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Committee on Market Access

GUIDELINES FOR SUPPLYING PC IDB SUBMISSIONS

Note by the Secretariat

Following a request by delegations, the Secretariat note on "Guidelines for Supplying PC IDB Submissions", which was issued as Job number 6493 in November 1997, is herewith re-issued as WTO document G/MA/IDB/W/6. The document contains some minor revisions including the addition of the submission deadlines that were established by the Committee on Market Access in December 1997 (G/MA/IDB/1/Rev.1/Add.1 refers).

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I. GENERAL NOTE

This document contains guidelines for supplying IDB PC submissions to the WTO Secretariat and explanations of the information to be furnished. Annexes 1 and 2 contain respectively, documentation to accompany IDB submissions and a glossary of terms for IDB submissions.

A. BACKGROUND

On 24 June 1997, the Committee on Market Access approved a draft decision on the Supply of Information to the Integrated Database for Personal Computers which was forwarded to the General Council and adopted on 16 July 1997 (document WT/L/225).

The Council decision states:

- "1. That WTO Members shall supply to the Secretariat, on an annual basis, the information referred to in document G/MA/IDB/1/Rev.1.
2. That the Secretariat shall, upon request, provide technical assistance to Members in relation to the submission of the data required for the Integrated Data Base for Personal Computers.
3. That the submission of the data required for the Integrated Data Base for Personal Computers shall not prejudice the rights and obligations of Members under the WTO agreements."

The prime focus is to accept what is readily available in national capitals in order to minimize Members' response burden and to improve the participation in the IDB with useful, quality and timely data. When computerized data are not available in capitals or are being set-up, the Secretariat could provide technical assistance to Members upon request. Refer to the WTO document "Modalities and Operations of the Integrated Data Base for Personal Computers" (G/MA/IDB/1/Rev.1 and G/MA/IDB/1/Rev.1/Corr.1) for more information on the decision taken to establish the PC IDB.

B. CONTENTS OF IDB SUBMISSIONS

IDB submissions comprise imports, tariffs, reference information and national tariff correlations showing changes in the national tariff nomenclature from one year to the next. The information is to be supplied annually starting from data referring to 1996. The deadlines established for the supply of information by the Committee on Market Access (see G/MA/IDB/1/Rev.1/Add.1) are 30 March for the tariffs of the current year and 30 September for the imports of the previous year. For Members that do not base their tariffs on a calendar year, the deadlines are adjusted to take into account the dates when the national tariff comes into force.

The reference information is required to standardize certain data from submissions received from reporting countries. National tariff correlation tables are provided by Members to show differences between the tariff nomenclatures of the current year and the previous year. The national correlations are only required for tariff lines that have changed from one year to the next. For tariffs, the current MFN bound duties and the current MFN applied duties are required. Other duties can be provided on a voluntary basis.

Tariffs and imports should be provided at the level of customs tariffs lines. For a given year, the nomenclature used for imports should match that used for tariffs. The contents of submissions are described in detail under "Information to be Supplied", below.

C. PC FORMATS FOR IDB SUBMISSIONS

IDB submissions can be furnished in the PC formats used in national capitals. These could include, but are not limited to, PC database formats (MS Access, dBase, FoxPro, etc), spreadsheet formats (Excel, Lotus, etc), text-delimited formats or word-processing formats (Word, WordPerfect, etc).

The basic information required for IDB submissions may be stored in different information repositories in national capitals. For instance, product descriptions and current MFN applied duties are usually available in the customs tariff. Some countries also include the current MFN bound duties in their customs tariff. For other countries, the bound duties may be stored separately. Imports are usually stored in another information source. Reporting countries can provide their submissions in the form that is most convenient to them. Reporting countries need not reformat their submissions to exclude extraneous information. Any extraneous information will not be included in the PC IDB.

The WTO Secretariat will reformat the individual national formats to the standard PC IDB database formats. To carry out this reformatting, documentation should be provided by the reporting country to identify the data recorded in individual columns of the submission files and any national coding schemes used in the submission.

D. STORAGE MEDIA FOR IDB SUBMISSIONS

IDB submissions can be furnished on PC diskettes, CD-ROMs or can be electronically transferred to the Secretariat using the Internet (refer to Annex 1 for the address to be used).

Mainframe computer tapes and cartridges can also be processed by the Secretariat, provided that the documentation accompanying the submission describes the tape characteristics and record layouts.

Countries can use standard PC compression software (available on request from the Secretariat) such as PKZIP, ARC, WINZIP, etc, to compress large files, before copying them to PC diskettes or before electronically transferring them to the Secretariat. The corresponding de-compression software should be furnished with the IDB submissions in order for the Secretariat to de-compress the files.

It is not possible to process files created as PC backups. In addition to data, these files contain technical information on the physical attributes of the storage device from which the backup was created.

E. DOCUMENTATION TO BE SUPPLIED

Documentation (preferably in electronic format) describing the PC formats of the submissions, field/column contents, national coding schemes and other reference information is required to process submissions. Refer to Annex 1 for the documentation to be supplied.

II. INFORMATION TO BE SUPPLIED

A. IMPORTS

Imports should be provided by country of origin for each tariff line, in terms of value and volume. Values are recorded in the currency used by the national authorities in the collection of their import statistics for customs purposes. Volumes are reported in one unit of quantity per tariff line, or for tariff lines having mixed or compound duties, in two units of quantity.

Tariff line number	National tariff line number
Partner country	Country of origin of imports. This should be provided at the most detailed geographic level available. For Customs Unions, imports should be provided for the individual members, if available. Other aggregated imports (such as country groups or regional totals) are not required.
Customs import value	<p>Import value for customs purposes. If the customs value is not available, the import value should contain the value of imports used for recording import statistics (c.i.f., f.o.b., etc).</p> <p>The import value can be provided in national currency, or in US dollars if the country records its customs statistics in that currency. The PC IDB database will contain import values in both national currency and US dollars. Therefore, the average annual exchange rate between the US dollar and the national currency should be provided by the reporting country. This is also required for reporting countries furnishing their import values in US dollars.</p> <p>The import values can be submitted in units of currency, in thousands of units, etc. The unit should be indicated in the documentation accompanying the submission.</p>
Quantity unit 1	<p>National quantity unit used for recording import volumes. If the quantity unit is the same for all tariff lines, this information could be provided with the reference information for the submission. Otherwise, it should be provided at the tariff line level or, if required, at the tariff line/country of origin level.</p> <p>If the duties attached to the tariff line are mixed or compound, and statistics are not collected for supplementary quantities (see quantity unit 2, below), the unit of quantity should, if available, correspond to the predominant unit used to collect customs duties.</p>
Import quantity 1	Import volume expressed in the quantity unit 1.
Quantity unit 2	Where applicable, national quantity unit used for recording supplementary import volumes. This would be provided when the duty attached to the tariff line is expressed in a form using two units of quantity (e.g. 1 \$ per kg. plus 2 \$ per piece). In this example, the import volumes recorded in kg. could be provided in import quantity 1 and the import volumes recorded in pieces could be provided in import quantity 2.
Import quantity 2	Import volume expressed in the quantity unit 2.

B. TARIFFS

Tariff submissions should include the product descriptions and the current MFN bound and MFN applied customs duties for all tariff lines. Concerning MFN duties, any known changes that will take effect during the course of the year should also be provided. An example would be agricultural duties that come into force in July for some countries.

Tariff line number	Customs tariff line						
Tariff suffix	<p>The tariff suffix can be used in cases where the customs tariff is more detailed than the corresponding import statistics, i.e. statistics are collected in less detail than the corresponding duties are recorded in the customs tariff. For these cases, the individual duties could be recorded under tariff sub-items (tariff suffix "01" - "99") and the average of the duties under the sub-items could be recorded under the principal item (tariff suffix "00").</p> <p>The tariff suffix can also be used to identify duties that change during the course of the year or to record partially bound MFN duties.</p>						
Product description	Description of the product(s) covered by the tariff line. Descriptions should be provided in English, French or Spanish.						
MFN bound duty	The MFN bound duty currently in force for the reference year. This can be an <i>ad valorem</i> duty, or a non- <i>ad valorem</i> duty (specific, mixed, compound or other duty). Concerning non- <i>ad valorem</i> duties, it would be preferable for countries to supply the <u><i>ad valorem</i> equivalents</u> of these duties.						
MFN applied duty	The MFN applied duty currently in force for the reference year. This can be an <i>ad valorem</i> duty, or a non- <i>ad valorem</i> duty (specific, mixed, compound or other duty). Concerning non- <i>ad valorem</i> duties, it would be preferable to supply the <i>ad valorem</i> equivalents of these duties.						
Other duties	On a voluntary basis, reporting countries can supply other duties.						
Partner country	Optional.						
Binding code, coverage	<p>The binding and binding coverage of the tariff line can be provided by reporting countries as a code.</p> <p>If binding codes are not provided, where possible, the Secretariat will use computer programs to generate them. This will be based on the presence or absence of MFN bound duties for the tariff line and the use of "ex-items" for tariff lines that are partially bound.</p> <p>Examples of binding codes that could be provided are:</p> <table> <tr> <td>B = fully bound,</td><td>BX = partially bound,</td></tr> <tr> <td>C= fully bound at ceiling level,</td><td>CX = partially bound at ceiling level,</td></tr> <tr> <td>U= unbound.</td><td></td></tr> </table>	B = fully bound,	BX = partially bound,	C= fully bound at ceiling level,	CX = partially bound at ceiling level,	U= unbound.	
B = fully bound,	BX = partially bound,						
C= fully bound at ceiling level,	CX = partially bound at ceiling level,						
U= unbound.							
Notes	Textual information concerning the duties can be provided.						

C. REFERENCES

Reference information is required to standardize certain data from submissions received from reporting countries. For instance, countries use different coding schemes to identify their trading partners in the import submissions. In the PC IDB, the national codes are changed to standard WTO codes in order to have a common basis for statistical reporting. Furthermore, reference information provides users of the IDB with details on the comparability of data among reporting countries.

The following reference information should be provided in electronic format if possible.

Tariff nomenclature	The type of tariff nomenclature (HS96, HS92, CCCN, other). This is required to verify the tariff nomenclature and to identify missing or mis-coded tariff lines.
Year of tariffs and Year of imports	The years to which tariff and imports refer.
Country codes	A list of the national country codes used in the import submissions and their corresponding names are required to standardize the national submission.
Type of tariff relation	The type of tariff relation between the reporting country and each trading partner listed in the country codes above.
Quantity unit codes	A list of the national quantity unit codes used in the import submissions and their corresponding descriptions are required to standardize the national submission.
Imports valuation basis	The imports valuation basis (f.o.b., c.i.f., etc). C.i.f valuations (cost, insurance and freight) include the value of the goods, the value of services performed to deliver the goods to the border of the exporting country and the value of the services associated with the delivery of the goods from the border of the exporting country to the border of the importing country. F.o.b valuations (free on board) include the value of the goods and the value of services performed to deliver the goods to the border of the exporting country. If the reporting country uses another import valuation basis, it should be described in the documentation accompanying the submission. This is required for statistical reporting purposes.
Imports currency unit	The currency unit used for import values.
Imports exchange rate	The imports exchange rate to the US dollar, including where applicable the spread over the year. The spread is the lowest and highest exchange rate for the period.
System of trade	The system of trade (general or special) used to record customs import values. The general system of trade includes imports of goods into customs warehouses and commercial free zones, which may not be included in the special system of trade.
Duty currency unit	If the tariff submission contains specific, mixed or other non- <i>ad valorem</i> duties, the currency unit in which these duties are expressed.

Duty assessment	The weight of the imported goods upon which customs duties are assessed (net weight, gross weight).
AVE calculation method	When <i>ad valorem</i> equivalents (AVE's) are supplied for specific, mixed or compound duties, the AVE calculation method (based on imports from World, MFN origins, WTO Members, etc) should be provided.
Duty averaging method	If tariffs are reported at a greater level of detail (using the tariff suffix) than the import statistics, and averages of the duties recorded under the sub-items are provided (using the tariff suffix principal item), the averaging method (simple average, trade-weighted average) should be supplied.

D. NATIONAL CORRELATIONS

Tariff correlation tables are used in the PC IDB to track changes in the tariff nomenclature from one year to the next. For tariff lines that have changed, the corresponding tariff lines of the previous year should be provided. For example, if one tariff line is broken down into several subitems then a table should associate each of the new tariff lines with the one that covered all these items in the previous year. If several tariff lines are combined into a new one than this should be reflected in a similar way.

Tariff submissions are made at the beginning of each year and will contain the tariff situation as of that time. The corresponding import submissions are made sometime during the next year after all import statistics have been collected. When new tariff lines are introduced during the course of the year (i.e. after the tariff has been submitted for the IDB), these tariff lines will be missing from the IDB tariffs but will be included in the imports submission.

To avoid reporting countries having to provide two tariff submissions for the same year, the nomenclature of the imports is adjusted to match that of the tariff already submitted, using the tariff correlations tables provided by reporting countries.

However, if there are any tariff lines in the imports which do not match the tariff (because the tariff line was introduced and then withdrawn during the course of the year), reporting countries should include these tariff lines in the national tariff correlations.

ANNEX 1

INFORMATION TO ACCOMPANY IDB SUBMISSIONS

IDB submissions should be forwarded to:

Integrated Data Base Section
Statistics Division
World Trade Organization
154 Rue de Lausanne
CH-1211 Geneva 21
Switzerland

Tel. + 41 22 / 739 53 66
Fax + 41 22 / 739 57 63

E-mail: ldb@wto.org

Internet: The address, user identification codes and passwords are distributed to Members via the heads of delegations to the WTO. The appropriate delegation should be contacted to obtain this information.

The information described in the following pages should be forwarded with IDB submissions, preferably in electronic format.

INFORMATION TO ACCOMPANY IDB TARIFF SUBMISSIONS

Reporting country:

Date of submission:

Official contact for the submission in national capitals:

Name:

Title:

Address:

Telephone:

Fax:

E-mail:

References:

Tariff nomenclature: (HS96, HS92, CCCN, other)	
Year of tariffs:	
Duties provided: (MFN Bound, MFN Applied, Other MFN, etc.)	
Description of preferential trading agreements and countries covered by each agreement: (When preferential duties are provided)	
Duty averaging method: (Simple or weighted average)	
Duty currency unit: (For non-ad valorem duties)	
Duty assessment: (For non-ad valorem duties - net weight or gross weight)	
Ad valorem equivalent calculation method: (When AVEs are provided)	
National tariff correlations: (Please provide list of correlations)	

Technical Information on submission files:

PC Software used to prepare submission: (Type and version)	
Compression and decompression software used: (Type and version)	
File names and contents:	
Record layouts (please attach):	

INFORMATION TO ACCOMPANY IDB IMPORT SUBMISSIONS

Reporting country:

Date of submission:

Official contact for the submission in national capitals:

Name:

Title:

Address:

Telephone:

Fax:

E-mail:

References:

Imports nomenclature: (HS96, HS92, CCCN, other)	
Year of imports:	
National country codes and type of tariff relation: (Please provide list)	
National quantity unit codes: (Please provide list)	
Imports valuation basis (f.o.b., c.i.f., other):	
Imports currency unit:	
Imports exchange rate to the US dollar:	
Imports exchange rate spread (lowest and highest):	
System of trade (general, special, other):	
National tariff correlations: (Please provide list of correlations)	

Technical Information on submission files:

PC Software used in submission: (Type and version)	
Compression and decompression software used: (Type and version)	
File names and contents:	
Record layouts (please attach):	

ANNEX 2

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Abbreviations

AVE	See <i>ad valorem</i> equivalent
CCCN	See Customs Co-operation Council Nomenclature
HS	See Harmonized System
MFN	See Most-favoured nation
PC IDB	See PC Integrated Data Base

Ad Valorem Duty

An *ad valorem* duty is a customs tariff duty expressed as a percentage of the value of the imported goods (e.g. 10% of value). In the case of specific duties (i.e. \$2.00 per kg.), the *ad valorem* equivalent (AVE) can be calculated which gives the equivalent level of the duty in percentage terms.

Ad Valorem Equivalent (AVE)

An *ad valorem* equivalent is the equivalent in percentage of a specific duty, mixed, compound or other duty containing a specific element. The AVE is calculated from the actual duty collected or from the unit value of imports. For example, the AVE of a specific duty of \$1.00 per kg. levied on a product with a unit value of \$10.00 per kg., is equal to 10% (\$1.00/\$10.00).

AVE Calculation Method

The *ad valorem* equivalent (AVE) of a non-*ad valorem* duty can be based on different trade patterns, for example: imports from MFN origins, imports from WTO Members, total imports, etc.

Average (Tariff)

A tariff average measures the average level of nominal tariff protection. There are two types of tariff averages: a simple average and a trade-weighted average. The example below illustrates how those two types of tariff averages are calculated.

Tariff line number	Duty rate	Import value	Duty collected
0101.11.10	50%	10	5
0101.11.90	10%	100	10
0101.19.10	0%	1000	0
0101.19.90	20%	100	20
Total	80%	1210	35

Tariff Averages:

ARITHMETIC = Sum of duties/Number of duties = $80/4 = 20\%$

TRADE-WEIGHTED = (Sum of duties collected/Total imports) X100 = $(35 \times 100)/1210 = 3\%$

It should be noted that the trade-weighted average is often lower than the arithmetic average. This is because theoretically, low duties carry more imports than high duties. Subsequently, in the trade-weighted average, low duties are given more weight than high duties, thus introducing a downward bias. In the arithmetic average, each duty carries the same weight, whatever its level.

Binding

GATT Article II provides that signatories may "bind" tariff duties by including them in their Schedules of tariff concessions, annexed to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Once a duty is bound, it may not be raised above that bound level without compensating affected parties. If the applied duty is lower than the bound duty, the bound level of the duty is called a "ceiling" binding (see "Ceiling Binding"). If the binding does not cover all products in the tariff line the binding is "partial" and is usually identified by "ex" in the Schedules of tariff concessions. (See Schedules of tariff concessions.)

Bound Duty

See Current Bound Duty, Binding and Ceiling Binding

Ceiling Binding

A binding is "ceiling" if the applied duty is lower than the bound duty. The following example illustrates the difference between "ceiling" bindings and bindings at "prevailing" or current applied level.

Tariff line number	Duty type	Duty	Binding situation
0101.11.10	bound duty	50%	bound at ceiling of 50%
	applied duty	10%	
0101.11.90	bound duty	50%	bound at prevailing or current applied duty of 50%
	applied duty	50%	

Compound Duty

A compound duty is a tariff duty comprising an *ad valorem* duty to which is added or subtracted a specific duty: 10% plus \$2.00/kg.; 20% less \$2.00/kg.

Country of Origin

Country in which the goods have been produced or manufactured, according to the criteria laid down for the purposes of application of the customs tariff, quantitative restrictions, or any other form of import measures (see also "Partner (Imports)").

Current Applied Duties

The Most Favoured Nation customs duties actually in force for the most recent period or year.

Current Bound Duties

The duties, representing the WTO Members' tariff commitments under WTO, are those actually in force for the most recent period or year. The current bound duties can be same as or higher than the most-favoured-nation current applied duties.

Customs Co-operation Council Nomenclature (CCCN)

A system for classifying goods for customs purposes. The Brussels Tariff Nomenclature (BTN) was established in 1955. This was an internationally agreed nomenclature in which articles were grouped according to the nature of the material of which they are made. The BTN was amended in 1965 and 1972. In 1974, the BTN became the CCCN, which was again amended in 1978. In 1988, the CCCN was replaced by the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (see Harmonized System).

Customs Union

Substitution of a single customs territory for two or more customs territories, so that duties and other restrictive regulations of commerce are eliminated on substantially all the trade between the constituent territories of the union. The same duties and other regulations of commerce are applied by each member of the union to the trade of territories not included in the union.

Customs Value

The value of the imported goods upon which the customs duties are levied. See also "Import Valuation Basis".

Duty Assessment

The weight of the imported goods upon which the customs duties are assessed. The World Customs Organization adopted a recommendation on the use of standard units of quantity to facilitate the collection, comparison and analysis of international statistics based on the Harmonized System. It also recommended that weight figures be collected on a net weight basis.

Duty Averaging Method for Tariff Suffix

The averaging method is used only when two or more duty rates apply to one tariff line. The averaging method can be a simple average of duties or a trade-weighted average of duties. In such cases, when there is more than one duty per tariff line, the tariff suffix can be used to report the individual duties and their product description (see "Tariff Suffix").

Duty Currency Unit

The currency unit used in specific, mixed, compound or other duty rates incorporating a specific rate element.

Exchange Rate

The number of units of currency equivalent to one unit of another currency (see also "Imports Exchange Rate").

Harmonized System (HS)

The Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (known as the Harmonized System), instituted by the World Customs Organization in 1988, is an international product classification for customs tariffs and trade statistics. This represented an expansion of the former 4-digit CCCN heading to the 6-digit HS heading, as follows:

Nomenclature	CCCN	HS
Sections	21	21
2-digit items	99	97
4-digit items	1011	2241
5-digit items	-	3558
6-digit items	-	5019

Minor revisions were introduced in 1992 (1992 HS) and more substantial changes in 1996 (1996 HS). The 1996 HS has 348 new codes, while 253 codes were dropped, giving a total of 5,113 subheadings.

IDB CD-ROM

The IDB CD-ROM, developed jointly by the WTO Secretariat and the World Bank, contains the PC Integrated Data Base and an application system to retrieve and compute tariff and import data.

Imports Currency Unit

The currency unit used to record the import customs values (e.g. U.S. dollars, thousand yen, thousand ECU, forints, etc.).

Imports Exchange Rate

The average exchange rate of the imports currency unit per United States dollar for the year or period of the import data. The spread is the lowest and highest exchange rate for the same period.

Imports Valuation Basis

Import customs values are normally defined in terms of c.i.f. or f.o.b. valuations. C.i.f. (costs, insurance and freight) valuations include the value of the goods, the value of services performed to deliver the goods to the border of the exporting country and the value of the services associated with the delivery of goods from the border of the exporting country to the border of the importing country. F.o.b. (free on board) valuations include the value of the goods and the value of services performed to deliver

the goods to the border of the exporting country.¹

Mixed Duty

A mixed duty is a duty where a minimum or a maximum tariff protection is ensured by the choice between, in general, an *ad valorem* duty and a specific duty, as in the following examples: 10% minimum \$2.00/kg.; 10% or \$2.00/kg. whichever is less; 10% maximum \$2.00/kg.; 10% or \$2.00/kg. whichever is higher or greater, etc.

Most-Favoured Nation (MFN)

With respect to customs duties, any advantage, favour, privilege or immunity, granted by any WTO Member to any product originating in or destined for any other country, are accorded in principle to the like product originating from or destined for the territories of all other WTO Members, under the principle of MFN treatment.

National Codes

Governments do not necessarily use standard codes for recording countries, quantity units, etc. National codes are converted to a WTO common coding system, based on the International Standard Organisation (ISO) country codes and on the quantity unit codes adopted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

National Correlations

Tables, identifying the tariff lines for the current year and the corresponding tariff lines of the previous year where the tariff nomenclatures have changed, or identifying the import items and the corresponding tariff lines where the nomenclatures have changed. These correlation tables can also provide the trade allocation in percentage terms for the data submission.

National Country Codes

Codes representing trading partners and country of origins used by the reporting Members in their submissions.

National Quantity Unit Codes

Codes representing quantity units used by the reporting Members in their submissions.

National Tariff Correlation

See National Correlations

Nomenclature

A nomenclature is an agreed system for classifying goods according to defined criteria, and in given detail and order, by associating to product groups a number that is used by all parties which adopt the nomenclature.

¹Other types of valuations for the delivery of goods frontier to frontier are described in Annex D of the United Nations International Merchandise Trade Statistics - Concepts and Definitions, document ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/52/Rev.2.

Partner (Imports)

Country of origin of imports or import trading partner.

PC Integrated Data Base (PC IDB)

The WTO Integrated Data Base for Personal Computers (PC IDB) is designed in accordance with the modalities and operations set out in document G/MA/IDB/1/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Corr.1 as approved by the Committee on Market Access. Initiated by that Committee, the General Council adopted the Decision that, in order to ensure full participation, WTO Members supply to the Secretariat tariff and import data on an annual basis (WT/L/225).

Quantity 1

The primary volume of imports expressed in the unit recorded in the primary quantity code.

Quantity 2

The secondary or supplementary volume of imports expressed in the unit recorded in the supplementary quantity code. The supplementary quantity value should be supplied only when different from the primary one. In cases where the non-ad valorem duty has two units of quantity (e.g. \$1 per kilogram plus \$2 each; or, \$1.20 per litre or \$0.20 per litre of absolute alcohol, whichever is the higher) the supplementary quantity should correspond to the second unit.

Quantity Unit

The quantity unit, used to express import volumes. This can vary according to the product and according to the reporting country. Some countries use a common unit to collect import volumes. For other it varies according to the product (see "National Quantity Unit Codes").

Reporting Country

The WTO Member, Government or Customs Union supplying data to the IDB.

Relation (Tariff)

See Type of Tariff Relation

Schedules Of Tariff Concessions

All tariff concessions negotiated in WTO negotiations are reported in the WTO legal instruments containing Schedules of tariff concessions. Each WTO Member incorporates its concessions in its own schedule.

Specific Duty

A specific duty is a customs duty that is not related to the value of the imported goods but to the weight, volume, surface, etc. of the goods. The specific duty stipulates how many units of currency are to be levied per unit of quantity (e.g. 2.00 Swiss Francs per kg.).

System of Trade

The system of trade used to record customs import values falls into two categories: special system of trade and general system of trade. The general system of trade includes imports of goods into customs warehouses and commercial free zones, which may not be included in the special system of trade. A table showing a comparison of the import flows in these two systems is reproduced below:

IMPORTS	General Trade	Special Trade
FOREIGN GOOD <u>from the rest of the world or from customs transit:</u>		
(1) into free circulation area, premises for inward processing and into industrial free zones	M	M
(2) into premises for customs warehousing and commercial free zones <u>from premises for customs warehousing and commercial free zones:</u>	M	
(3) into free circulation area, premises for inward processing or into industrial free zones		M
COMPENSATING PRODUCTS AFTER OUTWARD PROCESSING <u>from the rest of the world or from customs transit:</u>		
(4) into free circulation area, premises for inward processing and into industrial free zones	M	M
(5) into premises for customs warehousing and commercial free zones <u>From premises for customs warehousing and commercial free zones:</u>	M	
(6) into free circulation area, premises for inward processing and into industrial free zones		M
DOMESTIC GOODS IN THE SAME STATE AS EXPORTED <u>From the rest of the world or from customs transit:</u>		
(7) into free circulation area, premises for inward processing and into industrial free zones	RM	RM
(8) into premises for customs warehousing and commercial free zones <u>From premises for customs warehousing and commercial free zones:</u>	RM	
(9) into free circulation area, premises for inward processing and into industrial free zones		RM

M=Imports; RM=Re-imports.

Source: United Nations International Merchandise Trade Statistics; Concepts and Definitions, Table 1 (ST/RSA/STAT/SER.M/52/Rev.2)

Tariff Line Number

The detailed national customs tariff nomenclature, at which the duties are reported.

Tariff Suffix

A code used to extend the tariff line number in order to record two or more duties at different levels.

Tariff Nomenclature

Tariff and import data submissions should be accompanied with an indication of the type of product nomenclature or classification used to code the customs tariffs and imports (for example, the Harmonized System 1996, 1992 HS, 1988 HS or the CCCN).

Trading Partner

See Partner (Imports)

Type Of Tariff Relation

The type of tariff relation identifies the tariff relationship between each trading partner and the reporting country. The type of tariff relation is unique for a given supplier in a given market.

Year of Imports

IDB submissions are made annually. The year to which the import submission refers is the reference year, a twelve-month period that can be a calendar or fiscal period.

Year of Tariffs

IDB submissions are made once a year. The year to which the tariff submission refers is the reference year.
