

**NATIONAL PLAN FOR THE PREVENTION OF ENTRY AND
TRANSMISSION OF PESTS AND DISEASES
THROUGH WASTE REGULATION**

Communication from Argentina

The following communication, received on 27 October 2011, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Argentina.

I. THE IMPORTANCE OF BORDER CONTROLS AND THE ISSUE OF WASTE OF FOREIGN PROVENANCE

1. Argentina has an extensive border - over 14,000 kilometres long - across which animals, plants and animal and plant parts, products and by-products move back and forth, rendering it essential to strengthen measures to prevent the entry and dissemination of any pests and diseases they may be carrying.
2. Argentina, as an agricultural exporter par excellence, must seriously tighten up its sanitary barrier controls to preserve the sanitary status it has achieved, which allows it to sell its agri-food products on international markets.
3. The National Agriculture and Food Quality and Health Service (SENASA) is responsible for implementing national policies designed to prevent, control and eradicate animal diseases and plant pests and safeguard Argentina's zoosanitary and phytosanitary heritage.
4. It is most important to know that the movements of persons, means of transport and goods generated by constant and growing international trade and tourism lead to the arrival in Argentina of waste and other materials that are potential vectors of pests or diseases which may endanger human, animal and plant health as well as the environment in general.
5. SENASA's Risk Analysis Unit has concluded that organic waste arriving in Argentina from abroad presents a risk to human, animal and plant health.
6. Air, sea, river and land transport in Argentina between regions with different sanitary statuses may also spread agents capable of adversely affecting the sanitary status that the country has achieved. Consequently, ports, airports, land transport terminals, internal sanitary barriers and any possible point of entry or transit of waste or other materials that may be vectors of pests or diseases must adopt the necessary measures to protect the country's sanitary status.
7. Over the years, SENASA has established various standards to strengthen this concept as well as measures aimed at maintaining the epidemiological status of Argentina. In 2010,

Resolution No. 714 was issued, approving the National Plan for the Prevention of Entry and Transmission of Pests and Diseases through Waste Regulation.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE NATIONAL PLAN FOR THE PREVENTION OF ENTRY AND TRANSMISSION OF PESTS AND DISEASES THROUGH WASTE REGULATION

8. The overall objectives are:

- To control and supervise waste that may be a vector of pests or diseases, whether it be of foreign provenance or in domestic circulation; to prevent its entry or order its immobilization or destruction as appropriate; and
- to establish the requirements that must be met by producers of this waste and the conditions under which the collection, transport, treatment and final disposal thereof must be carried out.

9. The specific objectives are:

- To improve the regulatory framework and control procedures in line with developments and growth in movements at the borders;
- to register and continually supervise the various actors involved in waste management;
- to develop training workshops not only for operational staff themselves but also for the government bodies and private companies involved in the various stages of the process of traceability of waste of foreign provenance; and
- to promote the establishment of working groups bringing together the various official organizations with direct or indirect jurisdiction over border inspection posts in order to raise awareness, disseminate information and establish cooperation agreements among them, taking into account each organization's area of action.

III. STRUCTURE OF THE PLAN

10. The National Plan is being carried out by the Coordinating Office of the National Waste Regulation Plan under the direction of SENASA's Environmental Management Unit.

11. An Assistance Commission, composed of representatives of the National Directorate of Regional Operations, the National Directorate of Animal Health, the National Directorate of Plant Protection, the National Directorate of Agriculture and Food Safety and Quality, the National Directorate of Agricultural Chemicals, Veterinary Products and Food, the National Directorate of Technology and Administration and the Environmental Management Unit, is responsible for establishing the strategic outlines for implementing the National Waste Regulation Plan and for risk profiling in the field of animal and plant health.

12. SENASA's Regional Coordinating Offices are responsible for the operational implementation of the National Waste Regulation Plan.

13. The operational stages of the Plan entail:

- The registration of operators. A Registry of Service Providers of the National Waste Regulation Plan has been established and will operate within the scope of SENASA's Environmental Management Unit;
- the supervision and control of vessels, aircraft and land vehicles that enter national territory;
- periodic checks of waste collection points, transport vehicles and treatment plants; and
- the implementation of a system of penalties provided for in Decree No. 1585/96.

14. Resolution No. 714/10 is available online in Spanish at:

<http://www.senasa.gov.ar/Archivos/File/File3941-anexos-714.pdf>

<http://www.senasa.gov.ar/contenido.php?to=n&in=1447&ino=1447&io=14923>
