

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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**Working Party on the
Accession of Liberia**

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ACCESSION OF LIBERIA

Checklist of Illustrative Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Issues for Consideration in Accessions

The following submission, dated 16 May 2012, is being circulated at the request of the Government of the Republic of Liberia.

Commitments	WTO Reference	Status (as of 16 May 2012)
1. Standstill: the introduction of new standards, animal health regulations and food safety regulations shall conform to SPS Agreement principles.	1. Generally agreed principle in WTO accession negotiations.	Standards for animal health regulations and food safety regulations have already been implemented in Liberia pursuant to the Plant and Animal Quarantine Act, which conforms to the principles of the SPS Agreement.
2. Establishment and operation of a single Contact Point for Information ("enquiry point").	2. Article 7 and Annex B.3.	An Enquiry Point for SPS matters is being established. Please refer to the answer to Question 63 in document WT/ACC/LBR/4 for further information.
3. Transparency: notification and access to documentation:	3. Articles 7 and Annex B, also G/SPS/7.	Because there is no SPS Enquiry Point yet, no notifications have been made and other functions of the SPS Enquiry Point are not being carried out at this time.
(a) identification of authority responsible for making notifications to the WTO and ensuring transparency obligations are met on an ongoing basis;	(a) Annex B.5. (b) and Annex B.10.	Once established as part of the accession process, the SPS Enquiry Point will be responsible for making notifications to the WTO.
(b) establish guidance or law requiring publication of proposed measures at an early stage for comment;	(b) Annex B.5 (a).	As of now, there is no formal guidance or law requiring publication of proposed measures at an early stage for comment.
(c) provision in law or administrative procedure to provide copies of proposed measures to WTO Members; and	(c) Annex B.5. (c).	Same as above (b).
(d) require in law or administrative procedure, a reasonable period of time for comment from Members and the public, and establishment of a process to take comments into account without discrimination.	(d) Annex B.5 (d).	Same as above (b).
4. Necessity: measures are applied only to the extent necessary to protect human, animal or plant health.	4. Article 2.2.	The Quarantine Act of 1972 only applies to measures necessary to protect human, animal and plant health.
5. Regulations Based on Science: regulations governing animal and plant health and food safety shall be based on scientific evidence.	5. Articles 2.2, 3.3 and 5.2.	The Quarantine Act of 1972 requires regulations governing animal and plant health and foods safety to be based on scientific evidence.
6. Harmonization: to the extent possible, members shall follow international standards, guidelines, and recommendations in establishing SPS measures.	6. Articles 3.1, 3.3 and 3.4.	Liberia is a member of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and therefore follows international standards.
7. Equivalence: members shall recognize different measures that achieve the same level of protection.	7. Article 4.	Liberia recognizes that different SPS measures can achieve the same level of protection.

Commitments	WTO Reference	Status (as of 16 May 2012)
8. Risk Assessment: 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.	Liberia is a member of Codex and the Codex standards can be applied to establish an acceptable level of protection for food safety. See 5 above.
9. Regional conditions: measures 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.	Liberia recognizes measures that take into account regional characteristics.
10. Non-discrimination: measures do not arbitrarily or unjustifiably discriminate between different members or between domestic and foreign suppliers.	10. Article 2.3, and Annex C.1 (a) and (d).	Liberia's measures do not arbitrarily or unjustifiably discriminate between different Members.
11. Control, inspection and approval procedures: 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.	Liberia does have control, inspection and approval procedures for the use of additives or tolerances for contaminants in foods, beverages or feedstuffs.
