 per cent of the total notifications issued in the quarter. Nicaragua, Egypt, Afghanistan, Zambia, Czech Republic, Saudi Arabia, USA, Chile and Uganda were the notifying country in this sector. Products referred in these notifications are building materials, cement products, concrete products, safety requirements of construction products, etc.

For instance, in September, 2016, the Uganda National Bureau of Standard has issued draft specifications for reinforced concrete pipes, reinforced concrete manholes and soakaways, reinforced concrete inspection chambers, non-pressure pipes and fittings with flexible joints, ogee pipes and fittings, porous pipes and road gullies and gully cover slabs.

The Ugandan authorities are of view that, the focus of this notification is trade facilitation, quality requirements, protection of human health or safety, and prevention of deceptive practices and consumer protection.

East Africa is one of the world's fastest-growing marketplaces for construction opportunities and building materials. Significant projects are under construction across East African countries like, Ethiopia, Kenya and Rwanda via Uganda. East Africa unites the property owners, local construction professionals, building materials suppliers, investors and government to collaborate towards efficient and sustainable infrastructure build, enhanced service delivery, and reduced construction costs for stakeholders across the industry value chain. This opens doors of opportunities for exporters to tap the East African market including India.

Note: