

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

ATTACHMENTS TO SPS NOTIFICATIONS

Note by the Secretariat¹

1. In response to requests from Members, in particular during the Workshop on Transparency held in October 2007², the WTO Secretariat has established a facility whereby Members may, on a voluntary basis, provide the Secretariat with an electronic version of the text of the notified draft regulation as an attachment to the notification format.³
2. The submitted text will be stored on a WTO server and will be accessible through a hyperlink in the notification format. This mechanism is voluntary in nature. The purpose is to facilitate access to notified draft regulations. Information about the provision, storage, and language of attachments to SPS notifications is contained in the Annex to this document.
3. The facility will be operational as of 1 February 2008.

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 or obligations under the WTO.

² G/SPS/R/47, para. 34

³ This facility is identical to the one being used for providing access to texts of notified measures under the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (G/TBT/GEN/65).

ANNEX: FACILITY TO ACCESS FULL TEXTS OF NOTIFIED REGULATIONS

Attachments submitted together with WTO SPS Notifications

Guidelines

1. General

- (a) An "attachment" is a draft regulatory text or a translation or a summary thereof referred to in a WTO SPS notification.
- (b) An attachment will not be considered as a WTO document.
- (c) The Secretariat cannot be held responsible for the content of attachments.

2. Provision of attachments to the WTO

- (a) Attachments shall be provided electronically to the Central Registry of Notifications (crn@wto.org), in conjunction with the corresponding WTO SPS notification.
- (b) Attachments will not be scanned by the WTO Secretariat if submitted in hard copy.
- (c) Attachments shall be provided in PDF format only. Notifications shall continue to be submitted in Word.
- (d) Individual attachments shall not exceed 4MB in size; multiple attachments may be provided.

3. Storage of attachments

- (a) Attachments will be stored on a WTO central server.
- (b) Attachments stored on the WTO central server will be viewable online by clicking on the hyperlink in the notification form.
- (c) Attachments can also be downloaded directly by the user.
- (d) Attachments will not be circulated in hard copy form.

4. Language of attachments

- (a) Attachments may be provided in their original language.
 - (b) If available, Members may also provide translations.
 - (c) Attachments will not be translated by the Secretariat.
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