

RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR MEETINGS OF
THE COMMITTEE ON SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Approved by the Council for Trade in Goods on 11 June 1997

At its meeting of 19-20 March 1997, the Committee agreed that the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the General Council (WT/L/161) shall apply *mutatis mutandis* for meetings of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures except as otherwise provided in the Working Procedures (G/SPS/1) as established or as subsequently amended by the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and except as provided below:

- (i) Rule 5 of Chapter II (Agenda) is not applicable.
- (ii) Rule 6 of Chapter II (Agenda) shall be modified to read as follows:

The first item of business at each meeting shall be the consideration and approval of the agenda. Representatives or the Chairperson may suggest amendments to the proposed agenda, or additions to the agenda under "Other Business". Representatives shall provide the Chairperson or the Secretariat, and the other Members directly concerned, whenever possible, advance notice of items intended to be raised under "Other Business".

- (iii) Rules 12, 13 and 14 of Chapter V (Officers) shall be modified to read as follows:

Rule 12

The Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures shall elect a Chairperson¹ from among the representatives of Members. The election shall take place at the first meeting of the year and shall take effect at the end of the meeting. The Chairperson shall hold office until the end of the first meeting of the following year.

¹The Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures shall apply the relevant guidelines contained in the "Guidelines for Appointment of Officers to WTO Bodies" (WT/L/31 dated 7 February 1995).

Rule 13

If the Chairperson is absent from any meeting or part thereof, the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures shall appoint an interim Chairperson for that meeting or that part of the meeting.

Rule 14

If the Chairperson can no longer perform the functions of the office, the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures shall appoint an interim Chairperson to perform those functions pending the election of a new Chairperson.

(iv) Rule 16 of Chapter VI (Conduct of Business) is not applicable.

(v) Rule 24 of Chapter VI (Conduct of Business) shall be modified to read as follows:

In order to expedite the conduct of business, the Chairperson may invite representatives that wish to express their support for a given proposal to show their hands; thus, only representatives with dissenting views or wishing to make explicit points or proposals would actually be invited to make a statement. This procedure shall only be applied in order to avoid undue repetition of points already made, and will not preclude any representative who so wishes from taking the floor.

(vi) Rule 33 of Chapter VII (Decision-Making) shall be modified to read as follows:

In accordance with Article 12:1 of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, the Committee shall reach its decisions by consensus.

(vii) Rule 34 of Chapter VII (Decision-Making) is not applicable.

(viii) Rule 36 of Chapter IX (Records) shall be replaced by the following:

Records of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures meetings shall take the form of a summary report to be prepared by the Secretariat. Any delegation may, at their request, verify those portions of the draft report containing their statements prior to the issuance of the Secretariat summary report in accordance with the customary GATT practice. Delegations that wish to avail themselves of this verification procedure should so indicate to the Secretariat within 10 days of the close of the meeting concerned.