

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

**DECISION TO MODIFY AND EXTEND THE PROVISIONAL PROCEDURE TO
MONITOR THE PROCESS OF INTERNATIONAL HARMONIZATION**

Adopted by the Committee on 25 June 2003

The Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures,

Having regard to Articles 3.5 and 12.4 of the SPS Agreement;

Taking into account the provisional procedure to monitor the use of international standards adopted by the Committee at its meeting of 15-16 October 1997 (G/SPS/11); the Committee's decisions of July 1999 and of July 2001 to extend this provisional procedure, and to decide by July 2003 whether to continue with the same procedure, amend it or develop another one (G/SPS/17);

Considering that in reviewing the operation of the provisional procedure, it has noted that the procedure provided an effective mechanism for Members to raise specific standards-related issues;

Considering the discussion at its meeting of 24-25 June 2003;

Decides as follows:

1. The provisional procedure to monitor the use of international standards, as modified, is extended for a further 36 months.
 2. The Committee will review the operation of the provisional procedure by July 2006, with a view to deciding then whether to continue with the same procedure, amend it or develop another one.
 3. The Committee encourages Members to make use of this procedure to address their concerns regarding specific international standards or the need for such standards.
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