

WTO's NTBs Notifications Relating to Tobacco Products

1st – 31st March 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, often these measures result in perceived discrimination against imports in order to protect domestic industries.

The TBT Agreement seeks to ensure that standards, technical regulations, and conformity assessment procedures are non-discriminatory and are applied on a non-discriminatory basis.

This Newsletter captures NTBs notified by WTO members and its relevance to Tobacco products for the month of March 2024. It also highlights the potential impact of these NTBs on India's exports.

TBT Notifications Issued by WTO Member Countries

A total of 251 TBT Notifications were issued by the various WTO Member countries during the month of March 2024. Out of these, only one notification is relevant to tobacco.

Country-wise Break-up of NTB Notifications

Review of TBTs Notifications relating to tobacco products for the month of March 2024 Finland issued one notification.

Potential Impact of TBT Notifications on Tobacco Products

Review of data relating to India's export of the one product against which Notifications have been issues reveal that India does not export of the product to the market of Finland. Therefore, there will no impact of this Notification on India's export.

A description of products and the Notifications issued is presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Details of Notifications

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	Finland	18-03-2024	G/TBT/N/FIN/85/Rev.2	Laying down comprehensive regulation on nicotine pouches. The Proposal proposes to amend the Tobacco Act. The amendment is required because the sale of nicotine pouches has been liberalised as a result of a change in the interpretation of the Medicines Act.	24049110	0	27.22