Analytical Approaches to Quantifying Economic Effects of Non-Tariff Measures
Michael J. Ferrantino
U.S. International Trade Commission


The views expressed in this paper are solely those of the author, and do not represent the views of the U.S. International Trade Commission or any of its Commissioners.
The Analysis Gap

• As tariffs have been lowered, we suspect that the effect of NTMs may now be relatively a lot more important.

• However, our ability to place a number on the economic effects of tariffs is still much greater than for NTMs.
I. The Economic Analyst Has A Different Job Than the Policymaker, Negotiator or Trade Lawyer
II. The Economic Effects of Non-Tariff Measures Are Often Harder To Quantify Than Those of Tariffs
III. Thus, it is often helpful to think of non-tariff measures as being something like tariffs.
IV. Sometimes, It Is Less Helpful To Think of Non-Tariff Measures As Being Something Like Tariffs
V. Multiple NTMs On The Same Product Can Have a Cumulative Effect, Which Is Not Additive
VI. There Is No Substitute For Product- and Measure-Specific Institutional Information