

# Research on green trade barriers in China's foreign trade

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Abstract: With the development of world economic globalization, China has been deeply integrated into the global economy. At the same time, with the increasing improvement of China's world economic level, the environmental problems caused by economic development are becoming more and more serious, followed by a new type of non-tariff trade barriers, that is, the formation of green trade barriers. At this stage, the serious impact of green trade barriers on China's foreign trade has greatly restricted the development of China's foreign trade. This paper briefly introduces the rise, performance and causes of green trade barriers, mainly introduces the impact of green trade barriers on China's foreign trade, and expounds the countermeasures to actively deal with green trade barriers.

Key words: foreign trade; green trade barriers; Countermeasures

Preface: In the world economic development, trade can gradually become the core of environmental protection. However, the proposal of green trade barriers, to a large extent, limits the development of China's foreign trade, so in the actual development process, the relevant personnel should pay attention to it, so as to achieve the efficient development of China's foreign trade. Effectively breaking the green trade fortress can not only enhance the competitiveness of China's foreign trade, but also realize the efficient green development of China's foreign trade.

## 1 The rise and performance of green trade barriers

Green trade barrier can also be called environmental barrier. It specifically refers to the environmental protection regulations and standards that some countries in the international trade take the protection of ecological resources, the maintenance of biodiversity, the promotion of environment and human health as the main purpose to create relatively harsh and higher than internationally recognized requirements, which most countries can not fully accept. On the basis of this, this paper puts forward the access restrictions and corresponding prohibition measures for the import of foreign goods. From the perspective of setting sources, green barriers can be divided into government setting type and non-government setting type. Among them, the government setting type refers to the setting of non-tariff barriers by the government in the form of legislation and economic policy under a series of green trade technology standards. At the same time, the main contents of green trade barriers set by the government are green tariff, green technology standard, green environmental label, green quarantine and health system and corresponding environmental trade sanctions. The non-governmental setting type refers to the refusal to use and consumption of products that have adverse effects on environmental protection due to the different environmental awareness of the public in different countries, so as to realize the trade barriers on imported products<sup>[1]</sup>.

# 2 Causes of green trade barriers

## 2.1. The promotion of ecological environment status

At present, countries all over the world pay more and more attention to ecological environment protection, ecological resource conservation and human health. With the rapid development of national industry, the world economy is also in a state of rapid growth, followed by serious destruction of resources and environment and pollution. The production of these pollution has seriously affected the normal production and life of human beings, so it has attracted the attention of the international community. In this case, people's way of thinking, values and consumer behavior have changed to varying degrees. The demand for green products that are harmless to people's health and can not pollute the environment is on the rise. In this case, the United Nations Environment programme conducted a corresponding survey, and the results show that almost all countries are deeply worried about the deterioration of the environment, and support the promulgation and implementation of environmental measures [2].

### 2.2 The need of market competition.

For a long time in the past, limited economy was the key direction of each country's development, and this development trend gradually became the trend at that time. At the same time, the economic environment also required the country's economic development. The actual proportion in international trade determined the country's economic status in international development. With the rapid growth of the economic level of the majority of developed countries, their competitiveness in the international trade market is also rising. At this time, the developed countries will choose to use their own developed economic level and environmental protection technology to appropriately improve the environmental standards of international trade. Through this waterproof application, not only can it improve the environmental standards to achieve the purpose of protecting the national brand, but also can greatly reduce the cost advantage of developing countries' products, thus affecting the international trade activities of developing countries.

#### 2.3 Imperfect trade rules

The current international trade rules are not perfect. For international trade and environmental issues, the relevant international departments have not issued any special documents to regulate them. In this case, developed countries will not be bound by GATT and the world trade organization. It further promotes the environmental protection as a pretext for unscrupulously improving the environmental standards of developing countries' commodities, which greatly hinders the trade development of developing countries<sup>[3]</sup>.

# 3. The impact of green trade barrier on China's foreign trade

Green trade barriers also have a great impact on the development of China's foreign trade: first, as a relatively fast developing country among developing countries, a large part of China's export trade belongs to the primary stage of low value-added products, and the export market is mainly concentrated in developed countries and some emerging industrial countries. However, under the influence of the strict standards of green trade barriers and the strict conformity assessment procedures, for the developed areas with advanced environmental protection technology and early start, they began to strictly follow the relevant rules and policies of green trade barriers. Furthermore, it has a serious impact on the export scope and quantity of some products, especially on agricultural products, food, textile and other products. According to the statistics of the United Nations Conference on trade development, and nearly 7.5 billion of our goods are impeded in the export process each year.

Second, the impact of green trade barriers on the cost of China's export products and the economic benefits of enterprises is also very serious. Under the requirements of green trade barriers, products must be guaranteed to form a pollution-free and pollution-free management system from the design link to the actual production, sales, and even the final scrapping process. In this case, enterprises should increase investment related to environmental protection if they want to achieve efficient trade activities. Specifically, it includes: investment in inspection and testing of related products, certification of finished products and other procedures and expenses, which greatly increases the cost of products and seriously reduces the competitive advantage in price of products due to the abundant labor force in

China<sup>[4]</sup>.

Third, the types and structure of China's imported products and the introduction of foreign capital have also changed greatly under the influence of green trade barriers. A few years ago, China's development in the introduction of foreign capital has achieved great success, but because of the introduction of a large number of foreign capital, and many overseas investors have taken advantage of China's relatively lax environmental standards and the relatively low environmental awareness of the Chinese people, as well as the strong desire for economic development in many sectors and industries. Industries that are not compatible with green laws and regulations, or even prohibited, will be transferred to China. Specific industries include chemical industry, printing and dyeing, electroplating, pesticide, etc. In this case, China's ecological environment has been seriously damaged, but also increased the pressure of China's environmental protection.

## 4. Countermeasures to actively deal with green trade barriers

#### 4.1 Fight for the initiative

In the face of the constraints of green trade barriers, we should adhere to the principles and actively defend them. In the actual process of development, many countries have made use of the WTO dispute settlement procedures, and have launched a positive struggle against green barriers, and have achieved great results. Under the influence of this kind of successful experience, we should calmly face the unreasonable green trade barrier and strive for it. For many developed countries that ignore the principle of discrimination and make environmental standards higher than their own products for China's export products, China's relevant personnel should actively defend in accordance with the principles of civil treatment and most favored nation treatment stipulated in bilateral or multilateral trade agreements, and regard the principle of special care for developing countries in environmental treaty agreements as China's special treatment for developing countries. Foreign trade attaches great importance to the advantages of easy development and solves this problem through bilateral consultations and negotiations<sup>[5]</sup>.

#### 4.2 Strengthen cooperation

As a developing country at the forefront of development in the world, in the actual process of foreign trade development, it should always keep in touch with other countries, further enhance the unity and cooperation with other developing countries, and speak on behalf of developing countries in specific international affairs, so as to maximize the relative strength and joint force of interest groups in developing countries strong. It shall actively participate in the formulation of relevant international trade and environmental protection treaties to enhance international cooperation in the field of environment and trade. At the same time, in the development process of multilateral cooperation, according to the actual principle of "who pollutes, who governs". On the one hand, the developed countries should bear the historical responsibility. On the other hand, we can provide corresponding technical and financial assistance to developing countries.

## 4.3 Establish the concept of "green"

In the process of the gradual deepening of China's sustainable development strategy, our people's awareness of environmental protection and the development of green economy have also been greatly improved. In this case, people's requirements for environmental protection of products are also increasing. In the future development, green products will become the mainstream of development trends. At the present stage, China attaches more and more importance on "sustainable development". With environmental protection as the core, many important decisions have been made. At the same time, the investment in environmental protection is also increasing. In the trade industry, the efficient integration of environmental protection and the rules and objectives of international trade has been supported by more and more consumers, resulting in the increasing proportion of green products<sup>[6]</sup>.

## **Conclusion:**

To sum up, the development speed and level of international trade at this stage have been improved to varying degrees, and the relevant environmental standards have also been greatly improved. However, many developed countries begin to use environmental protection as an excuse to restrict the foreign trade development of developing countries, and then there are green trade barriers. These problems affect the development of China's foreign trade. In the face of these problems, China's relevant departments must pay more attention to them and face the green trade barriers in China's foreign trade with a positive attitude. In the process of international development, we can further realize the healthy development of China's foreign trade by establishing the "green" concept, strengthening cooperation and striving for the initiative.

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