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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

**A NEW REGULATORY FRAMEWORK
FOR FEDERAL FOOD INSPECTION DISCUSSION DOCUMENT**

COMMUNICATION FROM CANADA

The following communication, received on 11 October 2013, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of Canada.

1. The Government of Canada would like to inform Members of its proposal for a new Regulatory Framework for Federal Food Inspection. This could impact Canada's trading partners.

2. Passage of the Safe Food for Canadians Act (SFCA) in November 2012 sets the stage for important changes to Canada's food safety system. New regulations are required to bring the SFCA into force.

3. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is proposing to draw together federal food inspection regulations in Canada into one overarching system. The CFIA is proposing to replace 13 federal food inspection regulations with one set of regulations that include:

- horizontal provisions applying to all food imported and prepared for trade inter-provincially (e.g. licensing, preventative controls, outcome-based requirements, traceability, record-keeping, review and redress mechanisms);
- commodity-specific safety requirements (e.g. fresh fruit and vegetable), commodity-specific trade and consumer protection provisions (e.g. labelling, standards of identity); and
- complementary regulations regarding disclosure of information and administrative monetary penalties.

4. Canada notified the New Regulatory Framework for Federal Food Inspection: Discussion Document to the WTO in G/SPS/N/CAN/700 (8 July 2013) and G/TBT/N/CAN/394 (19 July 2013). This discussion document sets out proposed elements of a broad framework for new federal food inspection regulations and can be found at:

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/food/action-plan/food-safety-regulatory-forum/presentations/discussion-document/eng/1370029593829/1370029641557> (English)

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/aliments/plan-d-action/forum-sur-la-reglementation-de-la-salubrite-des-al/exposes-presentes-dans-le-cadre-du-forum/document-de-travail/fra/1370029593829/1370029641557> (French)

5. WTO Members have until 30 November 2013 to provide comments on the proposed framework. Responses received as a result of this consultation will be considered in drafting the regulations.

6. In spring 2014, a Notice of Regulatory Intent will be notified for consultation and will contain a discussion draft of the proposed new regulations as well as interpretive guidelines developed to support the proposed new regulatory framework. At that time, Members will have the opportunity to comment on the draft of the proposed regulations.

7. The Safe Food for Canadians Act and associated regulations are anticipated to come into force in January 2015.
 8. Canada encourages Members to comment on the New Regulatory Framework: Discussion Document currently under consultation.
 9. Comments can be submitted directly to: CFIA-Modernisation-ACIA@inspection.gc.ca.
 10. Canada will provide an update on the status of this initiative and advise you of next steps at the March 2014 WTO SPS Committee meeting.
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