

**Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

**STATUS OF SPS DOCUMENTS**

Note by the Secretariat

Prior to July 1996, most documents in the G/SPS/series were circulated on a restricted basis. However, following the Committee's decision in June 1996 to derestrict all notifications (G/SPS/R/5, paragraph 17), and the General Council's decision in July (WT/L/160/Rev.1) on the derestriction of certain documents, most G/SPS/ documents have been derestricted or circulated as unrestricted. As of 4 February 1997, as indicated in document WT/INF/5, all except for the following documents in the G/SPS/series have been derestricted, or issued as unrestricted documents.

**G/SPS/series documents currently restricted**

G/SPS/GN/6\*  
G/SPS/R/5 + Corr. 1\*  
G/SPS/R/6  
G/SPS/W/65 - 69\*  
G/SPS/W/72-74\*\*

The following table describes the document symbols now in use and the usual status of documents in the various series. The SPS Committee, the Ministerial Conference or the General Council may, in addition, decide to derestrict documents at any time.

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\*These documents have been proposed to Members for consideration for derestriction, and will normally be derestricted as of 22 April 1997 if no Member objects (WT/GC/W/50).

\*\*These documents have been proposed to Members for consideration for derestriction, and will normally be derestricted as of 2 May 1997 if no Member objects (WT/GC/W/53).

| Content of document  | Document series                           | Usual status  |
|--|---|---|
| Adopted decisions, agreed recommendations, accepted procedures, lists of National Notification Authorities, etc. | G/SPS/...                                 | Unrestricted.   |
| Drafts for consideration, proposed decisions   | G/SPS/W/...                               | Restricted, considered for derestriction 6 months after circulation, or derestricted automatically upon adoption of the decision on the matter under consideration. Member making submission may request circulation as unrestricted.   |
| Background notes by the Secretariat  | G/SPS/W/...                               | Restricted, considered for derestriction 6 months after circulation.  |
| Dispute settlement panel reports, other dispute settlement documents   | G/SPS/GN/...<br>(previously G/SPS/W/... ) | Panel reports are circulated unrestricted, unless party to dispute requests restriction, in which case automatically derestricted no later than 10 days after circulation. Other dispute settlement documents are unrestricted, unless Member making submission requests circulation as restricted. |
| Statements by Members, information provided by Members   | G/SPS/GN/...                              | Unrestricted, unless submitting Member requests restriction, in which case they are considered for derestriction at the end of the six-month period during which they are circulated. Submissions containing publicly available information are circulated unrestricted.                            |
| Factual information notes by the Secretariat (ie., list of notifications received, etc.)                         | G/SPS/GN/...                              | Unrestricted.   |

| Content of document                                  | Document series | Usual status   |
|--|-----------------|--|
| Notifications (according to the established formats) | G/SPS/N/...     | Unrestricted.  |
| Summary reports of meetings                          | G/SPS/R/...     | Restricted, considered for derestriction 6 months after date of circulation. |
| Lists of participants at meetings                    | G/SPS/INF/...   | Unrestricted.  |
| List of National Enquiry Points                      | G/SPS/ENQ/...   | Unrestricted.  |