

## WTO's NTBs Notifications Relating to Iron & Steel Products January 2024

Under the WTO's Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, member states, for valid reasons, are allowed to regulate markets, protect their consumers, and preserve their natural resources, using tools such as rules for product weight, size, or packaging; ingredient or identity standards; shelf-life restrictions; and import testing and certification procedures.

However, these measures often result in perceived discrimination against imports to protect domestic industries.

The TBT Agreement seeks to ensure that standards, technical regulations, and conformity assessment procedures are not discriminatory and are applied on a non-discriminatory basis.

*This Newsletter captures NTBs notified by WTO members and their relevance to India's Iron & Steel products for the month of January 2024. It also highlights the potential impact of these NTBs on India's exports, if any.*

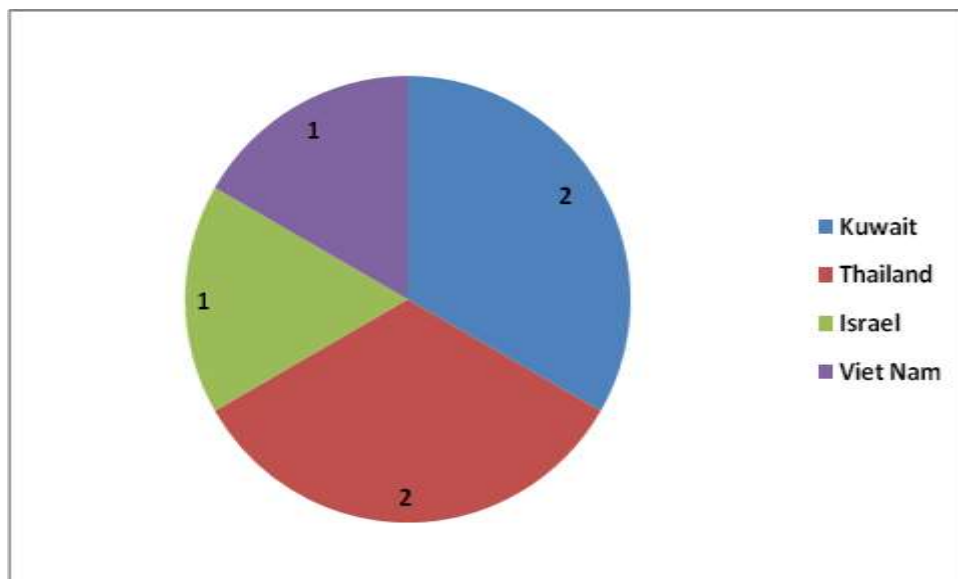
### TBT Notifications Issued by WTO Member Countries

A total of 449 TBT notifications were issued by the various WTO member countries during January 2024. Out of these, 6 notifications relate to iron & steel products. These were issued by the 4 WTO Member countries.

### Country-wise Break-up of NTBs Notifications

A review of TBT Notifications relating to iron & steel products for the month of January 2024 reveals that out of the total 6 notifications, it was followed by Kuwait issuing two notifications, Thailand issuing two notifications, Vietnam issuing one notification, and Israel issuing one notification. See Figure 1 for the distribution of TBT Notifications relating to iron & steel products.

**Figure 1. Distribution of Country-wise TBTs Notifications Relating to Iron & Steel Products**



### **Potential Impact of TBTs Notifications on India's Iron & Steel Products' Export**

Analysis of data reveals that notifications issued by the WTO Member countries in January 2024 could potentially affect India's exports worth US\$ 31.68 million if appropriate measures are not taken to resolve these issues in time.

At the country level, a review of data reveals that out of the total potential decline in India's exports, Vietnam alone would account for a decline in India's exports of over US\$ 30.83 million, followed by Thailand at over US\$ 0.61 million, Kuwait at over US\$ 0.24 million and India does not export any of the product to the markets of Israel. A description of Notifications, along with product-wise exports from India to these countries in 2022, is presented in Table 1.

**Table 1. Details of Notifications and Their Potential Impact on Exports from India**

Sl. No.	Notifying Member	Distribution date	Document symbol	Description	HS code(s)	India's Exports of the product to issuing country (Year 2022) Value in US \$ Million)	Notifying Member country's World Import in 2022 (Value in US\$ Million)
1	Kuwait, the State of	05-01-2024	G/TBT/N/KWT/662	This Kuwaiti mandatory standard specifies requirements for steel strand which has been given a stress-relieving heat treatment according to the general requirements specified in ISO 6934-1. This document covers 10 grades of steel strand for use in prestressed concrete construction; each strand can contain either 2, 3, 7 or 19 individual wires.	731210	0	302.97
2	Kuwait, the State of	05-01-2024	G/TBT/N/KWT/663	This Kuwaiti mandatory specifies technical requirements for ribbed bars to be used as reinforcement in concrete. It is applicable to steel delivered in the form of bars, coils and de-coiled products.  This document covers both weldable and non-weldable steels. It does not apply to ribbed bars produced from finished products, such as plates and railway rails.	7221	0.24	187.06
3	Viet Nam	11-01-2024	G/TBT/N/VNM/211/Add.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Suspending the implementation of Circular No. 15/2019/TT-BKHHCN dated November 15, 2019 of the Minister of Science and</li> </ul>	73	30.83	5322.27

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				<p>Technology promulgating "National Technical Regulations on Stainless Steel" and Circular No. 09/2021/TT-BKHCN dated November 1, 2021 of the Minister of Science and Technology promulgating "Amended 1:20212 QCVN 20:2019/ BKHCN National technical regulations on stainless steel from March 1, 2024 to March 1, 2026.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Domestically-produced and imported stainless steel that has been certified/inspected in accordance with QCVN 20:2019/BKHCN and Amendment 1:2021 QCVN 20:2019/BKHCN and circulated on the market before March 1, 2024 will continue to circulate on the market with the issued conformity mark until the validity of the Certificate/Inspection expires.</li> </ul>			
4	Israel	26-01-2024	G/TBT/N/ISR/1309	The requirements of the existing Israel Standard, SI 5198, shall be declared mandatory. This declaration aligns with the mandatory standardization objective to protect public safety.	7311	0.00	33.85

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				The standard specifies minimum requirements for the material, design, construction and workmanship, manufacturing processes, and tests at the time of manufacture of refillable seamless aluminum alloy gas cylinders of water capacities up to and including 150 liters for compressed, liquefied, and dissolved gases.			
5	Thailand	30-01-2024	G/TBT/N/THA/501/Add.2	The Thai Industrial Standards Institute (TISI) has proposed to withdraw TIS 1390–2560 (2017) Hot Rolled Steel Sheet Piles and replace it with TIS 1390-25xx.This addendum is to inform that this draft Ministerial Regulation mandates hot rolled steel sheet piles to conform with the standard for hot rolled steel sheet piles (TIS 1390-25xx(20xx)).This revised standard specifies technical specifications, characteristics, marking and labelling, sampling, and testing requirements for hot-rolled steel sheet piles which are used for protection for underground structures, structural foundations, flood protection and other similar applications. This revised standard	730110	0.00	3.62

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				does not cover steel sheet piles made from hot-rolled flat steel by cold formed. This draft Ministerial Regulation will come into force after 180 days following the date of its publication in the Government Gazette.			
6	Thailand	30-01-2024	G/TBT/N/THA/217/R ev.1/Add.2	The Thai Industrial Standards Institute (TISI) has proposed to withdraw TIS 1479–2558 (2015) Hot Rolled Flat Steel for General Structure and replace it with TIS 1479-25xx.This addendum is to inform that this draft Ministerial Regulation mandates hot rolled flat steel to conform with the standard for hot rolled flat steel for general structure (TIS 1479–25xx(20xx)).This revised standard specifies technical specifications, characteristics, marking and labelling, sampling, and testing requirements for hot rolled flat steel (unalloyed and alloy steel) for general structure such as bridge, ship, rolling stock. This revised standard does not cover the following:1) Hot-rolled flat steel of commercial and drawing qualities (TIS 528).2) Hot-rolled flat steel of applicable thickness over 160 mm.3) Hot-rolled flat	7208	0.61	2034.17

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				steel for subsequent cold re-rolling excluding skin pass or temper rolling, or roll forming. This draft Ministerial Regulation will come into force after 180 days following the date of its publication in the Government Gazette.			