

TBT Provisions in RTAs: Do they go beyond the TBT Agreement?

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12th ARTNeT Capacity Building Workshop

December 2016



Motives and Objectives

- TBT issues have drawn more and more attention since the WTO was founded in 1995.
 - 116 new concerns were raised in the TBT Committee till the end of 2004.
 - 337 new concerns were registered in 10 years since 2005.
- In the same period, the proliferation of RTAs has also been observed.

- Questions related to the TBT provisions in RTAs:
 - whether they differ from the WTO TBT Agreement
 - whether they entail broader commitments

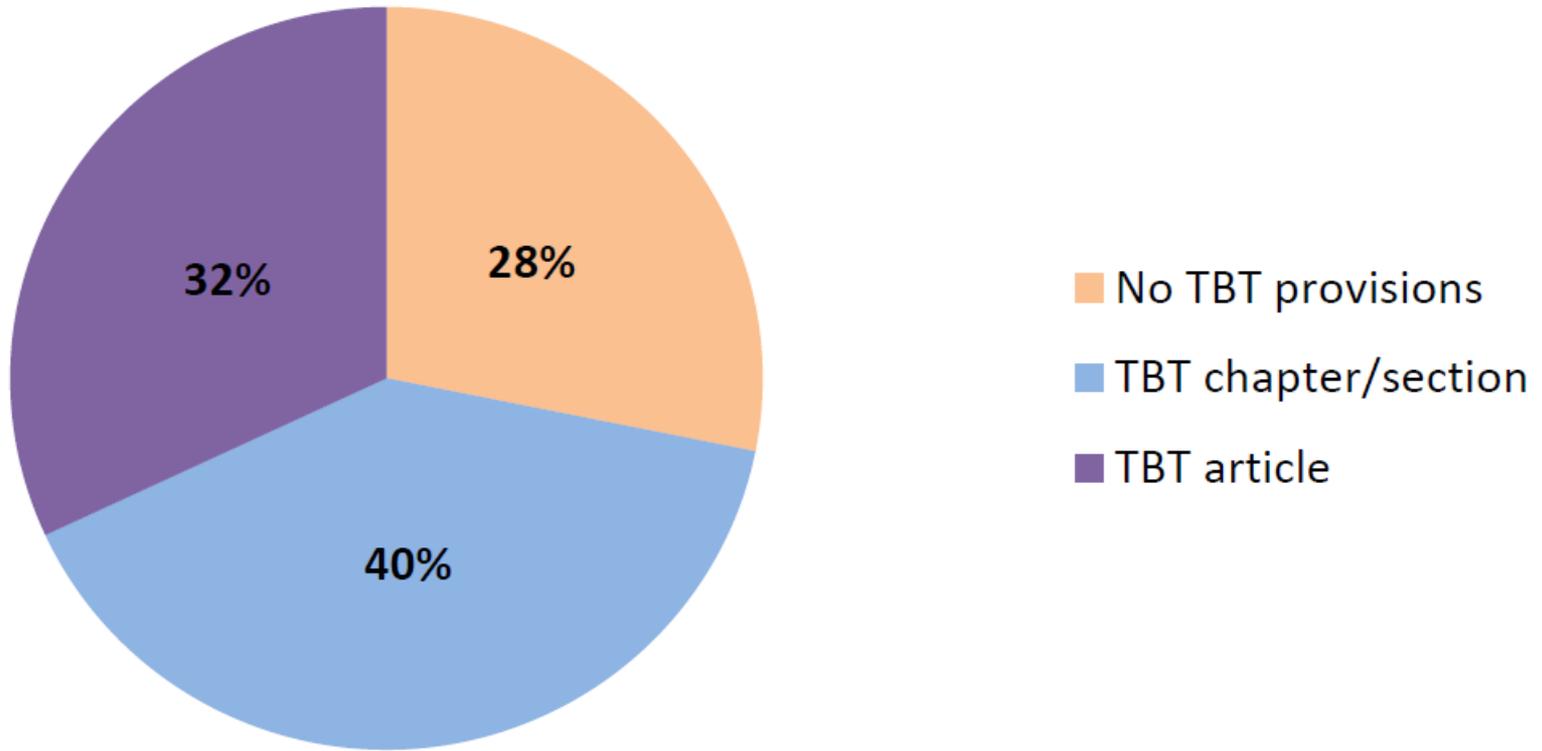


What we have looked into...

- All 250 RTAs that are in force and notified to the WTO as of December 2014.
- 12 RTAs excluded from the examination because they were superseded by subsequent RTAs. (e.g. EEA).
- 238 remaining RTAs, plus their related protocols, annexes, side letter, and other legal instruments
- Purely legal text examination, no inference of implementation
- Other bilateral TBT cooperation agreements were not included.



Overview of the agreements

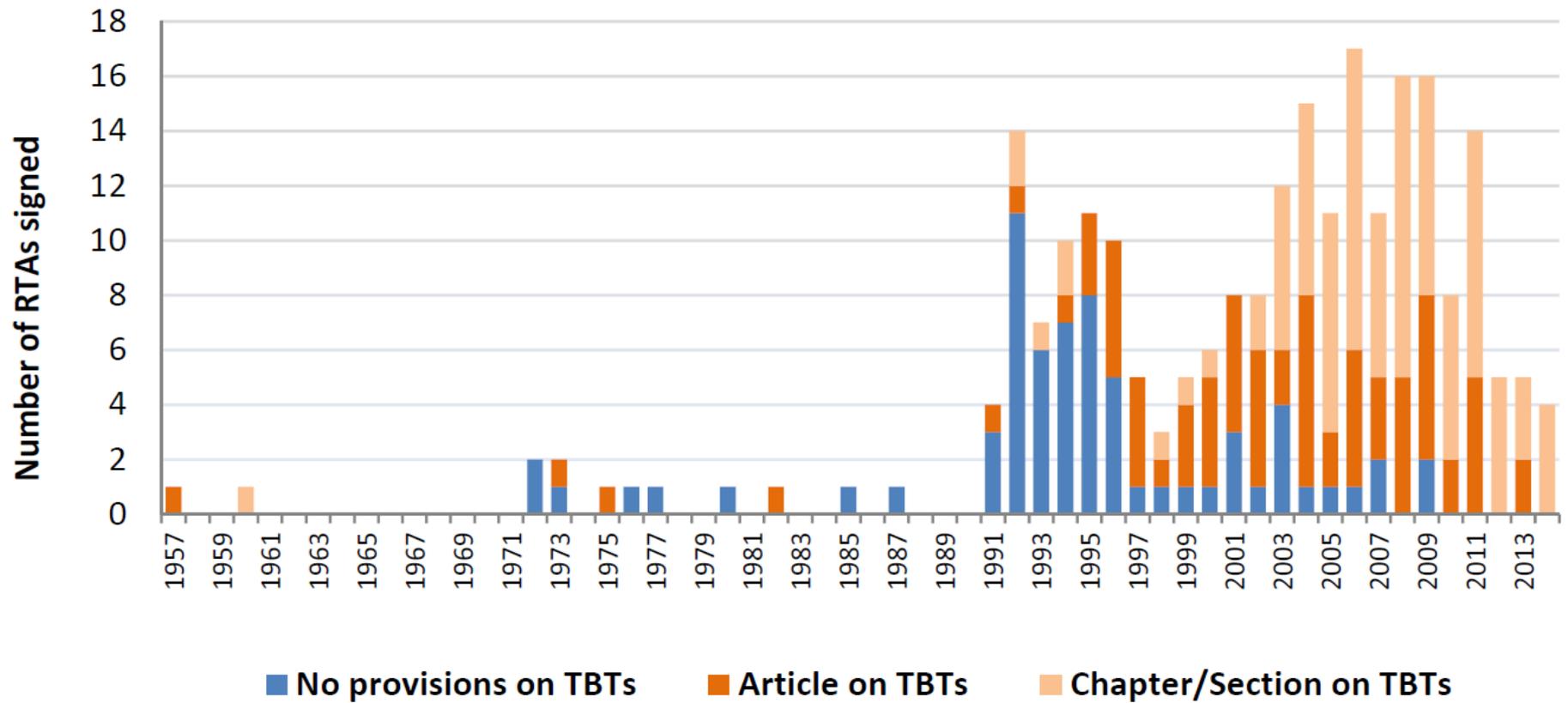




- TBT inclusion into RTAs has become more systematic since 1997.
- All RTAs after 2010 have TBT provisions.
- Until 2002, the majority of RTA included single articles on TBT
- Since 2003, on average 72% of the RTA signed each year, TBT provisions were provided in a separate chapter/section.
- A TBT chapter/section (than an article) can not be used as a proxy to characterize the “depth” of the provisions in the agreement



TBT provisions in RTAs





- Few RTAs with commitments go beyond the TBT Agreement.
- 88% (150) of the RTAs covered all three measures in TBT Agreement.
 - 40 RTAs covered metrology;
 - 12 RTAs also covered authorization procedures to sell goods.
- Only 8% (14) of the RTA covered less measures than those of the TBT Agreement.



Provision covered	TBT Chapter/ Section	TBT Article	Total	Percent
standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures	66	44	110	64.3
standards, technical regulations, conformity assessment procedures and metrology	16	12	28	16.4
standards, technical regulations, conformity assessment procedures, metrology and authorization procedures	7	5	12	7.0
technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures	1	1	2	1.2
technical regulations and standards	0	8	8	4.7
conformity assessment procedures	3	0	3	1.8
technical regulations	1	0	1	0.6

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_1787

