

**ESTABLISHMENT OF A LIST OF APPROVED OR REGISTERED ESTABLISHMENTS
AND PLANTS FOR THE IMPORT OR TRANSIT OF ANIMAL BY-PRODUCTS**

Communication from the European Union

The following communication, received on 7 January 2011, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of the European Union.

1. By way of notification G/SPS/N/EEC/386 (21 September 2010) the European Union (EU) has informed WTO Members of its draft implementing measures for *Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 laying down health rules as regards animal by-products and derived products not intended for human consumption and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002*. Those measures are to be applied as from 4 March 2011.

2. In accordance with Article 41(3)(b) of Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009, consignments of animal by-products or derived products which are imported into the European Union, or which are in transit, must come from establishments or plants approved or registered by the competent authority of the third country of origin and listed by that authority for that purpose. In addition, as stated in Article 30 of the draft implementing measures (notified under G/SPS/N/EEC/386), such a list of establishments or plants shall be entered into the TRACES system.

3. TRACES (see document G/SPS/GEN/489 of 18 May 2004) is a central database to ensure the traceability of animals and certain types of animal products both from outside and within the European Union.

4. Under the current import rules on animal by-products, which are laid down in Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 (G/SPS/N/EEC/103 of 24 November 2000), the list of approved and registered plants in third countries from where animal by-products could be exported to the European Union is subject to a bilateral agreement between the exporting country and the EU member State of importation.

5. In view of the modification to the listing under the new EU legislation on animal by-products, TRACES will integrate all information regarding approved and registered establishments in third countries into a single central database at EU level. This will be a significant improvement which will result in a reduction of administrative burden for the import of animal by-products. In addition, third countries will benefit from the fact that they will be able to maintain and update their lists of establishments directly in TRACES.

How does the new database work in practice?

6. The initial introduction of data on establishments in third countries into TRACES will be undertaken by the European Commission (Commission). On the Commission website¹, technical specifications for the competent authorities of third countries with all relevant information on the necessary data which has to be provided will be published. In order to avoid disruptions of trade, third countries should communicate this information to the European Union under the specified format well before 4 March 2011.

7. The Commission offers WTO Members the opportunity to participate in a special training where further information on the practical handling of TRACES will be provided. Following the training, participating WTO Members will also receive direct access to TRACES, together with instructions to enable them to maintain their lists in the database. Training will be organised in the beginning of February 2011.

8. Provisionally, separate trainings in English and Spanish are foreseen at this stage. WTO Members with an interest in those trainings are asked to communicate this to the address below, so that they can be invited to the trainings. Trainings will be held in Brussels, and are open to experts from any WTO Member or their representatives residing in Brussels.

9. Should a WTO Member not wish to participate in the training, in view of the limited scope of exports of animal by-products and derived products to the European Union, it is invited to transmit, either before 4 March 2011 or prior to sending consignments to the European Union at a later stage, the necessary information regarding its list of approved and registered plants to the Commission, so that the information can be made available through TRACES.

10. For any technical queries, the following information point in the European Commission may be contacted:

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¹ http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/biosafety/establishments/third_country/index_en.htm