

NATIONAL TICK (*BOOPHILUS* SPP.) CONTROL CAMPAIGN

Communication from Mexico

The following communication, received on 21 September 2012, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Mexico.

1. Pursuant to Article 7 of and paragraph 3(b) of Annex B to the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, Mexico hereby advises WTO Members that the **Decision establishing the national tick (*Boophilus* spp.) control campaign** was published in the Mexican Official Journal on 10 September 2012.
2. The notified Decision establishes the national tick (*Boophilus* spp.) control campaign, which involves controlling animal health on Mexican territory through the diagnosis, prevention, control and eradication of animal diseases and pests in order to promote, *inter alia*, the production and quality of livestock products. The tick (*Boophilus* spp.) is a haematophagous ectoparasite that causes a deterioration in the health of infested animals and results primarily in lower meat and milk production as well as the transmission of diseases such as bovine babesiosis and anaplasmosis, which damage hides, reduce productivity, restrict the introduction of highly specialized breeds and may occasionally cause death in some animals, thereby adversely affecting livestock farming.
3. The publication of this Decision establishes the national tick (*Boophilus* spp.) control campaign, as well as the applicable animal health measures for the protection of areas free from infestation by this ectoparasite. The Decision updates the measures contained in Mexican Official Standard NOM-019-ZOO-1994 "National Campaign against Ticks (*Boophilus* spp.)", published on 19 May 1995 in the Mexican Official Journal, which established restrictions on the movement of livestock within tick-infested areas or to tick-free areas.
4. The Decision is available in Spanish at <http://www.dof.gob.mx> and http://dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5267408&fecha=10/09/2012 and from the National Enquiry Point (normasomc@economia.gob.mx).
5. Lastly, Mexico wishes to state that this communication is being made for purposes of transparency, without prejudice to the country's rights and obligations under the SPS Agreement.