

**MEXICAN RESTRICTIONS ON US DRY BEANS –  
REQUEST FOR EXPLANATION (ARTICLE 5.8)**

Submission by the United States

Mexico is prohibiting or restricting the importation of US dry beans, and Mexican officials have stated that this action was taken to protect against an "associated risk" with imports of US dry beans. While a sanitary or phytosanitary risk is implied in this term, the United States has yet to receive a clear explanation of this "associated risk". Assuming that Mexico's measures on US dry beans are sanitary or phytosanitary measures, the United States has reason to believe that these measures are constraining exports of US dry beans and that these measures are not based on any relevant international standards, guidelines, or recommendations or such standards, guidelines, or recommendations do not exist. Accordingly, pursuant to Article 5.8 of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, the United States requests Mexico to provide "an explanation of the reasons for" its measures to protect human, animal, or plant life or health from risks arising from the entry of US dry beans.

As part of this request, the United States asks Mexico to provide a list of all measures relevant to the prohibition or restriction on US dry beans, to detail the terms of such prohibition or restriction, to identify the risks the prohibition or restriction addresses, to identify the scientific evidence upon which the prohibition or restriction is based, and to provide any scientific studies or reports that support the prohibition or restriction.

The United States requests that Mexico provide its written response to this request under Article 5.8 on or before 8 April 2003.

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