

# Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)

*Note: Piermartini and Budetta (2009) provide a coding scheme for TBT provisions. They code for a total of 47 variables, distinguishing among standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment and between mutual recognition and harmonization. However, on quite a few of these variables they hardly find any variation across their agreements. For example, across the 64 agreements that they consider, they only find a significant number of mutual recognition provisions with respect to conformity assessment.*

*There is an overlap of 60 agreements between our and the Piermartini and Budetta database. Intercoder reliability for our variable TBTWTO is 88%. Checks of the deviant cases largely confirmed our initial coding.*

[TBT] Does the agreement contain a TBT chapter or provision(s)?

0	no
1	yes

[TBTWTO] Does the agreement contain a reference to the WTO Agreement on TBTs (the GATT Standards code)?

0	no
1	yes

[TBTCoop] Does the agreement call for cooperation and information exchange on TBTs?

0	no
1	yes

[TBTdistort] Does the agreement contain a requirement for standards to be least trade-distorting?

0	no
1	yes

Explanation: Even if coded 0, the agreement may include in another part a provision prohibiting non-tariff barriers, which could have an effect on this part of the agreement.

[TBTdispute] Does the agreement contain a dispute settlement provision for TBTs?

0	no
1	yes

Explanation: Coded 1 even if only mentioned that disputes in this field should be dealt with by the agreement's joint committee.

[**TBTintstand**] Does the agreement encourage the use of international standards?

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0	no
1	yes

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Explanation: International here refers to both regional and global.

[**TBTharmon**] Does the agreement contain provisions that stipulate the (partial) harmonization of TBT?

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0	no
1	harmonization as a general aim
2	selective harmonization for specific sectors
3	full harmonization

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Explanation: We coded 1 if the agreement stipulates the aim of harmonization with international rules. Full harmonization is hardly written down. We coded 3 for some EU agreements with potential accession countries.

## Bibliography

Piermartini, Roberta and Michele Budetta (2009) “A Mapping of Regional Rules on Technical Barriers to Trade”, in Antoni Estevadeordal, Robert Teh, and Kati Suominen (eds) *Regional Rules in the Global Trading System* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).