

**Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

**REVIEW OF THE OPERATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
AGREEMENT ON THE APPLICATION OF SANITARY AND  
PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES**

Draft Report

Revision

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. Article 12.7 of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures ("The Agreement") provides that "[T]he Committee shall review the operation and implementation of this Agreement three years after the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement, and thereafter as the need arises. Where appropriate, the Committee may submit to the Council for Trade in Goods proposals to amend the text of this Agreement having regard, *inter alia*, to the experience gained in its implementation."

2. At its meeting of 15-16 October 1997, the SPS Committee agreed on a procedure to review the operation and implementation of the Agreement (G/SPS/10). In 1998, the Committee held four informal meetings and four formal meetings, at which it considered issues and proposals identified by Members. These discussions were informed by a number of background papers submitted by Members.

3. In its discussion of issues concerning the operation and/or implementation of the Agreement, the Committee focussed especially on the provisions relating to transparency of sanitary and phytosanitary measures (Annex B), including the notification procedures; special and differential treatment of developing country Members (Article 10); technical assistance (Article 9); international harmonization (Article 3); equivalence (Article 4); adaptation to regional conditions (Article 6); risk assessment (Article 5) and dispute resolution (Articles 11 and 12.2).

**II. GENERAL**

4. The Committee emphasized that the SPS Agreement was a new framework which, during its first three and a half years of implementation, had substantially improved international trading relationships with respect to SPS measures, although a number of implementation issues gave concern to some Members, including a number of developing country Members. The Agreement specified Members' rights and obligations in the application of SPS measures and provided a useful tool for the relevant national and subnational authorities within each Member. The Committee noted that a substantial part of each of its formal meetings was devoted to the discussion of specific implementation problems. On these occasions, the Committee had also discussed other issues of a more general nature, including matters related to the operation of the Agreement. The Committee welcomed the fact that a substantial number of SPS-related trade matters had been resolved following their discussion at formal meetings of the Committee or bilaterally.

5. During the review process, the Committee adopted a number of decisions, recommendations and arrangements aimed at improving the operation and implementation of the Agreement. However, the Committee observed that Members had not exhausted the discussions on the operation and implementation of the Agreement. It recognized that a number of issues needed to be addressed in the

context of the future work programme of the Committee, and that further issues could be raised at any time by Members. It recalled that in accordance with Article 12.7, the operation and implementation of the Agreement could again be reviewed "... as the need arises ...".

### **III. TRANSPARENCY OF SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES (ANNEX B)**

6. Paragraph 5 of Annex B of the SPS Agreement requires Members to notify new SPS regulations or modification of existing regulations "[W]henever an international standard, guideline or recommendation does not exist or the content of a proposed sanitary or phytosanitary regulation is not substantially the same as the content of an international standard, guideline or recommendation, and if the regulation may have a significant effect on trade of other Members (...)". The Committee noted that the Agreement had significantly improved transparency in the application of sanitary or phytosanitary measures. This was illustrated by the fact that Members are progressively, and in a more comprehensive manner, meeting their notification obligations. Also, significant progress had been made in the establishment of Enquiry Points and National Notification Authorities. As of [date], over [X] notifications had been submitted by [X] Members; [X] Members had established National Enquiry Points to respond to requests for information; and [X] Members had established National Notification Authorities.

7. The Committee recalled that it had adopted recommended notification procedures, as well as formats for routine and emergency notifications in 1995 (G/SPS/7). It stressed that a number of the concerns related to the operation of the transparency provisions of the Agreement could be resolved if Members more comprehensively applied the recommended procedures. In this context, the Committee noted that there was a procedure allowing for the extension of the comment period on notifications. The Committee also emphasized the need for an accurate summary of the notified measure in one of the WTO official languages. In this respect, the Committee agreed that access to informal translations of texts of notified measures should be facilitated for all Members, if possible through electronic means. It noted that a number of the other concerns identified in this area could be addressed by modifications or clarification of the recommended procedures. In this regard, and with a view to ensuring a more effective functioning of the transparency provisions, the Committee agreed to the revised recommended notification procedures and notification formats contained in the Annex of this report.

### **IV. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (ARTICLE 9)**

8. The Committee noted that in accordance with Article 9.2, some importing Members had provided technical assistance to developing country Members when substantial investments were required in order for these countries to fulfil the importing Member's SPS requirements. The Committee stressed the need for enhanced technical assistance and cooperation to developing countries, in particular with regard to human resource development, national capacity building, and the transfer of technology and information, particularly by way of concrete, "hands-on" assistance.

9. The Committee also noted that the Secretariat provided technical assistance to developing country Members in the areas of its competence. It appreciated that the international organizations recognized in the Agreement, as well as other international organizations, including the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Trade Center (ITC), also provided considerable technical assistance to developing country Members. However, the Committee emphasized that there was still a need for further assistance which, due to the expertise required, could best be provided by the relevant standard-setting international organizations. It agreed to bring this matter to their attention, keeping in mind that this could have a significant impact on the resources of these bodies and/or Members' resources. The Committee reiterated the need for Members and the relevant international organizations to provide information on

their technical cooperation and assistance programmes on a regular basis. In this regard, and with a view to making the most efficient use of the resources available and to facilitate coordination of different technical assistance initiatives, Members agreed to make available such information.

## **V. SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT (ARTICLES 10 AND 14)**

10. The Committee recalled that Article 10.1 of the Agreement provides that "[I]n the preparation and application of sanitary or phytosanitary measures, Members shall take account of the special needs of developing country Members, and in particular of the least-developed country Members". Moreover, Article 10.2 provides that "Where the appropriate level of sanitary or phytosanitary protection allows scope for the phased introduction of new sanitary or phytosanitary measures, longer time-frames for compliance should be accorded on products of interest to developing country Members so as to maintain opportunities for their exports". The Committee noted that it had no information on the extent to which developing country Members had made use of these provisions.

11. The Committee noted that the notification procedures for proposed SPS measures allow developing country Members to identify potential problems in meeting new requirements which may adversely affect their exports before the new measure(s) come into force. Furthermore, the Committee agreed that Members should, where appropriate, accord longer time-frames for compliance on products of interest to developing country Members.

12. The Committee encouraged Members to submit proposals to further the practical implementation of Articles 10.1 and 10.2.

13. The Committee recalled that under Article 14 of the Agreement, least-developed country Members had no obligations pursuant to the Agreement for a period of five years following its implementation. Developing country Members had, during the first two years of the implementation of the Agreement, only transparency obligations pursuant to Articles 5.8 and 7 of the Agreement. Moreover, under Article 10.3 of the Agreement, developing country Members could request further delays with respect to any obligation under the Agreement taking into account their financial, trade and development needs. The Committee noted that during the period under review, no specific requests had been submitted to the Committee under this provision.

## **VI. INTERNATIONAL HARMONIZATION (ARTICLES 3 AND 12.4)**

14. The Committee welcomed the cooperation of, and developments in, the international organizations recognized under the Agreement. In addition to their contribution in the context of technical assistance, this included: (i) the intensification and simplification of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex) standard-setting procedures; (ii) the increased activity in the Office International des Epizooties (OIE), with which the WTO had signed a Cooperation and Consultation Agreement; and (iii) the revision of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

15. The Committee noted the concerns raised by developing country Members with regard to the procedures for the development and adoption of international standards, including their difficulties to actively participate in the development of international standards and the lack of a mechanism to take into account the economic and technical capacity of developing country Members to implement such standards. However, the Committee considered that it was more appropriate to address these concerns within the relevant international organizations. It noted that some of these issues were already under discussion in the standard-setting bodies, including an evaluation of how to ensure more effective participation of developing countries in the adoption of international standards. The Committee agreed to request the representatives of these organizations to keep the Committee informed of developments regarding this matter.

16. The Committee recalled that, as required by Articles 3.5 and 12.4 of the SPS Agreement, it had developed a preliminary procedure to monitor the process of international harmonization and the use of international standards, guidelines or recommendations (G/SPS/11 refers). The Committee noted that several concrete examples had been submitted to the Committee as reflected in the annual report on the procedure (G/SPS/W/94 refers). It encouraged Members to submit further examples. The Committee recalled that the operation of the monitoring procedure was to be reviewed 18 months after its initial implementation.

#### **VII. EQUIVALENCE (ARTICLE 4)**

17. While recognizing that further discussions were necessary regarding this issue, the Committee welcomed the progress in the application of the concept of equivalence of SPS measures as illustrated by the increasing number of bilateral equivalence agreements. Bearing in mind the importance of the recognition of equivalence of SPS measures for facilitating trade, the Committee recognized the need for further efforts to achieve the practical application of this concept, in particular with respect to recognition of equivalence of measures applied by developing country Members. In this context, the Committee stressed the need for a clear indication of the appropriate level of protection determined by the importing country Member and for the recognition of equivalence rather than sameness of measures. With a view to further enhancing transparency, it encouraged Members to submit information on their bilateral equivalency agreements. The Committee welcomed the work underway in some of the relevant international organizations that could further the application of this concept.

#### **VIII. ADAPTATION TO REGIONAL CONDITIONS (ARTICLE 6)**

18. The Committee noted that adaptation to regional conditions and the recognition of pest- or disease-free areas or areas of low pest or disease prevalence were concepts of significant importance for trade in agricultural products. In this regard, the Committee welcomed that an increasing number of Members applied these concepts. However, the Committee also noted certain difficulties in the implementation of this Article. Such difficulties included divergences in interpretation of international guidelines; an excessively lengthy administrative process in importing countries for recognizing pest- or disease-free areas or areas of low pest or disease prevalence; and demands for risk assessment. The Committee welcomed the contributions of the relevant international standard-setting bodies in addressing these difficulties.

#### **IX. RISK ASSESSMENT (ARTICLE 5)**

19. The Committee noted that since the entry into force of the Agreement, Codex, OIE and IPPC had undertaken a considerable amount of work in the area of risk assessment and that significant progress had been achieved. Guidelines on risk analysis were being developed and terminology agreed, facilitating the compliance with Members' obligations under the Agreement. Other international organizations, including the WHO and the FAO, were also working in this area. The Committee agreed to continue to closely follow developments in this area.

#### **X. DISPUTE RESOLUTION (ARTICLES 11 AND 12.2)**

20. The Committee noted that three cases involving the Agreement had been examined by Panels/Appellate Body under formal WTO dispute settlement procedures.

21. With regard to the application of Article 12.2 of the SPS Agreement, there had been a number of bilateral consultations between Members which had facilitated the clarification of misunderstandings or otherwise resolved the issues involved. In some cases, the Chairman and/or the Secretariat had facilitated the consultations and the efforts to reach a mutually satisfactory solution. Without prejudice to the right of Members to invoke formal dispute settlement procedures at any time,

the Committee noted that the use of Article 12.2 was significantly less resource intensive than formal dispute settlement procedures.

22. Finally, the Committee observed that extensive discussions on particular implementation problems at its formal meetings had helped to draw attention to specific trade concerns and related issues and to avoid potential trade conflicts.

#### **XI. OTHER ISSUES CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE**

23. The SPS Committee recalled that its review of the operation and implementation of the Agreement at this time had not been exhaustive. It recognized that the Committee could at any time consider any issue that may arise in the course of its work.

ANNEX

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**Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

**RECOMMENDED NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES**

At its meeting of [10-11 March 1999], the Committee adopted the following revised recommended notification procedures with regard to paragraphs 5 and 6 of Annex B of the Agreement.

Members should follow these guidelines when notifying regulations as required in paragraphs 5 or 6 of Annex B. The format for routine notifications (Item F below) should be used for notifications in accordance with paragraph 5 of Annex B, whereas the format for emergency notifications (Item G below) should be used for notifications as provided for in paragraph 6 of Annex B.

A. APPLICATION OF ANNEX B, PARAGRAPH 5 (PREAMBULAR PART) OF THE SPS AGREEMENT

For the purposes of Annex B, paragraphs 5 and 6 in the SPS Agreement, the concept of "significant effect on trade of other Members" may refer to the effect on trade:

- of one sanitary or phytosanitary regulation only or of various sanitary or phytosanitary regulations in combination;
- in a specific product, group of products or products in general; and
- between two or more Members (countries).

When assessing whether the sanitary or phytosanitary regulation<sup>1</sup> may have a significant effect on trade, the Member concerned should take into consideration, using relevant information which is available, such elements as the value or other importance of imports in respect of the importing and/or exporting Members concerned, whether from other Members individually or collectively, the potential development of such imports, and difficulties for producers in other Members to comply with the

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<sup>1</sup> Sanitary and phytosanitary measures such as laws, decrees or ordinances which are applicable generally.

proposed sanitary or phytosanitary regulations. The concept of a significant effect on trade of other Members should include both import-enhancing and import-reducing effects on the trade of other Members, as long as such effects are significant.

**B. TIMING OF NOTIFICATIONS**

When implementing the provisions of paragraph 5 of Annex B, a notification should be made when a draft with the complete text of a proposed regulation is available and when amendments can still be introduced and comments taken into account.

A notification shall be made well before the entry into force of the relevant measure, except when urgent problems of health protection arise or threaten to arise for the Member concerned. Any regulation brought into force in urgent circumstances must be notified immediately.

**C. REQUESTING DOCUMENTS RELATED TO A NOTIFICATION**

Members requesting documents related to a notification should provide all the elements permitting the identification of the documents, and in particular the WTO SPS notification number to which the requests refer.

**D. PROVIDING DOCUMENTS RELATED TO A NOTIFICATION**

**Address of body supplying the documents**

Members should indicate under point 12 of the WTO notification format (point 11 for Emergency notifications) the full address of the body responsible for supplying the relevant documents if that body is not the notification authority or the enquiry point.

**Responding to requests**

Documents requested should normally be provided within five working days. If this is not possible, the request for documentation or information should be acknowledged within that period and an estimate given of the time required to provide the requested documentation.

Documents supplied in response to a request should be identified with the WTO SPS notification number to which the request refers.

Members should use fax and e-mail facilities to the extent possible in responding to requests for documentation or information. Members are encouraged to publish their sanitary or phytosanitary measures on the world wide web, to facilitate the supply of documents.

**Acknowledging receipt of documents**

The Member requesting documents relating to a notification should acknowledge receipt of the documents provided.

## **Translation of documents**

When a translation of a relevant document exists or is planned, this fact should be indicated on the WTO notification form next to the title of the document. If only a translated summary exists, the fact that such a summary is available should be similarly indicated.

If a translation of a document or summary exists in the language of the requesting Member, or, as the case may be, in the WTO working language used by the requesting Member, it should be automatically sent with the original of the document requested.

Where documents are not available in a WTO working language, developed country Members shall, upon request, supply a translation of the document, or in case of voluminous documents, a translation of a summary of the documents, in a WTO working language.

When a Member seeks a copy of a document relating to a notification which does not exist in that Member's WTO working language, the notifying Member should advise the requesting Member of other Members that have requested, as of that date, a copy of the document. The Member seeking a copy of a document relating to a notification may contact other Members in order to determine whether the latter are prepared to share any translation that they have or will be making.

Any Member possessing an unofficial translation of a document relating to a notification should inform the notifying Member of the existence of the unofficial translation and is encouraged to make it available to other interested Members, through electronic facilities where appropriate. In doing so, the Member should clearly indicate the unofficial nature of the translation.

## **E. HANDLING OF COMMENTS ON NOTIFICATIONS**

Each Member should notify the WTO Secretariat of the authority or agency (e.g. its notification authority) which it has designated to be in charge of handling comments received, and of any change and/or modification of such authority or agency.

Members submitting comments on a notified draft regulation should provide them without unnecessary delay to the authority designated to handle the comments, or to the national notification authority if no other designation is made.

A Member receiving comments through the designated body should, without further request

- (i) acknowledge the receipt of such comments;
- (ii) explain within a reasonable period of time, and as long as possible before the adoption of the measure, to any Member from which it has received comments, how it will take these comments into account and, where appropriate, provide additional relevant information on the proposed sanitary or phytosanitary regulations concerned;
- (iii) provide to any Member from which it has received comments, a copy of the corresponding sanitary or phytosanitary regulations as adopted or information that no corresponding sanitary or phytosanitary regulations will be adopted for the time being; and,



- (iv) where possible, make available comments and questions it has received and answers it has provided to other Members through electronic facilities.

Favourable consideration should be given to requests for extension of the comment period, in particular with regard to notifications relating to products of particular interest to developing country Members, or where there have been delays in receiving and translating the relevant documents. An extension of the time-limit for comments of at least 30 days should be provided upon request, whenever possible.

F. COMPLETION OF FORMATS - ROUTINE NOTIFICATIONS (ANNEX B, PARAGRAPH 5)

Information contained in the notifications should be as complete as possible and no section should be left blank. Where necessary, "not known" or "not stated" should be indicated.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>
1. Member notifying	Government, including the competent authorities of the European Communities, which is making the notification.
2. Agency responsible	Body elaborating a proposal for or promulgating a sanitary or phytosanitary regulation.
3. Products covered	Tariff item number(s) (normally HS, chapter or heading and number) as contained in national schedules deposited with the WTO. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable. A clear description is important for an understanding of the notification by delegations and translators. Abbreviations should be avoided.
4. Regions or countries likely to be affected	The geographical regions or countries likely to be affected by the notified regulation should be identified to the extent relevant or practicable.
5. Title and number of pages of the notified document	Title of the proposed or adopted sanitary or phytosanitary regulation. Number of pages in the notified document. World wide web address of document notified, if available.
6. Description of content	A summary of the proposed or adopted sanitary or phytosanitary regulation clearly indicating its content. The summary should be as complete and accurate as possible to allow the full understanding of the proposed regulation. Abbreviations should be avoided. The summary should describe the health objective of the proposed regulation and, to the extent possible, its likely effects on trade. Where practicable it should also include an outline of the specific sanitary measures the regulation will apply.

7. Objective and rationale State whether objective is: protection of human health from food-borne risks; or protection of human health from plant- or animal-carried diseases; or protection of animal health from pests or diseases; or protection on animal health from contaminated feed; or protection of plant health from pests or diseases; or prevention of damage from entry or spread of pests.
8. Existence of international standard, guideline or recommendation If a relevant international standard, guideline or recommendation does not exist, put a cross in the box provided; otherwise give the appropriate reference of the existing standard, guideline or recommendation and briefly describe how the proposed regulation deviates from the international standard, guideline or recommendation.
9. Relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available
- (a) Publication where notice of the proposed regulation appears, including date and reference numbers;
- (b) Proposal and basic document to which proposal refers (with specific reference number or other identification), and the language(s) in which the notified documents and any summary of these are available;
- (c) Publication in which proposal will appear when adopted;
- (d) If it is necessary to charge for documents supplied, the amount of the charge should be indicated.
10. Proposed date of adoption The date when the sanitary or phytosanitary regulation is expected to be adopted.
11. Proposed date of entry into force The date from which the requirements in the regulation are proposed or decided to enter into force. Where appropriate, Members should accord longer time-frames for compliance on products of interest to developing country Members.
12. Final date for comments and agency or authority handling comments
- The date by which Members may submit comments in accordance with Annex B, Paragraph 5(b) of the SPS Agreement. A specific date should be indicated. A normal time limit for comments on notifications of sixty days has been recommended. A Member may, if necessary, however, indicate in its notification that it will proceed to implement the proposed measure after forty-five days if no comments or requests for extension of the time limit have been received from other Members within that time. Any Member which is able to provide a time limit beyond sixty days is encouraged to do so.
- The agency or authority which has been designated to handle the comments should be indicated. If this is the national notification authority, put a cross in the box provided. If another agency or authority has been designated, provide its name, address, fax and (if available) E-mail address.

13. Texts available from

If available from the national notification authority or the enquiry point, put a cross in the respective box. If available from another body, give its address, fax number and (if available) E-mail address. Such indications do not in any way discharge the relevant enquiry point of its responsibilities under the provisions of Annex B, Paragraphs 3 and 4 of the SPS Agreement.

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(99-0000)

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## Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

### NOTIFICATION

<b>1. Member to Agreement notifying:</b> <b>If applicable, name of local government involved:</b>
<b>2. Agency responsible:</b>
<b>3. Products covered (tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable):</b>
<b>4. Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable:</b>
<b>5. Title and number of pages of the notified document:</b>
<b>6. Description of content:</b>
<b>7. Objective and rationale:</b>
<b>8. An international standard, guideline or recommendation does not exist [ ].</b> <b>If an international standard, guideline or recommendation exists, give the appropriate reference and briefly identify deviations:</b>
<b>9. Relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available:</b>
<b>10. Proposed date of adoption:</b>
<b>11. Proposed date of entry into force:</b>
<b>12. Final date for comments:</b> <b>Agency or authority designated to handle comments: National notification authority [ ]</b> <b>or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body:</b>
<b>13. Texts available from: National notification authority [ ]; National enquiry point [ ] or</b> <b>address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body:</b>

G. COMPLETION OF FORMATS - EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS (ANNEX B, PARAGRAPH 6)

Information contained in the notification form should be as complete as possible and no section should be left blank. Where necessary, "not known" or "not stated" should be indicated.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>
1. Member notifying	Government, including the competent authorities of the European Communities, which is making the notification.
2. Agency responsible	Body elaborating a proposal for or promulgating a sanitary or phytosanitary regulation.
3. Products covered	Tariff item number(s) (normally HS, chapter or heading and number) as contained in national schedules deposited with the WTO. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable. A clear description is important for an understanding of the notification by delegations and translators. Abbreviations should be avoided.
4. Regions or countries likely to be affected	The geographical regions or countries likely to be affected by the notified regulation should be identified to the extent relevant or practicable.
5. Title and number of pages of the notified document	Title of the proposed or adopted sanitary or phytosanitary regulation. Number of pages in the notified document. World wide web address of document notified, if available.
6. Description of content	A summary of the proposed or adopted sanitary or phytosanitary regulation clearly indicating its content. The summary should be as complete and accurate as possible to allow the full understanding of the proposed regulation. Abbreviations should be avoided. The summary should describe the health objective of the proposed regulation and, to the extent possible, its likely effects on trade. Where practicable it should also include an outline of the specific sanitary measures the regulation will apply.
7. Objective and rationale	State whether objective is: protection of human health from food-borne risks; or protection of human health from plant- or animal-carried diseases; or protection of animal health from pests or diseases; or protection of animal health from contaminated feed; or; protection of plant health from pests or diseases; or prevention of damage from entry or spread of pests
8. Nature of urgent problem(s)	Indication of the underlying reasons for resorting to emergency action.

9. Existence of international standard, guideline or recommendation
- If a relevant international standard, guideline or recommendation does not exist, put a cross in the box provided; otherwise give the appropriate reference of the existing standard, guideline or recommendation and briefly describe how the proposed regulation deviates from the international standard, guideline or recommendation.
10. Relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available
- (a) Measure(s) taken and basic regulation which was modified (with specific reference number or other identification), and the language(s) in which the notified documents and any summary of these are available;
- (b) Publication in which regulation will appear;
- (c) If it is necessary to charge for documents supplied, the amount of the charge should be indicated.
11. Date of entry into force and period of application
- The date from which the requirements entered into force, and, if applicable, the period of time during which they will apply. (For example: immediate entry into force [date], duration of two months.)
12. Texts available from and agency or authority handling comments
- If available from the national notification authority or enquiry point, put a cross in the respective box. If available from another body, give its address, fax number and (if available) E-mail address. Such indications do not in any way discharge the relevant enquiry point of its responsibilities under the provisions of Annex B, Paragraphs 3 and 4 of the SPS Agreement.
- The agency or authority which has been designated to handle the comments should be indicated.

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

NOTIFICATION OF EMERGENCY MEASURES

<b>1. Member to Agreement notifying:</b>  <b>If applicable, name of local government involved:</b>
<b>2. Agency responsible:</b>
<b>3. Products covered (tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable):</b>
<b>4. Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable:</b>
<b>5. Title and number of pages of the notified document:</b>
<b>6. Description of content:</b>
<b>7. Objective and rationale:</b>
<b>8. Nature of the urgent problem(s):</b>
<b>9. An international standard, guideline or recommendation does not exist [ ].</b>  <b>If an international standard, guideline or recommendation exists, give its appropriate reference and briefly identify deviations:</b>
<b>10. Relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available:</b>
<b>11. Date of entry into force/period of application (as applicable):</b>
<b>12. Texts available from/and agency or authority designated to handle comments: National notification authority [ ], national enquiry point [ ] or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body:</b>