

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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**Working Party on the  
Accession of the Lao PDR**

Original: English

## **ACCESSION OF THE LAO PDR**

### Action Plan on the Legislative Work and Implementation of the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)

#### Revision

The following submission, dated 4 June 2012, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR).

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Issues	Actions	Implementation Timeframe	Technical Assistance Provided/Sought
1. Food Safety	Regulation on Bottled Drinking Water, No. 585/MoH, dated 12 May 2006	Adopted in May 2006	TA received from FAO and WHO.
	Regulation on Production, Exported-Imported Safe Food, No. 586/MoH, dated 12 May 2006	Adopted in May 2006	TA received from FAO and WHO.
	National Policy on Food Safety, No. 028/PM, dated 3 February 2009	Adopted in February 2009	TA received from FAO and WHO.  TA received from Trade Development Facility (TDF) for publication, dissemination and training for all stakeholders.
	Regulation on Basic Principles in Application of Sanitary and Technical Measures in Food Safety Management in accordance with the SPS Agreement, No. 518/MoH, dated 18 March 2009	Adopted in March 2009	TA received from FAO and WHO on drafting.  TA received from TDF for publication, dissemination and training for all stakeholders.
	Regulation on Labelling of Pre-Packaged Food, No. 519/MoH, dated 18 March 2009	Adopted in March 2009	TA received from WHO on drafting.
	Decision on Food Inspection No. 297/MOH dated 24 February 2012	Adopted in February 2012	TA received from TDF, FAO legal expert has been employed for finalizing the regulation.
	Regulation on Food Additives	Adopted under Ministerial Decision on Adopting Codex Alimentarius Standards as Priorities, No. 605/MoH, dated 27 April 2011	TA to be requested from TDF for translation, publication, training and implementation.
	Ministerial Decision on Adopting Codex Alimentarius Standards, No. 605/MoH, dated 27 April 2011	Adopted in April 2011	TA requested from TDF for translation, publication, training and implementation.
National Association of Testing Authority (NATA)'s assessment on ISO 17025 accreditation for microbiology testing laboratory	Started in 2009	TA received from UNIDO.	

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	Improving food processing by introducing food hygiene practice, GMP	GMP Guidelines developed and training provided in 2009-2010.	<p>TA provided by EC, FAO and WHO in November 2009 for training and developing guidelines.</p> <p>TA requested from Japan for GMP through APO project.</p>

Issues	Actions	Implementation Timeframe	Technical Assistance Provided/Sought
2. Animal Health	Law on Livestock Production and Veterinary, No. 03/NA, dated 25 July 2008	Adopted in July 2008	Recommendations received from FAO and EU.  TA received from FAO and TDF for publication, dissemination and training for all stakeholders.
	Law on Fisheries, No. 03/NA, dated 9 July 2009	Adopted in July 2009	TA received from TDF for publication, dissemination and training for all stakeholders.
	Ministerial Decision on Animal Slaughtering and Animal Product Inspection, No. 0870/MAF, dated 18 March 2011	Adopted in March 2011	Recommendations received from EU.
	Decree on the Control of the Movement of Animal, Animal Product and Related Item No. 230/GoL, dated 4 June 2012 (formerly referred to as amendment of Decree on Livestock and Livestock Products Movement Control)	Adopted in June 2012	TA received from FAO, TDF and USAID.
	Decree on Animal Disease Control and Prevention No. 228/GoL, dated 31 May 2012 (formerly referred to as amendment of Decree on Animal Epidemic Diseases)	Adopted in May 2012	TA received from FAO, TDF and USAID
	Establishment of a diagnostic laboratory	Completed in December 2011 BSL.3 system is being installed. Equipment moved in from the old laboratory.	Implementation funding requested from the World Bank.
	Identification of animal disease free areas  Regulation on Establishment of Animal Disease Free Area or Compartmentalization	The principles were included in Decree on Animal Disease Control and Prevention No. 228/GoL, dated 31 May 2012	ADB and World Bank under process of designing programme to get accreditation from OIE.
	Regulation on Principles in the Application of SPS Measures in Plant and Animal Administration, No. 0039/MAF, dated 11 January 2012	Adopted in January 2012	TA received from USAID.

Issues	Actions	Implementation Timeframe	Technical Assistance Provided/Sought
	Regulation on Criteria for Livestock Production and Veterinary Business	Incorporated in the Decree on the Control of the Movement of Animals, Animal Product and Related Item No. 230/GoL, dated 4 June 2012 and Decree on Animal Disease Control and Prevention No. 228/GoL, dated 31 May 2012	
3. Plant Health	Law on Plant Protection and Quarantine, No 06/NA, dated 9 December 2008	Adopted in 2008	Recommendations received from FAO legal experts, practices of neighbouring countries.  TA received from TDF for publication, dissemination, translation and training for all stakeholders.
	Decree on Implementation of the Law on Plant Protection No. 229/GoL, dated 31 May 2012	Adopted in May 2012	TA received from FAO, TDF and USAID
	Regulation on Good Agriculture Practices	Adopted in 2010	
	Guideline on Inspection and Certification Procedures for Plants, Plant Products and Related Articles (formerly refers to as the Regulation on Plant Inspection and Certification).	Incorporated in Decree on Implementation of the Law on Plant Protection No. 229/GoL, dated 31 May 2012	TA received from FAO and TDF
	Establishment of a laboratory on plant diseases and pests	Deferred	No funding.
	Identification of pest and disease free areas	Basic principles have been incorporated in the Decree on Implementation of the Law on Plant Protection No. 229/GoL, dated 31 May 2012	
	Ministerial Decision of on Control of Pesticides in Lao PDR, No. 2860/MAF of 11 June 2010 (formerly referred to as the Regulation on Pesticide Management)	Adopted in 2010	TA requested from TDF for translation and publication.
	4. Information Procedures	Decree on Notification and Enquiry of Trade Related Information, No. 363/PM, dated 19 August 2010 (formerly referred to as Decree on the SPS and TBT Notification Centre and Enquiry Points)	Adopted in August 2010

Issues	Actions	Implementation Timeframe	Technical Assistance Provided/Sought
	<p>Establishment of SPS Enquiry Point under Decree on Notification and Enquiry of Trade Related Information No. 363/PM</p> <p>Decision on SPS Enquiry Point, No. 1502/MAF, dated 23 June 2011 was adopted to strengthen coordination among notification unit, enquiry points and relevant authorities.</p> <p>Address of SPS Enquiry Point: Department of Planning, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry PO Box 811, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR Tel: 85621-415363 Fax: 85621-412343 Email: enquiries@laosps.gov.la (To be operational upon accession)</p>	<p>Operational upon Accession</p> <p>Adopted in June 2011</p> <p>Responsible staff has been assigned; Webpage has been developed under Trade Portal website;</p>	<p>TA received from USAID and ADB for implementation.</p> <p>TA received from USAID.</p> <p>Training and study visit for responsible staff have been requested from USAID</p>
	<p>Establishment of SPS and TBT Notification Unit under Decree on Notification and Enquiry of Trade Related Information No. 363/PM</p> <p>Decision on SPS and TBT Notification Unit No 0471/MOIC, dated 9 March 2011</p> <p>Address of SPS and TBT Notification Unit: Foreign Trade Policy Department, Ministry of Industry and Commerce. P.O. Box 4107, Phonexay Road, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR Tel: 85621-450065 Fax: 85621-450066 Website: www.laoftpd.com</p>	<p>Operational upon Accession</p> <p>Adopted in March 2011</p> <p>Responsible staff has been assigned; Training and study visit for responsible staff have been requested from USAID</p>	<p>TA requested from USAID and ADB for implementation, e.g. establishment of database, training of relevant staff on the SPS and TBT Agreements including through exchange experiences and study visit.</p>

Plan of activities for 2012:

- 1) Develop operational manuals for the SPS Enquiry Point and Notification Unit (with ADB support);
- 2) Organize dissemination workshops and produce publications on activities and function of the SPS Enquiry Point and Notification Unit (with ADB and USAID support);
- 3) Provide trainings and study visits for staff responsible for the SPS Enquiry Point and Notification Unit (with USAID support);
- 4) Launching event for the operation of the SPS Enquiry Point and Notification Unit (with TDF support); and
- 5) Adopt all necessary legislation to ensure the full compliance with the SPS Agreement by December 2012 (with TDF and USAID support).

Plan of activities and technical assistance needed for 2013:

- 1) Organize dissemination workshops and produce publications on newly adopted SPS legislation and the SPS Agreement for relevant stakeholders including business sector, local government authorities and relevant competent authorities;
- 2) Set up the risk assessment systems for public health and agriculture sectors including seeking funding support for necessary equipment;
- 3) Provide relevant trainings and study visits on risk assessment staff;
- 4) Establish the National SPS Committee;
- 5) Assign the national representatives to participate in the WTO SPS committee meetings;
- 6) Organize an annual national review on the implementation of newly adopted SPS legislation;

Plan of activities and technical assistance needed for 2014:

- 1) Communicate to address the outstanding issues identified by the annual national review;
- 2) Organize dissemination workshops and consultation meetings, if necessary;
- 3) Participate in the WTO SPS committee meetings and other relevant WTO meetings;
- 4) Organize an annual national review on the implementation of the SPS legislation; and
- 5) Exchange experiences on SPS matters with other Members.

Note: Lao PDR will ensure that its legal framework on food safety, animal and plant health is in compliance with the SPS Agreement by 31 December 2012. Full implementation of the SPS Agreement is 31 December 2014, taking into consideration of national capacity and the provision of technical assistance mentioned above.

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