



Overview of the U.S. WTO TBT Inquiry Point

June 14, 2012



A U.S. Congressional Mandate

Under 19 *U.S. Code*, the U.S. Department of Commerce is assigned responsibility for operating:

- U.S. national “technical offices” to support the **World Trade Organization’s Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (WTO TBT)**
- U.S. national Federal standards information center
- All are incorporated into one office – **National Center for Standards and Certification Information (NCSCI)**



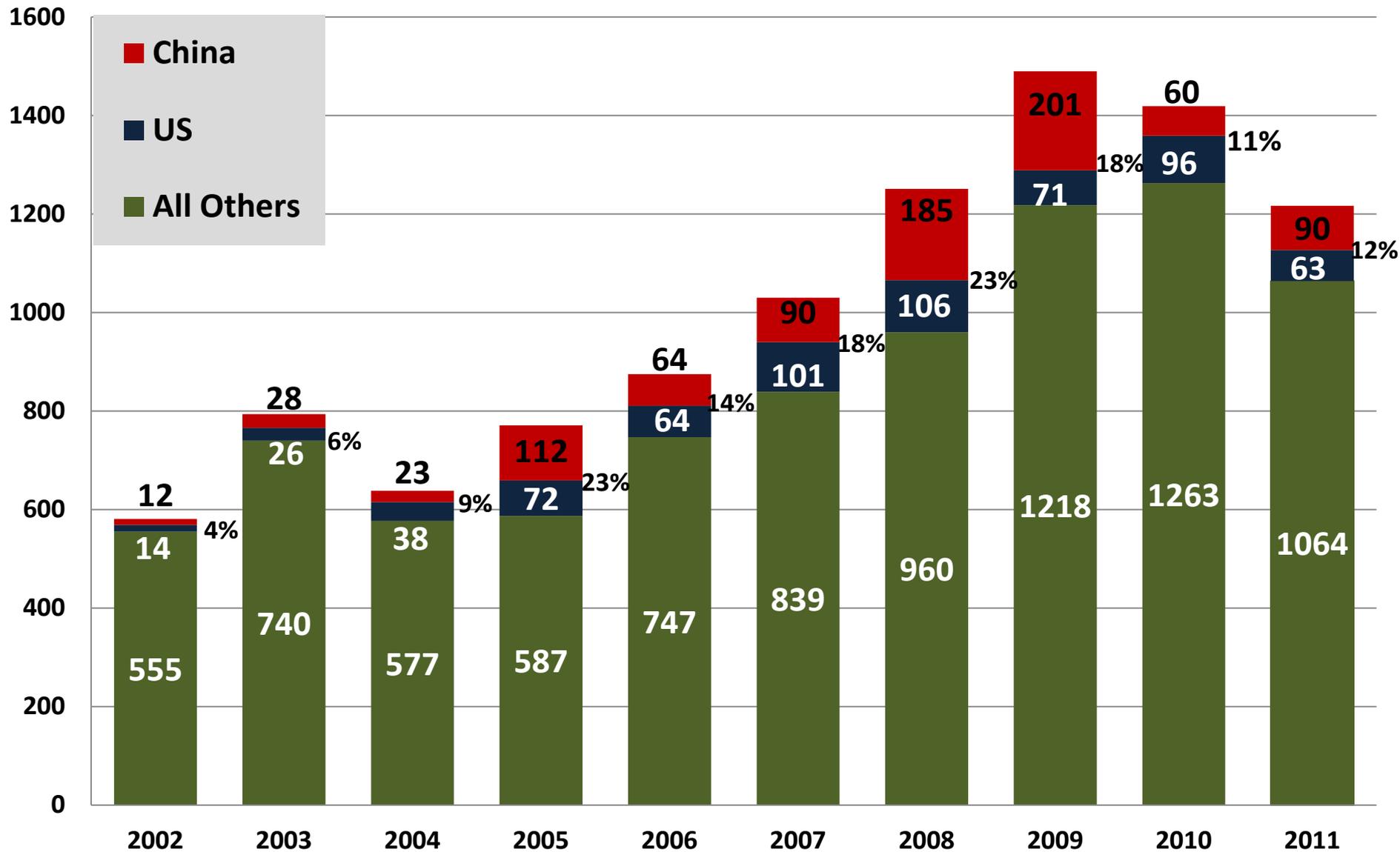
WTO Member Obligations Under TBT

- **Establish an Inquiry Point**
 - Provide full texts of proposed measures
 - Accept and consider comments on notified measures
 - Encourage compliance with the *Code of Good Practice*
 - Provide technical assistance to other Member countries
- **Establish a Notification Authority**
 - Notify the development of new technical regulations

Roles and Responsibilities Clarified

WTO Obligation	Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement	Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement
USG Responsible Organization	DOC, NIST, National Center for Standards and Certification Information (NCSCI)	USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service, Food Safety and Technical Services Division
Scope	US Inquiry Point and Notification Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ for non-agricultural products➤ for agricultural products when their labeling, marking, or packaging is regulated	US Inquiry Point and Notification Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ for agricultural products

WTO TBT Notifications Issued





NotifyUS

Benefits:

- Read or request full texts
- Learn deadlines for dates to comment
- Submit comments regarding technical regulations
- Request extensions on comment deadlines
- Access WTO TBT-related information



Types of Questions

- **Is a product regulated in a specific country?**
- **What are the mandatory regulatory requirements for a specific product?**
- **What technical standards must a product meet in order to be sold in another country or region?**
- **Are there conformity assessment requirements (testing, inspection, certification, etc.)?**

Customer Example: U.S. Exporter of Quail Farm Equipment from Georgia



[Image courtesy of flickr, Patrick Rea](#)

Our customer requires a “Conformity Certificate of Goods” before we can ship his purchased quail farming equipment to him in Saudi Arabia. How do we get that certificate?

Services For You

- **Professional Research** Assistance on Standards, Regulations, and Conformity Assessment for Your Regulatory Measures
- **International Information** on Standards, Regulations, and Conformity Assessment in Foreign Regulatory Measures
- **Advice on Comments Preparation; Circulation of Comments** to Other USG Agencies and Other WTO Member Inquiry Points

Thank You

Questions, Comments, Further Information:

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