

Meeting on compilation issues of IMTS 2010
6 – 9 December 2011, Mexico City, Mexico

**Agenda item 9:
Introduction to the updated
IMTS Compilers Manual**



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The updated IMTS Compilers Manual
Goal:

To provide further and more detailed explanation of certain recommendations and practical guidance by describing good practices applicable under different circumstances.

(The Compilers Manual will not introduce any new recommendations or encouragements in comparison to IMTS 2010. IMTS 2010 set the internationally agreed standard and the Compilers Manual gives additional guidance for their implementation and should be consistent with the recommendations and encouragements in IMTS 2010.)

The updated IMTS Compilers Manual Structure:

- **similar to the structure of the original Compilers Manual of 2004 with**
- **updates needed**
 - (i) to incorporate guidance on the implementation of new recommendations and encouragements contained in IMTS 2010, and
 - (ii) to reflect new or updated country practices.
- **follows the logic of the data compilation process:**
 - starting with [the legal framework and data sources](#) (Part I).
 - then, it covers [the overall compilation process](#) (Part II)
 - followed by [compilation issues regarding specific data items](#) (Part III)
 - and [specific categories of goods](#) (Part IV).
 - [dissemination issues](#) are covered in the final parts Metadata and dissemination (Part V) and External trade indices and seasonally adjusted data (Part VI).

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Part I Legal framework and data sources

- **Chapter 1** **Legal framework**
 - **Chapter 2** **Customs declarations and related customs records**
 - **Chapter 3** **Non-customs administrative sources**
 - **Chapter 4** **Enterprise surveys**
- **Compared with the previous Manual, this part provides more detailed information**
 - (i) on the establishment and maintenance of a legal framework within which trade statistics are collected, compiled and disseminated and
 - (ii) on the relevant data sources with country examples.
 - **It builds on and supports the new recommendations contained in IMTS 2010 regarding institutional arrangements and data sources.**

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Part II Data compilation

- Chapter 5 Institutional arrangements
- Chapter 6 Statistical territory and organization of data collection
- Chapter 7 Integration of data from different sources
- Chapter 8 Data processing and database management
- Chapter 9 Data quality: assurance, measurement and reporting
- Chapter 10 Data compilation in the case of customs unions
- Chapter 11 Integrating trade and business statistics

- covers core issues of the compilation of merchandise trade statistics.
- most of the information in this part is new.
- among the topics that are covered are institutional arrangements, integration of data from different sources, data processing, data quality and the integration of trade with business statistics.

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Part III Compilation of particular data items

- Chapter 12 Time of recording
- Chapter 13 Commodity classification
- Chapter 14 Valuation
- Chapter 15 Quantity measurement
- Chapter 16 Partner country
- Chapter 17 Mode of transport
- Chapter 17b Customs procedure code

- describes the compilation of particular data item
- special emphasis on the compilation of the new data fields introduced according to IMTS 2010 (second partner country, valuation of imports free on board (FOB), mode of transport and customs procedure code).
- Two Suggestions:
 1. Split chapter 13 in two chapters or create annex
 2. Introduce additional chapter on customs procedure codes

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Part IV Compilation of data on trade in selected categories of goods

- Chapter 18 Scope of IMTS
 - Chapter 19 Goods for processing
 - Chapter 20 Goods which cross borders as a result of transactions between related parties
 - Chapter 21 Electricity, gas, oil and water
 - Chapter 22 Ships and aircraft
 - Chapter 23 Other special cases (Goods acquired by all categories of travellers, Media, whether or not recorded, waste, fishing products, leasing, returned goods)
 - Chapter 24 Overview of data compilation for national accounts and balance of payment purposes
- Certain categories of goods that are either difficult to compile or difficult to identify separately.
 - Suggestion to combine Chapter 23 and 24.

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Part V Metadata and dissemination

- Chapter 25 Metadata
 - Chapter 26 Dissemination
- Ch 25: describes the contents of metadata for merchandise trade statistics and provides advice and examples on how to present and disseminate it;
 - Ch. 26: additional guidance and examples on topics such as confidentiality, revision policy and use of technology

Part VI External trade indices and seasonally adjusted data

- Chapter 27 External trade indices
 - Chapter 28 Seasonally adjusted data
- informative introductions to topics, including some examples. Detailed information on these topics was not part of the previous Compilers Manual.

Tasks of this meeting

1. **To review all draft chapters (chapter by chapter, section by section) and provide guidance and input for their improvement (focusing on substantive issues)**
2. **Especially, to provide country examples and fill gaps**

Considerations

1. **Given the overall updating process, no radical changes to the chapter outline and contents are expected unless there is a good justification (and it is practical)**
2. **Agenda allocates about 30 minutes per chapter, there is no time for country presentations or to discuss any country practice in detail - please submit your detailed example in writing**
3. **More time might be spend on some than other chapters, in particular some chapters will be discussed for the first time**

Considerations (continued)

5. **Chapters should stand by themselves: maybe some repetition of materials but no extensive overlaps**
6. **Space limit of 200 pages for text exclusive annexes (to keep Compilers Manual accessible and manageable); some elements to be moved to website; significant editing expected.**

Thank you for your attention!