

While the NAFTA itself provides the framework for accession, the three NAFTA countries must still work out the procedures for accession.

Tariff Acceleration

The Government of Canada will participate in negotiations with the U.S. and Mexican governments to accelerate tariff elimination under the NAFTA. Article 302 of the NAFTA provides for accelerated elimination of duty on goods traded under the Agreement. The NAFTA provides for the eventual elimination of most tariffs on goods of North American origin traded among the three countries.

While tariffs on some products traded between Canada and Mexico were eliminated on January 1, 1994, others will be phased out in 5 or 10 equal annual stages. Tariffs on goods traded between Canada and the United States will continue to be eliminated at the rate negotiated under the FTA, but could be eliminated faster under the NAFTA accelerated tariff elimination process.

On January 6, 1994, International Trade Minister Roy MacLaren and Finance Minister Paul Martin invited interested parties to submit proposals for early tariff elimination under the NAFTA. They have also asked for comments on the early tariff removal proposals already put forward by industries in the three countries. The list of products includes dry beans, bedding components, flat glass, major household appliances, potatoes, and wine.

As in the FTA, the NAFTA accelerated tariff elimination process is industry-driven. The Government proceeds to negotiate only on those requests that are in the national interest and enjoy broadly based support in the industry concerned.

NAFTA Committees and Working Groups

Various committees and working groups are established under the NAFTA for the smooth and successful operation of the Agreement.

The following are committees and working groups currently established under the Agreement.

Committees

1. Committee on Trade in Goods
2. Committee on Trade in Worn Clothing
3. Committee on Agricultural Trade
 - Advisory Committee on Private Commercial Disputes Regarding Agricultural Goods
4. Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures