



Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

**ANNUAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 6
OF THE AGREEMENT ON THE APPLICATION OF SANITARY
AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES**

NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT¹

Article 6 of the SPS Agreement requires that measures take into account pest- or disease-free areas or areas of low pest or disease prevalence. This concept is frequently referred to as "regionalization". At the 2-3 April 2008 meeting, the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures adopted guidelines to further the practical implementation of Article 6.² These guidelines are intended to provide assistance to Members in the implementation of Article 6 by improving transparency, exchange of information, predictability, confidence and credibility between importing and exporting Members.

The guidelines require the Secretariat to prepare an annual report to the Committee on implementation of Article 6 based on the information provided by Members concerning:

- a. requests for recognition of pest- or disease-free areas or areas of low pest or disease prevalence;
- b. determinations on whether to recognize a pest- or disease-free area or area of low pest or disease prevalence; and/or
- c. Members' experiences in the implementation of Article 6 and the provision of relevant background information by Members on their decisions to other interested Members.

The report covers the period from 1 April 2018 until 31 March 2019, based on information provided by Members through notifications and information presented during SPS Committee meetings. This information was frequently provided under the agenda item "Pest- and or Disease-Free Areas - Article 6". Relevant information provided under other agenda items is also included in the report. A list of notifications related to Article 6 is contained in section 4; and section 5 lists the relevant specific trade concerns.

1 REQUESTS FOR RECOGNITION OF PEST- OR DISEASE-FREE AREAS OR AREAS OF LOW PEST OR DISEASE PREVALENCE

1.1 July 2018 meeting (G/SPS/R/92/Rev.1)

1.1.1 Brazil – Freedom from FMD with vaccination

1.1. Brazil drew the Committee's attention to OIE Resolution No. 22 of May 2018 regarding the recognition of the FMD status of OIE members, highlighting the designation of the entire territory of Brazil as an area free of the disease where vaccination was practised, with the exception of the State of Santa Catarina, which had maintained the status of free zone without vaccination since 2008. Brazil also informed the Committee that it expected to be recognized as an FMD-free country without vaccination by 2023.

¹ This document has been prepared under the Secretariat's own responsibility and is without prejudice to the positions of Members or to their rights and obligations under the WTO.

² G/SPS/48.

1.1.2 Costa Rica – Official OIE recognition of Costa Rica as a country free from classical swine fever

1.2. Costa Rica informed the Committee of the official OIE recognition as a country free from classical swine fever (G/SPS/GEN/1638). For over 21 years, Costa Rica's National Animal Health Service (SENASA) had implemented a series of measures for the surveillance, control, prevention and eradication of the disease. Costa Rica further explained that during the 86th General Session of the OIE, held in May 2018, the Assembly had adopted Resolution No. 29, "Recognition of the Classical Swine Fever Status of Members", including Costa Rica in the list of members recognized as being free of classical swine fever, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 15.2 of the Terrestrial Code. In the interests of transparency and in accordance with Article 6 of the SPS Agreement, Costa Rica encouraged Members to take note of this recognition, which reflected intensive efforts by both the public and private sectors to promote animal and public health both in Costa Rica and at the global level.

1.1.3 Madagascar – OIE recognition of freedom from peste des petits ruminants

1.3. Madagascar informed the Committee that it had been officially declared as free from peste des petits ruminants during the 86th General Session of the World Assembly of OIE Delegates. To date, there had never been any suspected cases of the disease in the country. Madagascar thanked all of its partners who had provided technical and financial assistance in achieving the outcome, namely OIE, FAO, Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), and SADC through the Africa Solidarity Trust Fund.

1.1.4 Mexico – Declaration of an area free from fruit flies of the genus *Anastrepha* (G/SPS/GEN/1616)

1.4. Mexico informed the Committee of the declaration of several areas as free from fruit flies of the quarantine-significant genus *Anastrepha*, as circulated in document G/SPS/GEN/1616. These areas included the municipalities of San Dimas and the northern and south-eastern region of the municipality of Pueblo Nuevo in the State of Durango; Burgos and Méndez in the State of Tamaulipas; and Monte Escobedo in the State of Zacatecas. Phytosanitary measures would be applied according to the Regulation implementing the Federal Law on Plant Health and the Mexican Official Standard (NOM-075-FITO-1997). Mexico further noted that the Decisions declaring the free areas had entered into force on 24 April 2018, one day after their publication in the Official Journal, and were available for consultation in Spanish.

1.2 November 2018 meeting (G/SPS/R/93)

1.2.1 Mexico – Self-declaration as a country historically free from African swine fever

1.5. Mexico informed the Committee about its self-declaration as a country historically free from African swine fever (G/SPS/GEN/1641). Mexico explained that the self-declaration contained information on African swine fever in Mexico; early detection systems; species susceptible to African swine fever in Mexico; and measures for maintaining ASF-free status. Mexico also reported that this communication had been submitted to the SPS Committee for purposes of transparency and in order to provide Members with further information on the current regulatory process in Mexico. Finally, Mexico informed Members that the document was available for consultation on the website of the World Organization for Animal Health.

1.2.2 Mexico – Declaration as an area free from Mediterranean fruit fly (*Ceratitis Capitata* (Wiedemann))

1.6. Mexico informed the Committee about its declaration as an area free of Mediterranean fruit fly (G/SPS/GEN/1644). Phytosanitary measures would be applied according to the national emergency and prevention system against exotic fruit fly (NOM-075-FITO-1997). Mexico further noted that the decisions declaring the free areas had entered into force on 7 September 2018, one day after their publication in the Official Journal, and were available for consultation on the website of the Federal Official Gazette.

1.3 March 2019 meeting (G/SPS/R/94)

1.3.1 Mexico – Declaration of areas free from pink bollworm (*Pectinophora gossypiella*) (G/SPS/GEN/1662, G/SPS/GEN/1662/Corr.1 and G/SPS/GEN/1673)

1.7. Mexico brought to the attention of the Committee the declaration that the territories of Chihuahua, Sonora, Baja California and the municipality of Sierra Mojada in Coahuila, as well as the federative entities of Coahuila de Zaragoza and Durango, were free from pink bollworm (*Pectinophora gossypiella*), as explained in documents G/SPS/GEN/1662 and G/SPS/GEN/1673, respectively. This was consistent with the procedures established in the Mexican Official Standard NOM-026-SAG/FITO-2014. The Decision would remain in force for 24 months.

1.3.2 Mexico – Declaration of an area free from boll weevil (*Anthonomus grandis Boheman*) (G/SPS/GEN/1672)

1.8. Mexico informed the Committee of the Decision declaring the State of Chihuahua as an area free from boll weevil (*Anthonomus grandis* Boheman), as described in document G/SPS/GEN/1672, in accordance with the procedures established in Mexican Official Standards NOM-026-SAG/FITO-2014 and NOM-069-FITO-1995. The Decision had entered into force on 21 December 2018 and would remain in force for 24 months.

1.3.3 Mexico – Declaration of areas free from large avocado seed weevils, small avocado seed weevils and avocado seed moths (G/SPS/GEN/1674)

1.9. Mexico brought to the attention of the Committee its Decision declaring the municipalities of Jala and Santa María del Oro in the state of Nayarit as free from large avocado seed weevils (*Heilipus lauri*), small avocado seed weevils (*Conotrachelus aguacatae* and *C. perseae*) and avocado seed moths (*Stenomoma catenifer*), as described in document G/SPS/GEN/1674. The Decision was consistent with the procedures established in Mexican Official Standards NOM-066-FITO-2002 and NOM-069-FITO-1995. The Decision had entered into force on 21 December 2018 and would remain in force for 24 months.

1.3.4 Mexico – Self-declaration as a country historically free from rabbit haemorrhagic disease (G/SPS/GEN/1669)

1.10. Mexico informed the Committee of its self-declaration as historically free from rabbit haemorrhagic disease, as explained in document G/SPS/GEN/1669.

1.3.5 Mexico – Declaration of areas free from fruit flies of the quarantine-significant genus *Anastrepha* (G/SPS/GEN/1686)

1.11. Mexico brought to the attention of the Committee its Decision declaring certain areas free from fruit flies of the quarantine-significant genus *Anastrepha*, as described in document G/SPS/GEN/1686. The Decision had entered into force on 6 October 2018 and would remain in force for 24 months.

1.3.6 Peru - Recognition of Peru as a country free of foot and mouth disease without vaccination

1.12. Peru referred to document G/SPS/GEN/1698. In May 2005, the OIE had recognised ten regions as FMD-free without vaccination, which allowed exports of animals and animal products and by-products from the regions of Ica, Arequipa, Ayacucho, Huancavelica, Apurímac, Cuzco, Puno, Moquegua, Madre de Dios and Tacna. In May 2007, the OIE had recognized seven additional regions (Amazonas, Loreto, San Martín, Huánuco, Ucayali, Pasco and Junín) as FMD-free without vaccination. In 2008, the OIE had recognised Peru as an FMD-free country, over 97.6% of the territory without vaccination and 2.4% (Piura, Tumbes, San Ignacio province -Cajamarca- and Lima) with vaccination. In order to maintain this status, the National Agrarian Health Service (SENASA) had strengthened its quarantine and animal health surveillance systems and, through the Directorate for Animal Health and the National Food and Mouth Disease Programme, had established a sanitary protection area in Piura, Tumbes, San Ignacio province, and Cajamarca, where strategic vaccination was applied, among other measures. Following the recognition of the whole country as FMD-free without

vaccination by the OIE in May 2018, Peru had been saving USD 10 million per year in FMD-related costs.

2 DETERMINATION ON WHETHER TO RECOGNIZE A PEST- OR DISEASE-FREE AREA OR AREA OF LOW PEST OR DISEASE PREVALENCE

2.1. No Member reported on experiences in recognizing a pest- or disease-free area during the period covered by this report.

3 MEMBERS' EXPERIENCES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 6

3.1 July 2018 meeting (G/SPS/R/92/Rev.1)

3.1.1 Botswana – Suspected FMD outbreak in Ngamiland (G/SPS/GEN/1622)

3.1. Botswana informed Members of the suspected outbreak of foot and mouth disease in Naune Crush, Sehithwa in Ngamiland district. Botswana reported that following information provided by farmers, the Department of Veterinary Services had found five animals that showed clinical signs of the disease. As a result of these findings, the slaughter and movement of all cloven-hoofed animals, as well as trade of these animals and their fresh products from the affected areas, had been suspended. Botswana further indicated that vaccinations had since commenced and that farmers had been encouraged to cooperate with Ministry officials to contain the situation. Botswana expressed its commitment to keep the Committee informed as more information became available.

3.1.2 Chile – Recognition of animal health status and regionalization criteria for quarantine pests

3.2. Chile informed the Committee that in 2017 it had recognized the FMD status of various countries, namely: Paraguay, as FMD-free with vaccination; Nicaragua, as FMD-free without vaccination; Peru, as an FMD-free zone without vaccination in 98.36% of the country, and FMD-free with vaccination in the remaining 1.64%. In relation to the recent outbreak of low pathogenic avian influenza, Chile indicated that a small number of countries had reacted in a disproportionate manner to its non-compulsory notification of the outbreak to the OIE and trading partners. Chile further requested Members to be cautious when reviewing notified measures to ensure that they did not penalize Members for their transparent approach.

3.3. Chile drew the Committee's attention to document G/SPS/GEN/1615 which provided information on its measures aimed at establishing regionalization criteria for quarantine pests in Chile. Chile reminded Members that it was the only country in the region recognized by the IPPC as free of all species of fruit fly, despite isolated outbreaks which had been rapidly reported and eradicated. Chile further noted that although most of its trading partners had recognized this status, which had facilitated its worldwide exports of fruits and vegetables, a few countries maintained certain restrictions and had not recognized the entire territory as fruit fly-free. Chile urged those countries to recognize its status.

3.1.3 South Africa – Update on the listeria outbreak

3.4. South Africa provided an update on the situation surrounding South African food after the *Listeria* outbreak. In December 2017, a listeria outbreak had been declared by the Minister of Health, following an increase in laboratory-confirmed cases of listeria in July 2017. South Africa indicated that 91% of the cases were caused by *Listeria monocytogenes* sequence type 6 (ST6), and the remaining 9% by other sequence types. After extensive investigation of many food processing facilities, slaughter houses, farms and other sources of raw materials, the source of the ST6 outbreak had been identified as ready-to-eat processed meat products manufactured at a single production facility, which received raw materials from many countries. South Africa reported that the facility had immediately been closed, follow-up actions had been instituted and affected products had been recalled as of 1 March 2018. Over 4000 tons of affected products had been destroyed by thermal treatment or dumping in landfills. Since the recall of products, the number of reported cases per week had drastically decreased. South Africa noted that a number of Members had introduced trade restrictions on South African food products due to the outbreak, and further observed that in

July 2018, some had either lifted or eased these trade restrictions. South Africa requested that Members observe the provisions of the International Health Regulations (IHR, 2005) and lift the trade restrictions. Finally, South Africa expressed its willingness to continue bilateral discussions.

3.2 November 2018 meeting (G/SPS/R/93)

3.2.1 Canada – Experiences and approaches to regionalization relating to animal diseases

3.5. Canada recognised the importance of the SPS Agreement's obligations on adaptation to regional conditions, both for facilitating international trade and safeguarding animal and plant health. In document G/SPS/GEN/1650, Canada shared information about resources regarding recent experiences and approaches to regionalization. Canada further explained that information submitted on Canada's approach to zoning as an effective tool for animal disease control and to facilitate trade along with information on specific disease incidence, and Canada's risk management activities in response to avian influenza in British Columbia in 2014 and in Ontario in 2015, were available on the Canadian Food Inspection Agency website. Canada encouraged other Members to share information on their experiences with pest and disease-free areas.

3.6. The United States expressed its appreciation for the information provided in document G/SPS/GEN/1650. The United States reminded the Committee that in the context of the Fifth Review, Members' had emphasized the importance of sharing experiences on regionalization. The United States underscored that this agenda item represented an important opportunity where Members could share their experiences and information about procedures and processes related to various aspects of regionalization. Finally, the United States thanked Canada for its efforts to link regionalization to the Fifth Review.

3.7. Brazil and the European Union echoed the US comments and thanked Canada for sharing its experience. The European Union reminded Members that in 2012 it had submitted information on the EU regionalization system in document G/SPS/GEN/1159. The European Union also encouraged Members to provide information under this agenda item.

3.8. The Chairperson reminded the Committee that providing information on their pest or disease situation in the SPS Committee did not substitute for legal obligations to submit certain information to the IPPC or the OIE.

3.2.2 Japan – Current situation of classical swine fever

3.9. Japan provided an update on the situation of classical swine fever (CSF), indicating that it had notified the OIE on 9 September 2018 of the occurrence of the disease for the first time in 26 years, in Gifu prefecture. Japan underscored that it was now free from the disease and that it had shared information on the occurrence of the disease, control measures and surveillance with its trading partners. Various preventive measures had been implemented, which included stamping out procedures, establishment of a shipping and movement restriction zone, as well as monitoring of pig farms within the shipping restriction zone and farms with epidemiological links to the affected farm. Japan further explained that they had undertaken the testing of wild boars in Gifu and other prefectures, which had yielded positive results only in the Gifu prefecture, specifically within proximity of the affected farm (up to 12 km). Japan indicated its intention to apply for the recovery of its CSF-free status from the OIE, given that no additional cases of CSF in domestic pigs had been found. Japan thanked its trading partners for their prompt response to continue trade in porcine products.

3.3 March 2019 meeting (G/SPS/R/94)

3.3.1 China – Information on African Swine Fever

3.10. China emphasized its commitment to OIE standards and its efforts to manage epidemic animal diseases — such as low-pathogenic avian influenza, foot-and-mouth disease and bluetongue disease — in accordance with OIE criteria such as the regionalization principle. China underlined that African swine fever, in particular, was an infectious disease with many possible transmission routes, which severely threatened swine herds, and which was affecting an increasing number of countries. In the absence of an effective vaccine to date, it was difficult to prevent and control it. When the disease

had surfaced in China for the first time in August 2018, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs and the General Administration of Customs of China had carried out full-scale prevention and control procedures. The African swine fever epidemic in China was now under control, with the epidemic status of areas in 18 provinces having been lifted. China concluded by informing Members that in accordance with the SPS Agreement and its own level of protection, it had had to temporarily prohibit imports of pigs and related products from countries where African swine fever had been reported.

3.3.2 South Africa – Update on avian influenza and FMD

3.11. South Africa recalled that in November 2017 it had shared with the Committee that the first outbreak of HPAI H5N8 had been reported in chickens in the country in June 2017. A total of 203 outbreaks had been reported to the OIE, of which 98 had now been closed. No new cases had been reported since July 2018. On FMD outbreaks in the Limpopo province, South Africa informed that it periodically experienced outbreaks in its protection zone. A case had been reported in May 2018 and control measures had been implemented; a further six cases had been reported between May and November 2018 and possible cases in January 2019. As a result of the immediate reporting of the outbreaks to the OIE, South Africa had lost its FMD-free zone without vaccination status.

3.3.3 Ukraine - Update on import regulations for live animals and related products

3.12. Ukraine updated the Committee on the status of its new import regulation for live animals, reproductive material, food products of animal origin, feed, hay, straw, as well as by-products of animal origin and processed products, notified as G/SPS/N/UKR/111. The regulation was necessary to implement the State Control Law which had entered into force in April 2018. Ukraine explained the new requirements followed a risk-oriented approach based on international standards, and following the trade-facilitating principles of regionalization, compartmentalization and equivalence. The new regulation covered the relationship between food business operators, relevant regulatory authorities, exporting countries and state veterinary inspectors. Following adoption, the former import requirements would cease to apply and there would be a six-month transitional period after official publication for purposes of developing a unified template for import certificates. Ukraine added that its competent authorities would contact trading partners' counterparts during the transitional period regarding previously agreed bilateral certificates.

4 NOTIFICATIONS RELATED TO ARTICLE 6

4.1. From April 2018 through March 2019, 89 notifications (40 regular and 49 emergency) related to Article 6. Twenty-one of those notifications (17 regular and 4 emergency) indicated that the notified measure was trade facilitating; these notifications mainly inform of measures that will simplify the requirements for the import of products originating from certain regions, as well as the recognition of pest-free or disease-free areas.

Table 4.1: Trade Facilitating Notifications Related to Article 6

Document symbol	Notifying Member	Description of content
G/SPS/N/BRA/1424	Brazil	This Resolution revokes the RDC No. 59, of 6 December 2012 which provides for the criteria for importing semi-finished or semi-finished raw materials and foodstuffs for human consumption in Brazil, originated in or coming from the Fukushima, Japan.
G/SPS/N/BRA/1425	Brazil	This Resolution revokes the RDC No. 59, of 6 December 2012 which provides for the criteria for importing semi-finished or semi-finished raw materials and foodstuffs for consumption human in Brazil, originated in or coming from the Fukushima, Japan.
G/SPS/N/ECU/209	Ecuador	The notified Resolution establishes the mandatory phytosanitary requirements governing the importation of the biological control agent <i>Steinernema feltiae</i> from the Netherlands.
G/SPS/N/ECU/213	Ecuador	Mandatory phytosanitary requirements governing the importation of predatory mites (<i>Macrocheles robustulus</i>) for biological control from the Netherlands.

Document symbol	Notifying Member	Description of content
G/SPS/N/KAZ/29	Kazakhstan	On the basis of the official notification of the World Organisation for Animal Health, the Committee of Veterinary Control and Supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture of Kazakhstan reports registered outbreaks of Newcastle disease in the territory of California, United States of America. In this regard, from 21 January 2019, temporary restrictions are imposed on the importation of live poultry and hatching eggs, down and feathers, poultry meat and all poultry products, fodder and feed additives for birds, as well as used equipment for the maintenance, slaughter and cutting of birds from California, United States of America into the territory of Kazakhstan.
G/SPS/N/KAZ/31	Kazakhstan	On the basis of the official notification of the World Organisation for Animal Health, the Committee of Veterinary Control and Supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture of Kazakhstan reports cases of the disease susceptible species of animals with bluetongue in the territory of Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany. In this regard, since 21 January 2019 temporary restrictions are imposed on the importation to Kazakhstan of live cattle, wild, zoo and circus animals susceptible to bluetongue, camels and other representatives of the <i>camelidae</i> family (llama, Alpaca, vicuna), semen of bulls, rams, and goats-producers, embryos of cattle and small cattle from these lands.
G/SPS/N/KAZ/32	Kazakhstan	The measure represents a temporary restriction on the importation to the territory of Kazakhstan of animals susceptible to foot-and-mouth disease, as well as beef, pork, lamb, milk and dairy products, including finished cooked products, non-food raw materials and products obtained from slaughter of animals susceptible to foot-and-mouth disease, used equipment for their maintenance, slaughter and processing, feed and feed additives for animals from the territory of Primorsk of the Russian Federation.
G/SPS/N/MEX/336	Mexico	Pursuant to the Decision establishing the module of phytosanitary requirements for the importation of goods regulated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food, in relation to plant health (Acuerdo por el que se establece el módulo de requisitos fitosanitarios para la importación de mercancías reguladas por la Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería, Desarrollo Rural, Pesca y Alimentación, en materia de sanidad vegetal), published in the Mexican Official Journal on 7 February 2012, the phytosanitary requirements for the importation into Mexico of orchid plants (<i>Phalaenopsis</i> spp.) originating in Germany and coming from Guatemala have been established on the basis of a pest risk analysis.
G/SPS/N/MEX/337	Mexico	Pursuant to the Decision establishing the module of phytosanitary requirements for the importation of goods regulated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food, in relation to plant health (Acuerdo por el que se establece el módulo de requisitos fitosanitarios para la importación de mercancías reguladas por la Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería, Desarrollo Rural, Pesca y Alimentación, en materia de sanidad vegetal), published in the Mexican Official Journal on 7 February 2012, the phytosanitary requirements for the importation into Mexico of orchid (<i>Phalaenopsis</i> spp) plants originating in the Netherlands and coming from Guatemala have been established on the basis of a pest risk analysis.

Document symbol	Notifying Member	Description of content
G/SPS/N/MEX/342	Mexico	The phytosanitary requirements for the importation of wheat grain (<i>Triticum aestivum</i>) originating in and coming from Poland were established on the basis of the results of the corresponding pest risk analysis pursuant to Article 11, subparagraph 1 of the Decision establishing the module of phytosanitary requirements for the importation of goods regulated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food, in relation to plant health (Acuerdo por el que se establece el módulo de requisitos fitosanitarios para la importación de mercancías reguladas por la Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería, Desarrollo Rural, Pesca y Alimentación, en materia de sanidad vegetal), published in the Mexican Official Journal on 7 February 2012.
G/SPS/N/MEX/343	Mexico	Existing phytosanitary requirements for the importation of orchid plants (<i>Phalaenopsis</i> spp) originating in and coming from Germany have been amended on the basis of the results of a pest risk re-assessment pursuant to Article 11, paragraph 1 of the Decision establishing the module of phytosanitary requirements for the importation of goods regulated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food, in relation to plant health (Acuerdo por el que se establece el módulo de requisitos fitosanitarios para la importación de mercancías reguladas por la Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería, Desarrollo Rural, Pesca y Alimentación, en materia de sanidad vegetal), published in the Mexican Official Journal on 7 February 2012.
G/SPS/N/MEX/345	Mexico	The phytosanitary requirements for the importation of wheat grain (<i>Triticum aestivum</i>) originating in and coming from Germany were established on the basis of the results of the corresponding pest risk analysis pursuant to Article 11, subparagraph 1 of the Decision establishing the module of phytosanitary requirements for the importation of goods regulated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food, in relation to plant health (Acuerdo por el que se establece el módulo de requisitos fitosanitarios para la importación de mercancías reguladas por la Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería, Desarrollo Rural, Pesca y Alimentación, en materia de sanidad vegetal), published in the Mexican Official Journal on 7 February 2012.
G/SPS/N/MEX/347	Mexico	Pursuant to Article 11, paragraph I, of the Decision establishing the module of phytosanitary requirements for the importation of goods regulated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food, in relation to plant health (Acuerdo por el que se establece el módulo de requisitos fitosanitarios para la importación de mercancías reguladas por la Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería, Desarrollo Rural, Pesca y Alimentación, en materia de sanidad vegetal), published in the Mexican Official Journal on 7 February 2012, the current phytosanitary requirements for the importation into Mexico of orchid (<i>Phalaenopsis</i> spp.) plants, seedlings and cuttings originating in and coming from the Netherlands have been amended on the basis of a pest risk re-assessment.
G/SPS/N/MEX/357	Mexico	On the basis of a pest risk analysis, phytosanitary requirements were established for the importation into Mexico of raspberry (<i>Rubus idaeus</i>) roots originating in and coming from Italy.

Document symbol	Notifying Member	Description of content
G/SPS/N/MEX/359	Mexico	The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food has established phytosanitary requirements for the importation of chilli pepper (<i>Capsicum annuum</i>) seeds originating in Tanzania and coming from the Netherlands following the completion of the relevant pest risk analysis.
G/SPS/N/MEX/363	Mexico	The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development developed the proposed phytosanitary requirements for the importation of celery (<i>Apium graveolens</i>) seeds for sowing originating in Chile and coming from the Netherlands on the basis of the results of a pest risk analysis.
G/SPS/N/MEX/365	Mexico	The phytosanitary requirements for the importation of fresh kiwifruit (<i>Actinidia chinensis</i> and <i>A. deliciosa</i>) originating in and coming from Italy were established on the basis of the results of a pest risk assessment pursuant to Article 11, paragraph 1 of the Decision establishing the module of phytosanitary requirements for the importation of goods regulated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food, in relation to plant health (Acuerdo por el que se establece el módulo de requisitos fitosanitarios para la importación de mercancías reguladas por la Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería, Desarrollo Rural, Pesca y Alimentación, en materia de sanidad vegetal), published in the Mexican Official Journal on 7 February 2012.
G/SPS/N/MEX/366	Mexico	The phytosanitary requirements for the importation of paddy rice (<i>Oryza sativa</i>) originating in and coming from Uruguay were established on the basis of the results of a pest risk assessment pursuant to Article 11, paragraph 1 of the Decision establishing the module of phytosanitary requirements for the importation of goods regulated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food, in relation to plant health (Acuerdo por el que se establece el módulo de requisitos fitosanitarios para la importación de mercancías reguladas por la Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería, Desarrollo Rural, Pesca y Alimentación, en materia de sanidad vegetal), published in the Mexican Official Journal on 7 February 2012.
G/SPS/N/MEX/367	Mexico	The phytosanitary requirements governing the importation of fresh pears (<i>Pyrus communis</i>) originating in and coming from Belgium were established on the basis of the results of a pest risk assessment pursuant to Article 11, paragraph 1 of the Decision establishing the module of phytosanitary requirements for the importation of goods regulated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food, in relation to plant health (Acuerdo por el que se establece el módulo de requisitos fitosanitarios para la importación de mercancías reguladas por la Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería, Desarrollo Rural, Pesca y Alimentación, en materia de sanidad vegetal), published in the Mexican Official Journal on 7 February 2012.
G/SPS/N/PHL/414	Philippines	This order provides the rationale and the conditions in instituting this emergency measure lifting the temporary ban on the importation of poultry and poultry products from Kagawa Prefecture, Japan.
G/SPS/N/RUS/155	Russian Federation	Due to improvement of low epizootic situation with avian influenza in Sweden, the Russian Federation abolishes provisional import restriction on live poultry, hatching eggs, prepared poultry meat products and all kind of poultry-farming products, containing products of poultry processing.

5 SPECIFIC TRADE CONCERNS AND REGIONALIZATION

5.1. Specific trade concerns (STCs) can be raised due to issues pertaining to regionalization. From April 2018 through March 2019, two STCs that related to regionalization were raised for the first time.

Table 5.1: New STCs Related to Regionalization (April 2018–March 2019)

STC No	Title	Member raising the concern	Member maintaining the measure	Date first raised
456	Korea's import restrictions on poultry due to highly pathogenic avian influenza	European Union	Korea, Republic of	21 March 2019
449	The Russian Federation's bluetongue-related import restriction on ruminants	European Union	Russian Federation	1 November 2018

5.2. For the same period, three previously raised STCs that related to regionalization were brought again to the attention of the Committee.

Table 5.2: Previously Raised STCs Related to Regionalization (April 2018–March 2019)

STC No	Title	Member raising the concern	Member maintaining the measure	Date first raised
271	Restrictions on imports of swine meat	Brazil	Mexico	24 June 2008
406	China's import restrictions due to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza	European Union, United States of America	China	16 March 2016
431	South Africa's import restrictions on poultry due to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza	European Union	South Africa	2 November 2017

5.3. In addition, panel proceedings in the context of the WTO dispute settlement resolution procedures continued with respect to two previously raised STCs:

- India's restrictions due to avian influenza (STC 185 raised by the United States, March 2004). At its meeting on 19 June 2015, the DSB adopted the Appellate Body report and the panel report, as modified by the Appellate Body report (DS430). Thereafter, on 19 April 2016, the matter was referred to arbitration under Article 22.6 of the DSU. The arbitration panel was composed with the original panelists. On 6 April 2017, India requested the establishment of a compliance panel (Article 21.5). At its meeting on 19 April 2017, the DSB deferred the establishment of a compliance panel. At its meeting on 22 May 2017, the DSB agreed, pursuant to Article 21.5 of the DSU, to refer to the original panel, if possible. The arbitration and compliance proceedings are currently ongoing.
- The Russian Federation's measures on live pigs and pork products due to African swine fever (STC 369 raised by the European Union, March 2013). At its meeting on 21 March 2017, the DSB adopted the Appellate Body report and the panel report (DS475), as modified by the Appellate Body report. Thereafter, on 3 January 2018, the matter was referred to arbitration under Article 22.6 of the DSU. On 25 January 2018, the Russian Federation requested consultations under Article 21.5 (compliance proceedings) of the DSU, and on 2 February 2018, the European Union also requested consultations under Article 21.5 of the DSU. The compliance proceedings are currently ongoing.