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**Working Party on the
Accession of Samoa**

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ACCESSION OF SAMOA

Action Plan for the Implementation of the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) Agreement

The following submission, dated 19 June 2008, is being circulated at the request of the Government of Samoa.

Action Plan for the Implementation of the SPS Agreement

Action	Timeframe and Comments
Parliamentary passage of Quarantine (Bio security) Act 2005.	Completed.
Introduction of new standards, animal health regulations and food safety regulations in conformity with the SPS Agreement principles.	The introduction of new standards and regulations follows the principles set out in the Biosecurity Act and is based on risk analysis.
Further development of quarantine website, www.samoaquarantine.gov.ws, to improve notification and access to documentation.	Improve input of data and the operation of the website. Technical assistance to assist in further operational improvement of website, for it to be in good order by July 2007.
Measures are applied only to the extent necessary to protect human, animal or plant health and regulations governing animal and plant health and food safety shall be based on scientific evidence.	The Quarantine (Biosecurity) Act 2005 mandates a risk based approach consistent with principles of SPS Agreement.
To the extent possible, members shall follow international standards, guidelines, and recommendations in establishing SPS measures.	Samoa participates in the development of international standards (e.g. plant standards under IPPC through the Pacific Plant Protection Organisation) and follows international standards and guidelines in the development of national standards.
Equivalence: Members shall recognize different measures that achieve the same level of protection.	The Quarantine (Biosecurity) Act 2005 mandates a risk based approach consistent with principles of SPS Agreement. Samoa has been flexible with this principle and uses it to facilitate trade without compromising Quarantine.
Contact for SPS and administrative procedures: Assistant Chief Executive Officer Quarantine Division Ministry of Agriculture	Other linked contact points have been established. MAF/Quarantine for IPPC, MAF/APH for OIE and MCIL for Codex.
Establishment / Training of enquiry officer with MAF: Head of Quarantine Ministry of Agriculture	July 2009: Ongoing training with capacity required expected to be achieved by July 2009. Technical assistance has been sought from New Zealand / AusAid.
Establishment of implementing regulations, including control, inspection and approval procedures.	The Quarantine (Biosecurity) Act 2005 is flexible. It already provides a mandate for administrative procedures outlining control, inspection and approval procedures, following the principles of the SPS Agreement.
Further identification of regulations necessary for giving full effect to the Act (if any).	Section 69(1) allows for the making of Regulations for such matters which are necessary for giving full effect to the Act.
Draft / Passage of Regulations.	July 2010 (in line with the achievement of the Quarantine Performance Measures).
Upgrade and strengthen facilities and equipment. (Require x-ray machines, more disposal / treatment facilities, new replacement of existing old machines, strengthen fumigation mechanisms, IT support systems - computers, etc.)	The most basic facilities and equipment are in place. Technical assistance has been sought from New Zealand / AusAid.
Development of manuals. Printing of forms, brochures, etc. (SPS specific).	Operational manuals and procedures are already in place. These are updated regularly.
Include National Awareness Workshop on SPS.	Technical assistance to be sought by July 2009 to commence awareness programmes.
SPS specific intensive training of at least 15 quarantine officials.	By July 2009.

Action	Timeframe and Comments
National awareness programmes on SPS implementation (to include customs officers, private sector people and civil society).	By July 2010 (Capacity achievement to be achieved by these dates). In line with performance measure target to complete. By July - December 2009. By July 2010 - December 2011 (Capacity achievement to be achieved by these dates).
Full implementation.	By 1 January 2012. In line with performance measure target to complete.
