

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

G/SPS/W/89

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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PROCEDURE TO MONITOR THE PROCESS OF INTERNATIONAL HARMONIZATION

Submission by Canada

In accordance with paragraph 6 of the provisional procedure to monitor the use of international standards (G/SPS/11), Canada proposes the three issues attached for the Committee's consideration.

PROCEDURE TO MONITOR THE PROCESS
OF INTERNATIONAL HARMONIZATION

Submission by Canada

Commodities affected:	Meat Products
Disease/problem/issue:	Certification requirements for origin of animals
Is international trade significantly affected because of this issue?	Yes
Does there currently exist an international standard for this disease/problem/issue with these commodities?	No
If so:	
Briefly describe the existing standard:	
Is the international standard inappropriate?	
<p>Description of how trade is affected by this issue and how the issue can be resolved through new or existing international standards:</p> <p>Restrictions are imposed on trade of meat products because some countries require that the country of origin of the animal from which the meat products were derived be identified.</p> <p>As a general practice, meat processors import animals, process the meat and export the products to another country. Some countries require that imported meat products be derived only from animals raised in the exporting country, i.e., no products derived from non-domestic animals may be imported. This requirement is maintained even when the importing country is also importing meat products directly from the source country of the animals. This requirement presents a difficulty for processors in the exporting country who must segregate shipments in order to meet this requirement.</p> <p>OIE could be asked to establish criteria and conditions for determining country of origin requirements.</p>	

Commodities affected:	Meat Products
Disease/problem/issue:	Certification regarding the absence of certain pathogens in raw meat products
Is international trade significantly affected because of this issue?	Yes
Does there currently exist an international standard for this disease/problem/issue with these commodities?	No
If so:	
Briefly describe the existing standard:	
Is the international standard inappropriate?	
<p>Description of how trade is affected by this issue and how the issue can be resolved through new or existing international standards:</p> <p>Restrictions are imposed on trade of meat products because certain countries require that the meat be free of certain pathogens, e.g. salmonella.</p> <p>CODEX could be asked to determine if developing standards for pathogens in raw meat is feasible or appropriate. Countries would then have an obligation to use the CODEX standards, if they were in place. A country choosing to implement more stringent standards would have to justify them in accordance with the provisions of the SPS Agreement.</p>	

Commodities affected:	Meat products
Disease/problem/issue:	Certification requirements for diseases for which national control measures may not exist.
Is international trade significantly affected because of this issue?	Yes
Does there currently exist an international standard for this disease/problem/issue with these commodities?	OIE lists diseases and recommends safeguards appropriate for trade in animals or animal products.
If so:	
Briefly describe the existing standard:	OIE establishes standards for safeguards against diseases, e.g. List A and B.
Is the international standard inappropriate?	OIE guidelines are generally appropriate.
<p>Description of how trade is affected by this issue and how the issue can be resolved through new or existing international standards:</p> <p>Restrictions are imposed on trade of meat products because of the presence of certain animal diseases which are unlikely to be transmitted through meat.</p> <p>OIE guidelines should serve as the basis for animal health certification. Only diseases of importance (e.g. OIE list A) should be required to be listed on export certificates. OIE could be asked to develop more specific guidelines for the animal health certification of meat products, i.e. diseases of concern and appropriate safeguards such as country freedom, farm-free, farm-free-plus-certain-radius. Guidelines could also be developed for countries that want to require more stringent certification, e.g. surveillance program, disease transmission data from meat products.</p>	