

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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**Working Party on the  
Accession of Albania**

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## ACCESSION OF ALBANIA

### Memorandum on Compliance with Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

The Ministry of Economic Co-operation and Trade of the Republic of Albania has submitted the following Memorandum on Compliance with Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS), with the request that it be circulated to members of the Working Party.

### **Memorandum on Compliance with Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)**

Albanian Compliance	Requirements under the WTO
1. Standstill: the introduction of new standards, animal health regulations and food safety regulations shall conform to SPS Agreement principles. The current regulations include: "The Law on State Sanitary Inspectorate", No. 7643, dated 2 December 1992	1. Generally agreed principal in WTO accession negotiations.
2. Article I, Section 1 and 6, of the Law on State Sanitary Inspectorate states that the Ministry of Health serves as the information point for the WHO and related international organizations. This Inspectorate will be the Contact Point for the WTO. The Directory of Veterinary Service and Plant Protection in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food serves as the information point for questions related to animal and plant inspection, control, etc. According to the Law on Standardisation, the government has the authority to produce sub-legal acts to establish a single unit that will serve as the contact point. Based on Article No. 15 of the law, we need about 2 years to implement the setting up of that unit	2. Article 7 and Annex B.3.
4. The Law on State Sanitary Inspectorate (Article I, sections 5-8, and Article II) defines measures that apply only to protect human, animal an/or plant health. All inspectors (chemical and physical laboratories, toxicological, bacteriological) operate according to this law and inspections are based on scientific criteria.	4. Article 2.2.

Albanian Compliance	Requirements under the WTO
5. The Law on State Sanitary Inspectorate (Article I, sections 5-8, and Article II) defines measures that apply only to protect human, animal an/or plant health. All inspectors (chemical and physical laboratories, toxicological, bacteriological) operate according to this law and inspections are based on scientific criteria.	5. Articles 2.2, 3.3 and 5.2.
6. The Law on State Sanitary Inspectorate (Articles I-III) provides for harmonisation, i.e., will follow international standards, guidelines, and recommendations in establishing SPS measures.	6. Articles 3.1, 3.3 and 3.4.
7. The Law on State Sanitary Inspectorate (Articles I-II) provides for equivalence, i.e., recognises different measures that achieve the same level of protection.	7. Article 4.
8. The Law on State Sanitary Inspectorate (Articles I-III) provides for risk assessment by developing scientific evidence and conducting risk assessments to ensure that measures are based on science and applied only to the extent necessary to protect health.	8. Article 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3.
9. The Law on State Sanitary Inspectorate (Article I) provides for consideration of regional conditions, i.e., measures that take into account the regional characteristics both of the areas from which products originate and the areas for which they are destined.	9. Article 6 and Annexes A.6 and A.7.
10. The Law on State Sanitary Inspectorate (Articles I-II) provides for non-discrimination, i.e., measures do not arbitrarily or unjustifiably discriminate between different members or between domestic and foreign suppliers. Sub-legal acts define how samples are taken, and the procedures of an examination and its duration. The practices are transparent for all subjects that under control.	10. Article 2.3, and Annex C.1(a) and (d).
11. The Law on State Sanitary Inspectorate provides for the control, inspection and approval procedures, e.g., to ensure that procedures, including systems for approval of the use of additives or for establishing tolerances for contaminants in foods, beverages or feedstuffs comply with the Agreement.	11. Article 8 and Annex C.