

# International Classification of NTM<sup>1</sup> - Chapters A and B

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<sup>1</sup> UNCTAD. *International Classification of Non-Tariff Measures. 2019 Version*

# 1. Chapter A: Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Measures that are applied to protect human or animal life from risks arising from additives, contaminants, toxins or disease-causing organisms in their food; to protect human life from plant or animal-borne diseases; to protect animal or plant life from pests, diseases, or disease-causing organisms; to prevent or limit other damage to a country from the entry, establishment or spread of pests; and to protect biodiversity. These include measures taken to protect the health of fish, wild fauna, forests and wild flora. Other than those defined above, measures aimed at protecting the environment, consumer interests or for animal welfare are not covered by sanitary and phytosanitary measures.

Measures classified under sections A1–A6 are technical regulations, while those under A8 are conformity-assessment procedures related to those regulations.

## **A1 Prohibitions/restrictions of imports for sanitary and phytosanitary reasons**

Prohibition and/or restriction of the final products to be imported are classified under this chapter heading. Restrictions on the tolerance limits on residues or use of certain substances contained in the final products are classified under A2 below.

### **A11 Prohibitions for sanitary and phytosanitary reasons**

Prohibition of imports that can pose sanitary and phytosanitary risks, such as the prohibition of products originating from countries or regions affected by infectious or contagious diseases, or the prohibition of products that can be toxic or poisonous to consumers. Measures included in this category are generally of an ad hoc and time-bound nature. **Examples:** *Imports of poultry from areas affected by avian influenza or of cattle from foot-and-mouth disease-affected countries are prohibited. Importation of certain types of fish that can be toxic or poisonous is prohibited.*

### **A12 Geographical restrictions on eligibility**

Prohibition of imports of specified products from specific countries or regions due to lack of evidence of sufficient safety conditions to avoid sanitary and phytosanitary hazards. The restriction is imposed automatically until the country concerned proves it has employed satisfactory sanitary and phytosanitary measures that are considered acceptable to provide a certain level of protection against hazards. Eligible countries are put on a positive list. Imports from other countries are prohibited. The list may include authorized production establishments within the eligible country. **Example:** *Imports of dairy products from countries that have not proven satisfactory sanitary conditions are prohibited.*

### **A13 Systems approach**

An approach that combines two or more independent sanitary and phytosanitary measures for the same product. The combined measures can be composed of any number of interrelated measures and conformity-assessment requirements applied during all stages of production. **Example:** *An import programme establishes a package of measures that specifies pest-free production location, pesticides to be used, harvesting techniques and post-harvest fumigation, combined with inspection requirements at entry point (hazard analysis and critical control point requirements).*

#### **A14 Authorization requirement for sanitary and phytosanitary reasons for importing certain products**

Requirement that the authorization, permit, approval or licence related to a consignment shall be received from a relevant government agency for sanitary and phytosanitary reasons, before the importation can take place. **Example:** *Authorization from the Ministry of Health is required to import infant formula.*

#### **A15 Authorization requirement for importers for sanitary and phytosanitary reasons**

Requirement that the importers (importing company) should be authorized, registered and receive a permit, licence or any other kind of approval to engage in the business of importing certain products. To obtain such approval, importers may need to comply with certain requirements, documentation and registration fees. This includes cases where the registration or authorization of establishments producing certain products is required. The authorization is not tied to each consignment, but is applied to importers to lawfully engage in the business of importation of certain products. **Example:** *Importers of certain food items need to be registered with the Ministry of Health.*

#### **A19 Prohibitions or restrictions of imports for sanitary and phytosanitary reasons, not elsewhere specified**

### **A2 Tolerance limits for residues and restricted use of substances**

#### **A21 Tolerance limits for residues of or contamination by certain (non-microbiological) substances**

A measure that establishes a maximum residue limit or tolerance limit of substances such as fertilisers, pesticides and certain chemicals and metals in food and feed that are used during their production process but are not their intended ingredients. The measure includes a permissible maximum level for non microbiological contaminants. Measures related to microbiological contaminants are classified under A4 below. **Example:** *A maximum residue limit is established for insecticides, pesticides, heavy metals and veterinary drug residues; persistent organic pollutants and other chemicals generated during processing; and residues of dithianon in apples and hop.*

#### **A22 Restricted use of certain substances in foods and feeds and their contact materials**

Restriction on or prohibition of the use of certain substances contained in food and feed. This includes restrictions on substances contained in food containers that might migrate to food. **Examples:** *Certain restrictions exist for food and feed additives used for colouring, preservation or sweeteners. For food containers made of polyvinyl chloride plastic, vinyl chloride monomer must not exceed 1 mg per kg.*

## **A3 Labelling, marking and packaging requirements**

### **A31 Labelling requirements**

Measures defining the information directly related to food safety, which should be provided to the consumer. Labelling is any written, electronic or graphic communication on the consumer packaging or on a separate but associated label. **Examples:** *Labels that must specify storage conditions, for example, “5 degrees C maximum”. Labels that indicate potentially dangerous ingredients such as allergens, for example, “contains honey not suitable for children under one year of age”.* <sup>3</sup> This includes a zero-tolerance limit, for example the prohibition of products containing or contaminated by certain substances.

### **A32 Marking requirements**

Measures defining the information for transport and customs that the transport or distribution packaging of goods should carry that is directly related to sanitary and phytosanitary conditions. **Example:** *Outside transport containers must be marked with instructions such as handling for perishable goods, refrigeration needs or protection from direct sunlight.*

### **A33 Packaging requirements**

Measures regulating the mode in which goods must or cannot be packed or defining the packaging materials to be used, which are directly related to food safety. **Example:** *The use of polyvinyl chloride films for food packaging is restricted.*

## **A4 Hygienic requirements related to sanitary and phytosanitary conditions**

Requirements related to hygienic practices and microbiological criteria for food safety. These requirements can also extend to non-food products as long as sanitary and phytosanitary risks are at stake. The requirements may be applied to the final product (A41) or throughout the production process (A42).

### **A41 Microbiological criteria of the final product**

Statement regarding the microorganisms of concern and/or their toxins/ metabolites and the reason for that concern, the analytical methods for their detection and/or quantification in the final product. Microbiological limits should take into consideration the risk associated with the microorganisms and the conditions under which the

product is expected to be handled and consumed. Microbiological limits should also take into account the likelihood of uneven distribution of microorganisms in the product and the inherent variability of the analytical procedure. **Example:** *Salmonella microorganisms should be absent in egg products (in at least five samples of 25 g).*

**A42 Hygienic practices during production related to sanitary and phytosanitary conditions** Requirements that the establishments and equipment used during the manufacturing and processing stages of the products should be clean and meet. This measure also includes good hygienic practices for the personnel taking part in any stage of manufacturing. Example: Milking equipment on the farm should be cleaned daily with a specified detergent.

**A49 Hygienic requirements not elsewhere specified**

### **A5 Treatment for elimination of plant and animal pests and disease-causing organisms in the final product or prohibition of treatment**

Various treatments that can be applied during or after production to eliminate plants and animal pests or disease-causing organisms in the final product. Certain treatments can also be prohibited for sanitary and phytosanitary reasons. **Example:** *Post-harvest treatment is used to eliminate plant and animal pests and disease causing organisms in the final treatment.*

**A51 Cold or heat treatment**

Requirement of cooling or heating of products below or above a certain temperature for a certain period of time to kill targeted pests, either prior to, or upon arrival in the destination country. Specific facilities on land or ships could be requested. If the latter, containers should be equipped properly to conduct cold or heat treatment and should include temperature sensors. **Example:** *Citrus fruits must undergo cold (disinfection) treatment to eliminate fruit flies.*

**A52 Irradiation**

Requirement to kill or devitalize microorganisms, bacteria, viruses, or insects that might be present in food and feed products by using irradiated energy (ionizing radiation). **Example:** *Fresh fruits and fresh vegetables imported into the country are required to go through an ionizing-radiation process to inactivate organisms that cause spoilage and decomposition and to extend the shelf life of the fruits and vegetables.*

**A53 Fumigation**

A process of exposing insects, fungal spores or other organisms to the fumes of a chemical at a lethal strength in an enclosed space for a given period of time. A fumigant is a chemical, which at a required temperature and pressure, can exist in a

gaseous state in sufficient concentration to be lethal to a given pest organism. **Example:** Use of acetic acid is mandatory as a post-harvest fumigant to destroy fungal spores on peaches, nectarines, apricots and cherries; methyl bromide is used to fumigate cut flowers and many other commodities.

**A59 Treatments to eliminate plants and animal pests or disease-causing organisms in the final product not elsewhere specified or prohibition of treatment**

## **A6 Other requirements relating to production or post-production processes**

Requirements relating to other (post-) production processes not classified above. These requirements exclude those measures specified under A2, Tolerance limits for residues and restricted use of substances (or its subcategories).

### **A61 Plant-growth processes**

Requirements relating to how a plant should be grown in terms of conditions such as those related to temperature, light, spacing between plants, water, oxygen and mineral nutrients. **Example:** Seeding rate and row spacing of soybean plants are specified to reduce the risk of frog-eye leaf spots.

### **A62 Animal-raising or -catching processes**

Requirements relating to how an animal should be raised or caught in light of sanitary and phytosanitary concerns. **Example:** Cattle should not be fed with feeds containing offal of cows suspected to have mad cow disease.

### **A63 Food and feed processing**

Requirements relating to how food or feed production should take place in order to meet sanitary conditions for the final products. **Example:** New equipment or machinery for handling or processing feed in or around an establishment producing animal feed shall not contain polychlorinated biphenyls.

### **A64 Storage and transport**

Requirements relating to certain conditions under which food and feed, plants and animals should be stored and/or transported. **Example:** Certain foodstuffs should be stored in a dry place or below a certain temperature.

**A69 Other requirements relating to production or post production processes not elsewhere specified**

## **A8 Conformity assessment related to sanitary and phytosanitary conditions**

Requirement for verification that a given sanitary and phytosanitary condition has been met. This can be achieved by an inspection and approval procedure or combined forms thereof, including procedures for sampling, testing and inspection; evaluation, verification and assurance of conformity; and accreditation and approval.

### **A81 Product registration and approval requirement**

Requirement that the product shall be registered or approved before it can be imported. Normally, the products must be proven to be safe to be registered or approved. This type of requirement might generally apply to products such as food additives. Unlike A14, this requirement is not tied to a consignment. The measure may include provisions describing types of pest-control products that are exempt from registration and procedures detailing the registration process, including provisions relating to distribution, import, sampling and detention. **Examples:** *Food additives shall be approved by the relevant government agency. This type of measures includes requirements and guidelines for the registration of a pesticide and its compounds, for example, for minor crops or minor use.*

### **A82 Testing requirements**

Requirements that products be tested against a given regulation, such as a maximum residue limit. This type of measure includes cases where there are sampling requirements. **Example:** *A test on a sample of orange imports is required to check against the maximum residue level of pesticides.*

### **A83 Certification requirements**

Certification of conformity with a given regulation that is required by the importing country but may be issued in the exporting or the importing country. **Example:** *A certificate of conformity for materials in contact with food (for example, containers, papers and plastics) is required.*

### **A84 Inspection requirements**

Product inspection required by the importing country; may be performed by public or private entities; does not include laboratory analysis. **Example:** *Animals or plant parts must be inspected before entry is allowed.*

### **A85 Traceability requirements**

Information disclosure requirements that make it possible to track a product through the stages of production, processing and distribution. This measure includes recordkeeping requirements.

#### **A851 Origin of materials and parts**

Requirements relating to the disclosure of information on the origin of materials and parts used in the final product. This measure includes recordkeeping requirements.

**Example:** *With regard to vegetables, disclosure of information about the location of the farm, name of the farmer or fertilisers used may be required.*

#### **A852 Processing history**

Requirements relating to the disclosure of information during all stages of production. This measure includes recordkeeping. The information required may include the location, processing methods and/or equipment and materials used. **Example:** *With regard to meat products, records should be kept of facilities such as slaughterhouses and food-processing factories.*

#### **A853 Distribution and location of products after delivery**

Requirements relating to the disclosure of information on when and how the goods have been distributed from the time of their delivery to distributors until they reach the final consumer. This measure includes recordkeeping requirements. **Example:** *With regard to rice, disclosure of information concerning the location of temporary storage facilities may be required.*

#### **A859 Traceability requirements not elsewhere specified**

#### **A86 Quarantine requirements**

Requirements to detain or isolate animals, plants or their products on arrival in a port or place for a given period to prevent the spread of infectious or contagious disease or contamination. **Examples:** *Live dogs must be quarantined for two weeks before entry into the territory is authorized. Plants need to be quarantined to terminate or restrict the spread of harmful organisms.*

#### **A89 Conformity assessment related to sanitary and phytosanitary conditions not elsewhere specified A9 Sanitary and phytosanitary measures not elsewhere specified**



## 2. Chapter B: Technical Barriers to Trade

Measures referring to technical regulations and procedures of assessment of conformity with technical regulations, excluding measures covered by the chapter on sanitary and phytosanitary measures. A technical regulation is a document that sets out product characteristics or related processes and production methods, including the applicable administrative provisions, with which compliance is mandatory. It may also include or deal exclusively with terminology, symbols, packaging, marking or labelling requirements as they apply to a product, process or production method.

A conformity assessment procedure is any procedure used, directly or indirectly, to determine whether relevant requirements in technical regulations or standards have been fulfilled; it may include, inter alia, procedures for sampling, testing and inspection; evaluation, verification and assurance of conformity; registration, accreditation and approval, as well as a combination thereof.

Measures classified under chapter B1 must result from the enforcement of a technical regulation or a conformity-assessment procedure.

Measures classified under B2 through B7 are technical regulations, while those under B8 are their conformity-assessment procedures. Among the technical regulations, those in B4 are related to production processes, while others are applied directly to products.

### **B1 Import authorization/licensing related to technical barriers to trade**

Authorization/licensing requirements established to enforce technical regulations or conformity-assessment procedures.

#### **B14 Authorization requirements for importing certain products**

Under these requirements, authorization, permits, approvals or licences related to a consignment must be received from a relevant government agency before the importation can take place in order to comply with relevant technical regulations or conformity-assessment procedures. ***Example:** A licence is required for the importation of medicated feed mills. A completed medicated feed mill licence must contain, inter alia, certification that the animal feeds bearing or containing new animal drugs are manufactured and labelled in accordance with the applicable regulations.*

#### **B15 Authorization requirements for importers**

Requirements to the effect that the importers (for example, the importing company) should be authorized, registered, receive a permit, licence or any other kind of

approval to engage in the business of importing certain products to comply with relevant technical regulations or conformity-assessment.

To obtain such approval, importers may need to comply with certain requirements, documentation and registration fees. The measure also includes cases when the registration or authorization of establishments producing certain products is required. The authorization is not tied to each consignment; instead, it is applied to importers so that they can engage lawfully in the business of importing certain products. **Examples:** *Anyone importing dangerous chemicals shall hold an unexpired, unsuspended and unrevoked permit issued by the Ministry of the Environment. A permit shall not be issued unless the application includes proof that the dangerous chemical concerned is safe under heat and shock, and a signed contract(s) between the importer, exporter and all authorized facilities.*

### **B19 Import authorization/licensing related to technical barriers to trade not elsewhere specified**

## **B2 Tolerance limits for residues and restricted use of substances**

### **B21 Tolerance limits for residues of or contamination by certain substances**

A measure that establishes a maximum level or tolerance limit of substances that are used during their production process but are not their intended ingredients. **Example:** *The salt level in cement or sulphur level in gasoline must be below the specified amount.*

### **B22 Restricted use of certain substances**

Restriction on the use of certain substances such as components or material to prevent any risks arising from their use. **Example:** This measure refers to the restricted use of solvents in paints and the maximum level of lead allowed in consumer paint.

## **B3 Labelling, marking and packaging requirements**

### **B31 Labelling requirements**

Measures regulating the kind, colour and size of printing on packages and labels and defining the information that should be provided to the consumer. <sup>4</sup>This includes a zero-tolerance limit, for example the prohibition of products containing or contaminated by certain substances. Labelling is any written, electronic, or graphic communication on the packaging or on a separate but associated label, or on the product itself. It may include requirements concerning the official language to be used, as well as technical information on the product, such as voltage, components, instructions on use, and safety and security advice. **Example:**

*Refrigerators must carry a label indicating size, weight and level of electricity consumption.*

### **B32 Marking requirements**

Measures defining the information for transport and customs that the transport or distribution packaging of goods should carry. **Example:** *Handling or storage conditions according to the type of product must be specified; typically, indications such as “Fragile” or “This side up” must be marked on the transport container.*

### **B33 Packaging requirements**

Measures regulating the mode in which goods must be or cannot be packed and defining the packaging materials to be used. **Example:** *Palletized containers or special packages should be used for the protection of sensitive or fragile products.*

## **B4 Production or post-production requirements**

### **B41 Technical barriers to trade regulations on production processes**

Requirements concerning production processes not classified under the chapter on sanitary and phytosanitary measures. This measure excludes specific measures under B2, Tolerance limits for residues and restricted use of substances (or its subcategories). **Example:** *Animal slaughtering requirements according to Islamic law must be followed.*

### **B42 Technical barriers to trade regulations on transport and storage**

Requirements concerning certain conditions under which products should be stored and/or transported. **Example:** *Medicines should be stored below a certain temperature.*

### **B49 Production or post-production requirements not elsewhere specified**

## **B6 Product identity requirements**

Conditions to be satisfied in order to identify a product with a certain denomination, including biological or organic labels. **Example:** *For a product to be identified as chocolate, it must contain a minimum of 30 per cent cocoa.*

## **B7 Product quality, safety or performance requirements**

Final product requirements concerning safety (for example, fire resistance), performance (effectiveness in achieving the intended or claimed result), quality (for example, content of defined ingredients and durability) or other reasons relating to technical barriers to trade not covered under other measures. **Examples:** *Doors must*

*resist a certain minimum high temperature. Toys for children under three years of age shall not contain articles smaller than a certain size. There are minimum conditions for the performance of pedal bicycles in relation to handlebars, seats and brakes.*

## **B8 Conformity assessment related to technical barriers to trade**

Requirement for verification that a given requirement related to technical barriers to trade has been met. This could be achieved by an inspection and approval procedure or combined forms thereof, including procedures for sampling, testing and inspection; evaluation, verification and assurance of conformity; and accreditation and approval.

### **B81 Product registration/approval requirements**

Requirements to the effect that the product must be registered or approved before it can be imported. Normally, to be registered or approved, the products must be proven safe and effective. This type of requirement would generally apply to sensitive products such as new drugs or medical devices. Unlike B14, these requirements are not tied to a consignment. **Example:** *Drugs and medicines must be registered before they can be imported. They should prove to be safe and effective for their intended purpose in order to be registered.*

### **B82 Testing requirements**

Requirements for products to be tested for compliance with a given specification, such as performance level. This measure includes sampling requirements. **Example:** *Testing of a sample of motor vehicle imports is required to show compliance with safety standards.*

### **B83 Certification requirements**

Certification of conformity with a given regulation. Certification is required by the importing country but may be issued in the exporting or the importing country. **Example:** *A certificate of conformity is required for electric products.*

### **B84 Inspection requirements**

Product inspections required by the importing country. Inspections may be performed by public or private entities; laboratory analysis is not included. **Example:** *Textile and clothing imports must be inspected for size and materials used before entry is allowed.*

### **B85 Traceability requirements**

Information disclosure requirements that make it possible to track a product through the stages of production, processing and distribution. This measure includes recordkeeping requirements.

#### **B851 Origin of materials and parts**

Requirements relating to the disclosure of information on the origin of materials and parts used in the final product. This measure includes recordkeeping requirements.

***Example:** Manufactures of automobiles must keep the record of the origin of the original set of tyres for each vehicle.*

#### **B852 Processing history**

Requirements relating to the disclosure of information on all stages of production. This measure includes recordkeeping requirements and may include locations, processing methods and/or equipment and materials used. ***Example:** For wool apparel products, disclosure of information on the origin of the sheep, location of the textile factory, as well as the identity of the final apparel producer, may be required.*

#### **B853 Distribution and location of products after delivery**

Requirements relating to the disclosure of information on when and/ or how the products have been distributed during any time after production and before final consumption. This measure includes recordkeeping requirements. ***Example:** Before placing imported cosmetic products on the European Union market, the person responsible must indicate to the competent authority of the member State where the products were initially imported, the address of the manufacturer or the address of the importer.*

#### **B859 Traceability requirements not elsewhere specified**

**B89 Conformity assessment related to technical barriers to trade not elsewhere specified**

### **B9 Technical barriers to trade measures not elsewhere specified**