



SAND IN THE WHEELS: NON-TARIFF MEASURES AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION IN SADC

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AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION IN SADC**

by

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Abstract

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) comprises 15 countries with the common objective of regional integration. Member countries have been successful in reducing tariffs since 2000, but intra-regional trade has not increased as expected. One likely reason is that significant non-tariff measures (NTMs) remain. The most common NTMs in SADC are sanitary and phyto-sanitary restrictions, certification procedures, quantity control measures, other technical regulations, government procurement, investment restrictions and intellectual property rights. Some measures are legitimate, such as those relating to food safety and the introduction of invasive species, but other measures may be used to limit trade to protect domestic producers or trade restrictiveness unintentionally exceeds what is needed for the measure's non-trade objectives.

It is relatively simple to list the numerous non-tariff measures, but assessing their impact is more difficult. Two methods involve trying to measure the effect on quantity using a gravity model or by looking at the gap between world and domestic prices. Data on NTMs for the SADC region is incomplete and a greater effort at data collection is needed. However, to illustrate the methodology and potential impacts of reducing barriers, we assume SADC countries have similar NTMs as the average for Africa. The impacts on trade, output, employment and incomes of reducing these barriers are assessed using a global general equilibrium model. Depending on the initial trade flows and the magnitude and scope for removing the trade distorting effects of non-tariff measures, the increases in national exports are up to 2.2 per cent. National output, employment and incomes will also increase in all SADC countries.

Keywords: non-tariff measures, regional integration, welfare

JEL Classification: F14, F15, F16

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1. INTRODUCTION

SADC comprises 15 countries with the common objective of regional integration.² Most members eliminated or reduced their tariff barriers between the member countries by 2012. Compared with other regional economic communities in Africa, the share of intra-SADC trade at 10 per cent of the region's total trade is relatively high, but this has not increased as the tariffs were reduced. Non-tariff barriers remain and their reduction or removal would make a significant contribution to trade within the region.

What are Non-Tariff Measures?

Non-tariff measures (NTMs) are policy measures, other than ordinary customs tariffs, that can potentially have an economic effect on international trade in goods, changing quantities traded, or prices or both. A classification can be seen in table 1. NTMs may be legitimate, relating for example to food safety. Non-tariff barriers (NTBs), as distinct from non-tariff measures, refer to impediments that are designed to restrict trade for the benefit of domestic producers. NTBs may take the form of import quotas, subsidies, customs delays, technical barriers, or other systems preventing or impeding trade.

Table 1. Classification of non-tariff measures

Technical measures	A	Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary Measures (SPS)
	B	Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)
	C	Pre-Shipment Inspection And Other Formalities
Non-technical measures	D	Contingent Trade-Protective Measures
	E	Non-Automatic Licensing, Quotas, Prohibitions And Quantity-Control Measures Other Than For SPS Or TBT Reasons
	F	Price-Control Measures, Including Additional Taxes And Charges
	G	Finance Measures
	H	Measures Affecting Competition
	I	Trade-Related Investment Measures
	J	Distribution Restrictions
	K	Restrictions On Post-Sales Services
	L	Subsidies (Excluding Export Subsidies Under P7)
	M	Government Procurement Restrictions
	N	Intellectual Property
	O	Rules Of Origin
Exports	P	Export-Related Measures

Source: UNCTAD MAST (<http://unctad.org/ntm>).

The UNCTAD MAST classification of NTMs is useful in assisting transparency. The distinctly neutral definition of NTMs does not imply a direction of impact nor a judgement about the legitimacy of a measure.

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