

Trade Facilitation: How Differences in Regulations can be Reduced



3 main types of trade obstacles

SPS and TBT Related

e.g. unjustifiable pesticide residue content or labelling requirements) or from conformity assessment that fail to credibly demonstrate compliance resulting in tests being repeated in the destination country with risks of rejection

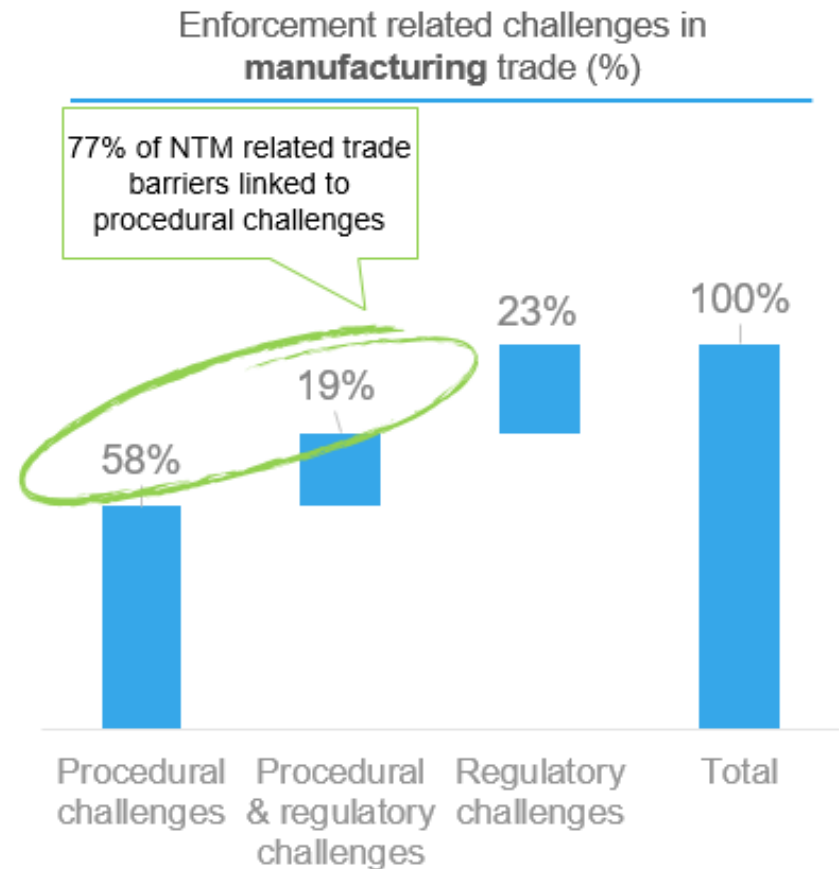
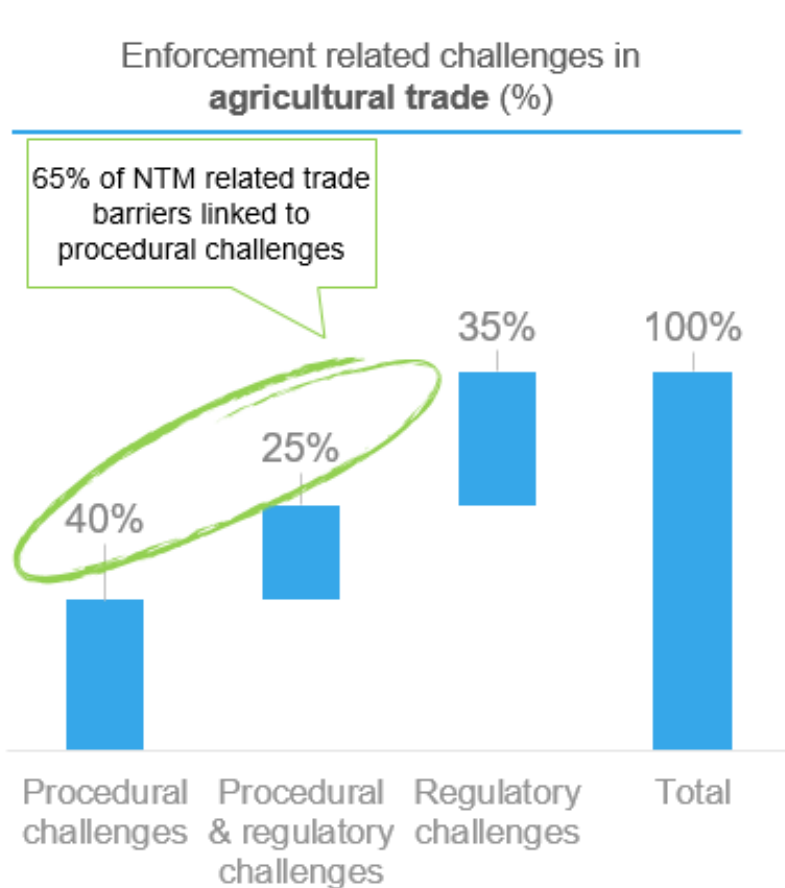
Procedural or enforcement related

e.g. delays encountered by traders in obtaining a compulsory certificate of import or export due to a lack of human resources to process paper based application in a timely manner, excessive and not coordinated inspections by various border regulatory agencies...

State interventions

e.g. subsidies, tariff measures, contingent trade-protective measures, government procurement restrictions....

Procedural obstacles are the most frequent barrier to trade



Trade facilitation reforms addresses procedural obstacles to trade



ENHANCE TRANSPARENCY



PROMOTE COOPERATION



FOSTER EFFICIENCY



IMPROVE TRADERS' COMPLIANCE

Instruments available to shape their regional trade facilitation agenda

Legal Instruments

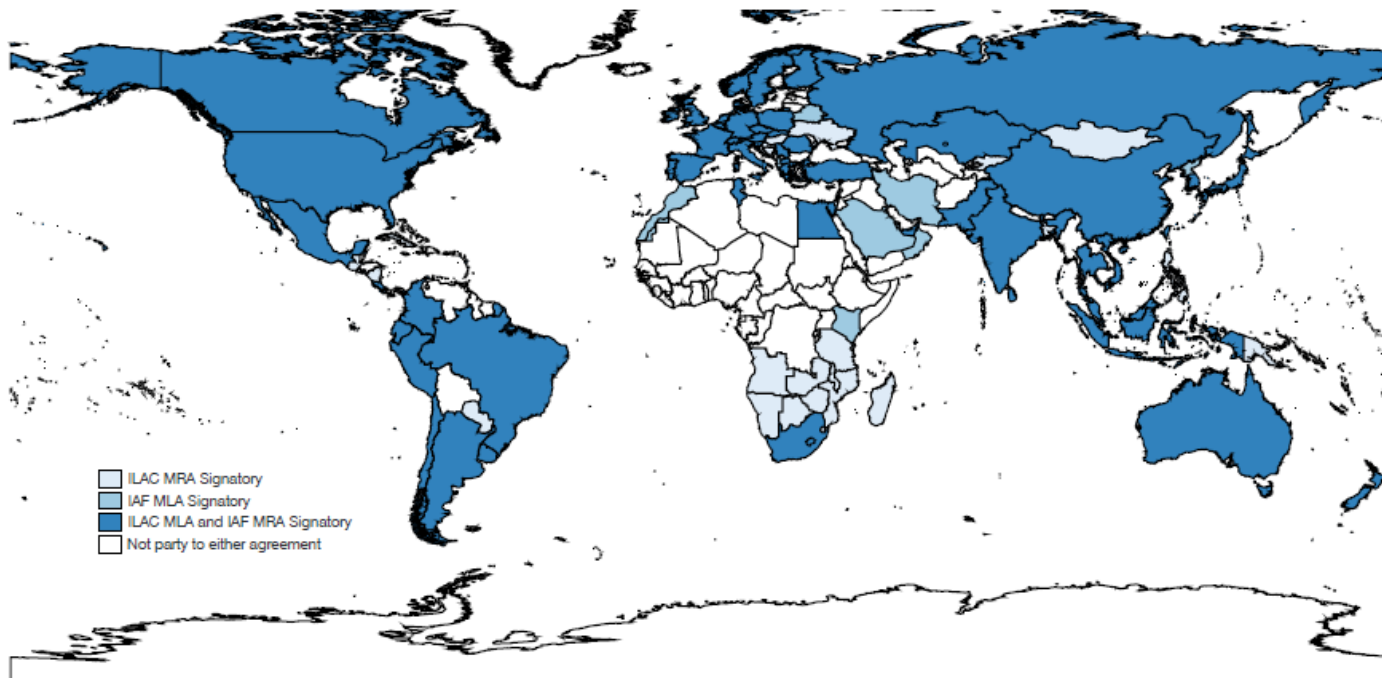
- **Legal unification tools** i.e. regulations and decisions. These are binding in their entirety and directly applicable to all member states.
- **Legal harmonization tools** i.e. directives. These bind member states vis-à-vis the outcomes to be achieved, but provide flexibility on the means and form of implementation.
- **Mutual recognition tools** i.e. a Mutual Recognition Agreement. This rests on an agreement between two or more states recognizing the adequacy of each other's regulations and supervision.

Non-legal Instruments

- **Non-binding decisions** i.e. recommendations, explanatory notes or guidelines. These complement legal acts and provide details on implementation of legal norms.
- **Cooperation tools** i.e. regional consultations, information- and experience-sharing, peer reviews, training.
- **Public activities** i.e. financial instruments provided by the REC that member states can use to implement community policies.

Mutual recognition across the globe

FIGURE 42 Signatories to mutual recognition accords



Source: ITC.

Example of regional approaches to trade facilitation reforms: trade information portals

Regional
trade
information
portal

ITC | EUROMED TRADE HELPDESK
TRADE AND INVESTMENT FACILITATION MECHANISM

MARKET INFORMATION | HELPDESK | SUPPORT MATERIALS | OTHER ITC TOOLS

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Facilitating trade and investment in the Euro Mediterranean region

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Market Access Regulations | Business contacts

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- Trade and investment support institutions network

Support materials

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- FAQs and glossary

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processes?

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Facilitating trade

... by finding pragmatic solutions to overcome differences