



दि प्लास्टिक एक्स्पोर्ट प्रमोशन कौन्सिल
(भारत सरकार, वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय, वाणिज्य विभाग द्वारा प्रायोजित)

THE PLASTICS EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL
(Sponsored By The Ministry Of Commerce & Industry, Deptt. Of Commerce, Government Of India)

Ref. No. : Plexh/Cir/729

30.10.2024

To,

All Members of Plexconcil/

COA Members

Dear Sir/Madam,

Subject: World Bank's International Trade topic - Updated B-Ready International Trade Methodology Handbook and Questions for Pillar III.

This is regarding the World Bank's International Trade topic under the B-Ready Project, the revised Methodology Handbook was released on 3rd October 2024 (copy attached). In this regard, the Department of Commerce, Govt. of India is in the process of assessing the current situation of the indicators/ questions under the "International Trade" topic of B-READY.

Under the said topic, there are three Pillars and various Indicators/ Sub-Indicators and questions. The data for Pillar III are collected by the World Bank through firm level surveys.

A. The *International Trade B-READY Methodology Handbook* provides a structured framework to assess the quality of regulations, public services, and operational efficiency in international trade. The handbook defines three main pillars:

Pillar I - Quality of Regulations for International Trade: This pillar evaluates the legal framework and regulatory environment for trade, including practices that support trade (like digital trade regulations), international cooperation, and regulatory restrictions.

Pillar II - Quality of Public Services for Trade Facilitation: This examines the public services that aid trade, including digital and physical infrastructure, border management systems, and programs like Trusted Trader Programs that streamline trade compliance.

Pillar III - Operational Efficiency in Trade: Focused on the practical aspects of trading, this pillar assesses the time and costs required for export and import compliance and barriers to cross-border digital trade.

Each pillar has several categories and indicators that measure both firm-level flexibility and broader social benefits to ensure a balanced view of trade facilitation efforts. This handbook uses standardized scenarios and data from expert consultations to score economies on these parameters, providing insights into their trade readiness.

For more information please find the pdf Updated B-Ready International Trade below:

[Click here](#) to find the pdf of Updated B-Ready International Trade.

As per the revised Methodology Handbook, two questions have been added under Pillar III, as attached.

B. The Pillar III Updated Questions document outlines the methodology for assessing the **Operational Efficiency of Exporting Goods, Importing Goods, and Engaging in Digital Trade**. This pillar measures how trade-related processes impact businesses, focusing on compliance time and cost for imports and exports, as well as participation in digital trade.

The structure includes:

- **Compliance with Export Requirements:** Assessed by the time (days) and cost (percentage of product value) needed for firms to complete export requirements.
- **Compliance with Import Requirements:** Measured similarly to exports, focusing on the time and cost associated with import compliance.
- **Cross-Border Digital Trade Participation:** Evaluates the percentage of firms exporting digitally ordered goods through mail or courier.
- **Perceived Major Obstacles:** Measures firms' perceived obstacles in business transportation and customs and trade regulations, indicating challenges in operational efficiency.

For more information please find the pdf of Pillar III Updated Questions below:

[Click here](#) to find the Pillar III Updated Questions.

Members are requested to consider it as a an outreach exercise for the International Trade topic.

This is for your information.

Regards,

Bharti Parave
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The Plastics Export Promotion Council