

CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE

TRANSPARENCY

ARTICLE 21.1: PUBLICATION

Each Party shall ensure that its laws, regulations, and administrative rulings of general application related to any matter covered by this Agreement are published or otherwise made publicly available.

ARTICLE 21.2: NOTIFICATION AND PROVISION OF INFORMATION

1. To the extent possible, each Party shall notify the other Party of any measure that the Party considers might materially affect the operation of this Agreement or otherwise substantially affect the other Party's interests under this Agreement.
2. Upon request of a Party, the other Party shall promptly provide information and respond to questions regarding any measure, regardless of whether the Party has been previously notified of that measure.
3. Any notification or information provided under this Article shall be without prejudice as to whether the measure is consistent with this Agreement.
4. The information referred to in 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 an official website that is free of charge and publicly accessible.

ARTICLE 21.3: 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 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 21.4: REVIEW AND APPEAL

1. Each Party shall establish or maintain judicial or administrative tribunals or procedures for purposes of the 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 its domestic law, the record compiled by the administrative authority.
3. Each Party shall ensure, subject to appeal or further review as provided in its domestic law, that such decisions shall be implemented by, and shall govern the practice of, the office or authority with respect to the administrative action at issue.

ARTICLE 21.5: DEFINITION

For purposes of this Chapter:

administrative ruling of general application means an administrative ruling or interpretation of general application that applies to all persons and fact situations that fall generally within its ambit and that establishes a norm of conduct but does not include:

- (a) a determination or ruling made in an administrative proceeding that applies to a particular person, good, or service of the other Party in a specific case; or
- (b) a ruling that adjudicates with respect to a particular act or practice.