

Structured Product Description (SPD) Process and Software

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Description of the SPD Process

- **The SPD process is a systematic approach to describing a product based on its price determining characteristics.**
- **These SPDs, arrayed by basic headings, were developed using the BLS-CPI product check lists. They require substantial modification to reflect a global economy.**

Project Goals for SPD Software

- **Create Regional (REG) Structured Product Descriptions**
- **Create Regional product lists**
- **Facilitate Region and Country dialogue**
- **Facilitate building the ring list**

Key Functionality

- **Create REG SPDs**
- **Create products (REGs and COs)**
- **Create electronic product files**
- **Print reports**
- **Compare products across (1) REG or (2) for selected countries**
- **Reflect changes in global master file in REG copy of global file**

Benefits of Software

- **Facilitates an intensively manual task**
- **Allows comparisons of products across countries based on selection of core criteria**
- **Creates audit trail for REG/CO**
- **Detailed installation and application manuals written to minimize training needs**

Complexities in the Environment

- **Pre-surveys and REG/CO interactions started in REGs before revised SPDs were available for food, clothing and footwear and before software was available. Hence, each region has its own process in place.**
- **REGs submit changes to global SPDs to GO; REG SPD is always a subset of global file.**

Complexities, cont.

- **Staff support to develop global file is resource intensive for the Global Office**

What Next

- **Testing in the regions to (1) identify software errors and (2) evaluate SPD software**
- **Evaluate requests for enhancements**

What Next

- **Regions desirous of the flexibility to independently change and maintain their own SPD files, that is, distribute the SPD functionality**
 - **5 independent Regional files**
 - **Staff support for functionality**