

**AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING THE ADDITIVES AND PROCESSING
AIDS IN FOOD, BEVERAGES AND FOOD SUPPLEMENTS,
THE USE THEREOF AND HEALTH PROVISIONS**

Communication from Mexico

The following communication, dated 18 July 2012, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Mexico.

1. Pursuant to paragraph 3(a) of Annex B to the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, Mexico hereby reports that the agreement establishing the additives and processing aids in food, beverages and food supplements, the use thereof and health provisions was published the *Diario Oficial de la Federación* (Mexican Official Journal) on 16 July 2012.
2. The agreement specifies the additives and processing aids that may be used in these products and the relevant health provisions. The substances permitted for use as product additives and processing aids are divided into 11 annexes listing, for each food additive or group of food additives, the categories of product in which an additive may be used, and indicating, where appropriate, maximum use levels.
3. The agreement is a measure to protect the health of the population. Mexico needs to ensure that products destined for human use or consumption are fit for that purpose, by exercising proper control over the additives used in their production; as some of the substances that may be used as additives in producing food, beverages and food supplements can have toxic effects or pose other health risks, it is necessary to clearly identify these substances and to restrict or ban their use.
4. The agreement is available in Spanish at:
http://www.dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5259470&fecha=16/07/2012,
http://www.dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5259472&fecha=16/07/2012,
or from the National Enquiry Point (normasomc@economia.gob.mx).
5. Lastly, Mexico underlines that this communication is being sent for purposes of transparency and in order to provide Members with further information on the Mexican regulatory process.