

CHAPTER 18

TRANSPARENCY

Article 18.1: Publication

1. Each Party shall ensure that its measures respecting any matter covered by this Agreement are promptly published or otherwise made available in such a manner as to enable interested persons of the other Party and the other Party to become acquainted with them.
2. To the extent possible, each Party shall:
 - (a) publish in advance any such measures that it proposes to adopt; and
 - (b) provide a reasonable opportunity for interested persons of the other Party and the other Party to comment on such proposed measures.

Article 18.2: Notification and Provision of Information

1. To the extent possible, each Party shall notify the other Party of any proposed or actual measure that the Party considers might materially affect the operation of this Agreement or otherwise substantially affect the other Party's legitimate interests under this Agreement.
2. On the request of the other Party, a Party shall, within 30 days of receipt of the request, provide information and respond to questions pertaining to any actual or proposed measure that the other Party considers might materially affect the operation of this Agreement, whether or not the other Party has been previously notified of that measure.
3. The information referred to under this Article shall be considered to have been provided when it has been made available by appropriate notification to the WTO or when it has been made available on the official, public and fee-free accessible website of the Party concerned.
4. Any notification, request, or information under this Article shall be conveyed to the other Party through their Contact Points referred to in the Article 19.5 (Contact Points).

Article 18.3: Administrative Proceedings

With a view to administering in a consistent, impartial, and reasonable manner all measures of general application affecting matters covered by this Agreement, each Party shall ensure, in its administrative proceedings applying measures referred to in Article 18.1 to particular persons, goods or services of the other Party in specific cases, that:

- (a) wherever possible, persons of the other Party that are directly affected by a proceeding are provided with reasonable notice, in accordance with the Party's procedures, when a proceeding is initiated, including a description of the nature of the proceeding, a statement of the legal authority under which the proceeding is initiated and a general description of any issues in controversy;
- (b) such persons are afforded a reasonable opportunity to present facts and arguments in support of their positions prior to any final administrative action, when time, the nature of the proceeding and the public interest permit; and
- (c) its procedures are in accordance with its law.

Article 18.4: Review and Appeal

1. Each Party shall establish or maintain judicial, quasi-judicial, or administrative tribunals or procedures for the purpose of the prompt review and, where warranted, correction of final administrative actions regarding matters covered by this Agreement. Such tribunals shall be impartial and independent of the office or authority entrusted with administrative enforcement and shall not have any substantial interest in the outcome of the matter.

2. Each Party shall ensure that, in any such tribunals or procedures, the parties to the proceeding are provided with the right to:

- (a) a reasonable opportunity to support or defend their respective positions; and

(b) a decision based on the evidence and submissions of record or, where required by the Party's law, the record compiled by the administrative authority.

3. Each Party shall ensure, subject to appeal or further review as provided in its law, that such decision shall be implemented by, and shall govern the practice of, the office or authority with respect to the administrative action at issue.