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**Working Party on the Accession
of the Russian Federation**

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ACCESSION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Checklists of Technical Barriers to Trade and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Issues in the Accession of the Russian Federation to the WTO

Revision

The Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation has submitted the following revised checklists of TBT and SPS issues relating to the accession of the Russian Federation to the WTO, with the request that it be circulated to members of the Working Party.

Checklist of TBT Issues in the Accession of the Russian Federation to the WTO as of October 2002

WTO Reference	Commitments (by the time of accession)	Progress of Implementation; Estimated Time Required to Undertake the Commitment
1.	2.	3.
1. Generally agreed principle in WTO accession negotiations	1. Standstill: the introduction of new standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures should be fully compatible with the TBT Agreement	The Russian party does not intend to complicate access to its markets by introducing a less favourable treatment for the purposes of the TBT Agreement. The basic parameters were defined in the Russia's draft commitments in respect of access to goods and services markets. Measures for market protection will be undertaken in full compliance with Russia's international obligations, the existing and pending Russian legislation. Legal and regulatory framework for the implementation of the above was provided under the "Interministerial Programme of Measures to Ensure Compliance with the WTO TBT Agreement and the WTO SPS Agreement for 1999 – 2000" and will be completed in all material respects in the course of implementing a similar programme for 2002 – 2005 (the programme is scheduled for approval in November 2002).
2. Article 15.2 and TBT Committee Decision (G/TBT/1)	2. Submission of Statement on Implementation	Pursuant to the TBT Agreement this commitment will be fully implemented after the accession of the Russian Federation to the WTO (see also Section 3 herein).
3. Article 10	3. Establishment and operation of a single Contact Point for Information ("enquiry point")	The Russian Single Contact Point for TBT/SPS ("TBT/SPS Enquiry Point") was set up by Gosstandart of Russia at and using and resources of All-Russia Research Institute for Classification, Terminology and Information on Standardisation and Quality (VNIKI). The function of the TBT/SPS Enquiry Point is to provide, in conjunction with specialised information centres of different ministries and agencies, the necessary TBT and SPS related information to all interested parties, including foreign participants of international trade. Address: Russian Single Contact Point for TBT/SPS Information (TBT/SPS Enquiry Point), 4 Granatny per., Moscow 103001 Russian Federation. tel./fax 230 25 98 E-mail: ENPOINT@VNIKI.RU Gosstandart of Russia also has a web site (www.GOSTR.RU) which can be used for access to information stored on the Macronet interministerial network (regarding TBT and SPS), including the annual standardisation plans.
4. Articles 2, 3, 5, 7, 10, 15.2, Annex 3 and G/TBT/1	4. Identification of authority responsible for notifications, publications and other internal procedures to ensure transparency obligations are met on an ongoing basis:	Gosstandart of Russia is intended to undertake this role. The final appointment will be made after the enactment of the Federal Law "Framework Provisions on Technical Regulation in the Russian Federation".

WTO Reference	Commitments (by the time of accession)	Progress of Implementation; Estimated Time Required to Undertake the Commitment
(a) Articles 2.9.1, 3.1, 5.6.1, 7.1, 10.1.5	(a) identification of publication where notices of proposed technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures will appear;	The Russian TBT/SPS Enquiry Point specified in Section 3 above, which started publishing a specialised "Vestnik"(Bulletin) in 2000, is currently ready to assume this function. The procedure for preparation and submission of notification is provided in GOST R 1.13-2001 (in effect since January 1, 2002).
(b) Article 2.9.2, 2.10.1, 3.2, 3.3, 5.6.2, 5.7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 10.7, 10.10	(b) identification of authority responsible for making notifications to the WTO;	It is intended to appoint Gosstandart of Russia and other affected ministries and agencies responsible for preparing notifications. The Russian TBT/SPS Enquiry Point is the organisation responsible for the actual submission of notifications to the WTO.
(c) Articles 2.9.4, 2.10.3, 3.1, 3.3, 5.6.4, 5.7.3, 7.1, 7.3	(c) guidance/law to ensure regulatory authorities afford non-discriminatory consideration of comments in the preparation of a final regulation;	The draft Federal Law "Framework Provisions on Technical Regulation in the Russian Federation" (pending for the second reading by the State Duma in October 2002) provides that all developers of technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures must publish any new drafts, and consider and incorporate all comments in respect thereof from all interested parties.
(d) Articles 2.11, 2.12, 3.1, 5.8, 5.9, 7.1	(d) guidance/law to ensure regulatory authorities allow a reasonable period of time between the final publication of a technical regulation and conformity assessment procedure and its entry into force so that suppliers can adapt;	The draft Federal Law "Framework Provisions on Technical Regulation in the Russian Federation" provides for a reasonable period of time (at least six months) between the adoption of a technical regulation or conformity assessment procedure and their enactment, allowing all measures ensuring compliance with the newly introduced requirements to be fulfilled.
(e) Article 4, Annex 3 (J, K, L, N, O); Article 8.1	(e) publication and notification of work programme for standards and non-governmental conformity assessment procedures, including publication of notices of draft standards and an opportunity for public comment.	These functions will be performed by the Russian TBT/SPS Enquiry Point which has started a specialised "Vestnik" (Bulletin). Besides, standardisation work programmes are published in the Annual Catalogue of Standards and posted on the web-site of Gosstandart of Russia: WWW.GOST.RU.

WTO Reference	Commitments (by the time of accession)	Progress of Implementation; Estimated Time Required to Undertake the Commitment
5. Articles 2, 3, 5, 6, 7	5. Development and Application of Technical Regulations and Conformity Assessment Procedures: Existence of legal and/or administrative underpinnings (or "reasonable measures" as appropriate) to ensure ongoing compliance with provisions of the agreement concerning, in particular:	
(a) Articles 2.1, 3.1, 5.1, 5.2, 7.1	(a) non-discrimination with respect to the treatment of products;	There is no discrimination of imported goods (for the purposes of the TBT Agreement) in the Russian Federation.
(b) Articles 2.2, 3.1, 5.1, 5.2, 7.1	(b) the prohibition of unnecessary obstacles to international trade and the consideration of less trade-restrictive alternatives to fulfilling legitimate objectives;	Unnecessary obstacles to international trade are being lifted in the course of harmonisation of the current legislation and conformity assessment procedures with the international requirements. The draft Federal Law "Framework Provisions on Technical Regulation in the Russian Federation" fully implements this principle.
(c) Article 2.3, 3.1, 7.1	(c) the ongoing review of technical regulations to ensure they are appropriate to achieve the desired legitimate objective;	Ongoing review of technical regulations to ensure their conformity to legal requirements is a current practice.
(d) Article 2.4, 3.1, 5.4, 7.1	(d) the consideration of appropriate international standards, guides and recommendations as a basis for technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures;	Current practice makes ample use of international standards, guides and recommendations in the development of technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures. Besides, a commitment to use the above as a basis for development of national technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures is provided under the draft Federal Law "Framework Provisions on Technical Regulation in the Russian Federation"
(e) Article 2.7, 3.1, 7.1	(e) the consideration of equivalent technical regulations of other Members;	Development of national regulatory acts already involves a review of technical regulations of WTO Members. Notably, for standards containing mandatory requirements, this underlying guidance is provided in Law 5154-1 of the Russian Federation "On Standardisation" (Article 6) of 10 June 1993 (as amended and supplemented on 27 December 1995) currently in effect.

WTO Reference	Commitments (by the time of accession)	Progress of Implementation; Estimated Time Required to Undertake the Commitment
(f) Article 6, 7.1	(f) the acceptance of the results of conformity assessment procedures conducted by bodies in an exporting Member country;	Under Article 4 of Law 5151-1 of the Russian Federation "On Certification of Products and Services" dated 10 June 1993 as amended by Federal Law 154-FZ of 31 July 1998, Russia recognises the results of conformity assessment procedures by all international systems Russia has acceded to (Geneva 1955 Treaty on Mechanical Vehicles, Brussels Convention for Mutual Recognition of Tests of Brands of Handguns and Cartridges, The International Electrotechnical Commission's Quality Assessment System for Electronic Components (IECQ), the IEC International System for Confirmation of Test Results and Certification of Electric Equipment, the IEC Scheme for Certification to Standards for Explosive Atmospheres (IECEX). In other cases, recognition of the results of conformity assessment procedures is provided under multilateral or bilateral agreements.
(g) Article 5.2, 7.1, 10.4	(g) non-discriminatory and cost-based fee structure.	Gosstandart of Russia had adopted (upon agreement with the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation) "Rules of Certification. Fees for Certification of Products and Services" which were subsequently registered with the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation on 29 December 1999 (reg. No. 2031). The document provides a uniform fee-payment structure for national and foreign applicants, and is based on the costs effectively incurred by certification authorities and testing laboratories in carrying out the conformity assessment procedures.
6. Article 4 and Annex 3, Article 8	6. Development and Application of Standards and Conformity Assessment Procedures: Existence of legal and/or administrative underpinnings (or "reasonable measures" as appropriate) to ensure ongoing compliance with provisions of the agreement concerning, in particular:	
(a) Annex 3 (D), Article 8.1	(a) non-discrimination with respect to the treatment of products;	There is no discrimination of imported goods (for the purposes of the TBT Agreement) in the Russian Federation.
(b) Annex 3 (E), Article 8.1	(b) the prohibition of unnecessary obstacles to international trade;	Unnecessary obstacles to international trade are being lifted in the course of harmonisation of the current legislation and conformity assessment procedures with their international counterparts. Certain required measures were undertaken under the "Interministerial Programme of Measures for 1999 – 2000" and further measures are envisaged by a similar programme for 2002 – 2005.

WTO Reference	Commitments (by the time of accession)	Progress of Implementation; Estimated Time Required to Undertake the Commitment
(c) Annex 3 (F), Article 8.1	(c) the consideration of appropriate international standards, guides and recommendations as a basis for standards;	This requirement is implemented in the framework standards of the State Standardisation System (GOST R 1.0-92 "The State Standardisation System of the Russian Federation. The Main Principles"; GOST R 1.2-92 "The State Standardisation System of the Russian Federation. The Procedure for Development of State Standards.")
(d) Annex 3 (M), Annex 3 (P), Articles 8.1, 10.4	(d) non-discriminatory and cost-based fee structure.	Gosstandart of Russia had adopted (upon agreement with the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation) "Rules of Certification. Fees for Certification of Products and Services" which were subsequently registered with the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation on 29 December 1999 (reg. No. 2031). The document provides a uniform fee-paying structure for national and foreign applicants, and is based on the costs effectively incurred by certification authorities and testing laboratories in carrying out the conformity assessment procedures. The ISO approaches are applied for the purposes of payment of the cost of standards.

Checklist of SPS Issues in Accession of the Russian Federation to the WTO

WTO Reference	Commitments (by the time of accession)	Progress of Implementation; Estimated Time Required to Undertake the Commitment
<p>1. Generally agreed principle in WTO accession negotiations.</p>	<p>1. Standstill: introduction of new standards, animal health regulations and food safety regulations shall conform to SPS Agreement principles.</p>	<p>The Russian party does not intend to complicate access to its markets by introducing a less favourable treatment for the purposes of the SPS Agreement. Such stand-still principle is provided for in the Russian legislation. The basic SPS conformity parameters are defined in Russia's draft commitments in respect of access to goods and services markets. Measures for market protection will be undertaken in full compliance with Russia's international obligations, the Russian legislation in force and the requirements of draft laws currently being written by reference to TBT and SPS Agreements.</p> <p>All sanitary, epidemiological, veterinary and phytosanitary measures maintained by the Russian Federation are maintained to such extent as required to protect human, animal and plant health only. Development and introduction of new standards, norms, requirements and oversight procedures will proceed in strict conformity to SPS Agreement.</p> <p>As Russia is preparing to accede to the WTO, the standstill principle has been implemented through the Interministerial Programme of Measures to Ensure Compliance with the WTO TBT Agreement and the WTO SPS Agreement for 1999 – 2001 and will be maintained under a similar further programme for 2002 – 2005.</p>

WTO Reference	Commitments (by the time of accession)	Progress of Implementation; Estimated Time Required to Undertake the Commitment
2. Article 7 and Annex B.3.	2. Establishment and operation of a single Contact Point for Information ("enquiry point").	<p>A functioning Russian Single Contact Point for TBT/SPS ("TBT/SPS Enquiry Point") was set up by Gosstandart of Russia on the basis of All-Russia Research Institute for Classification, Terminology and Information in Standardisation and Quality (VNIKI) in 1999. The function of the TBT/SPS Enquiry Point is to provide the necessary SPS-related information to all interested parties, including foreign participants of international trade.</p> <p>This Enquiry Point is the centre of a comprehensive information network encompassing federal and regional reference points, including specialised information centres of the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation (sanitary and epidemiological issues) and the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation (veterinary and phytosanitary issues).</p> <p>Address of the Russian TBT/SPS Enquiry Point address: 4 Granatny per., Moscow 103001 Russian Federation; tel./fax 230 25 98; e-mail: enpoint@vniiki.ru</p> <p>Address of the Ministry's of Health of the Russian Federation Centre for Regulation and Certification is: 18/20 Vadkovsky per., Moscow 101479 Russian Federation; tel. 978 2496, fax 973 1976; e-mail: snodeadmin20@gost.ru</p> <p>Address of the Principal Computing Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation: 15 Krzhizhanovskogo street, Moscow, Russian Federation; tel. 124 7796; fax: 124 7374 (www.aris.ru).</p>
3. Articles 7 and Annex B, also G/SPS/7. (a) Annex B.5(b) and Annex B.10.	3. Transparency: notification and access to documentation: (a) identification of authority responsible for making notifications to the WTO and ensuring transparency obligations are met on an ongoing basis;	(a) The Russian TBT/SPS Enquiry Point is the agency responsible for submitting notifications to the WTO, distribution of information and providing access to SPS documentation (in compliance with the transparency commitments), and it will start performing such functions in full immediately upon accession. Preparation of the necessary materials and documents pertains to the authority of the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation (sanitary and epidemiological issues) and the Ministry of Agriculture (animal and plant health control and quarantine).

WTO Reference	Commitments (by the time of accession)	Progress of Implementation; Estimated Time Required to Undertake the Commitment
(b) Annex B.5(a).	(b) establish guidance or law requiring publication of proposed measures at an early stage for comment;	<p>(b) A press organ for official publication of notifications will be appointed by the Government of the Russian Federation as required under the SPS Agreement. The Russian TBT/SPS Enquiry Point, which has started publishing a specialised "Vestnik" (Bulletin), is currently ready to assume this function. This requirement will be implemented after the accession. It is proposed inter alia to publish sanitary rules and norms.</p> <p>At present, listings of newly developed sanitary legislation are published in specialised journals. The development programme for state sanitary and epidemiological regulation in 2002 – 2005 may be viewed on the Ministry's of Health Regulation and Certification Centre webpage ("Documents" category) at www.crc.ru. Since September 2000, the "Bulletin of Regulations and Guidelines of State Sanitary and Epidemiological Supervision Authority of the Ministry of Health" comes out quarterly. The ninth issue of the Bulletin is currently ready for publication.</p> <p>Regulatory and legal documents on veterinary and phytosanitary measures are published in the Information Bulletin of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation, "Veterinary Practice" magazine, newspapers "Veterinary Consultant" and "Veterinary Gazette".</p>
(c) Annex B.5(c).	(c) implement through legislation or administrative procedures a requirement to provide copies of proposed measures to WTO Members; and	<p>(c) The draft Federal Law "Framework Provisions on Technical Regulation in the Russian Federation" (has passed the first reading by the State Duma) requires all developers of technical regulations to publish new drafts and incorporate the comments of interested parties and provide Members with lists of proposed measures.</p> <p>After the draft is passed into law this requirement will be additionally implemented in state sanitary, veterinary and epidemiological regulations. Currently the plans for development and review of regulatory documents and guidelines are included in the State Sanitary and Epidemiological Regulation Development Program for 2002 – 2005 approved by the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation on 29 December 2001 (see section 3 B). A schedule of development of main technical regulations is provided in the Interministerial Program of Measures (see section 1).</p>

WTO Reference	Commitments (by the time of accession)	Progress of Implementation; Estimated Time Required to Undertake the Commitment
(d) Annex B.5(d).	(d) implement through legislation or administrative procedures a reasonable period of time for comment from Members and the public, and establish a process for incorporating comments without discrimination.	<p>(d) The draft Federal Law "Framework Provisions on Technical Regulation in the Russian Federation" provides a sufficient period of time for comments from Members and interested persons regarding newly developed Russian laws, standards and other documents, and sets forth the requirement to consider and incorporate any relevant comments and proposals.</p> <p>Comments and proposals are considered and incorporated without discrimination unless capable of adversely affecting protection of human health, human environment, animal and plant health. Prior to final approval of a draft, a discrepancy protocol is produced substantiating the reasons for incorporating or failure to incorporate comments and proposals and is presented for discussion by the interested parties in conference.</p>
4. Article 2.2.	4. Necessity: measures are applied only to the extent necessary to protect human, animal or plant health.	<p>Pursuant to Federal Law No. 52-FZ "On Sanitary and Epidemiological Well-Being of the Population" dated 30 March 1999, the purpose of sanitary and epidemiological requirements is to eliminate environmental factors dangerous for man, ensure product safety, protection of human life and health, as well as prevention of occurrence and dissemination of diseases. Such sanitary and epidemiological requirements are passed in the form of sanitary rules and hygienic regulations, that are subject to subsequent state registration with the Ministry of Justice of Russia and official publication, and are enacted, as a general rule, no sooner than 3 months after their adoption. Extraordinary measures require a resolution by the Chief State Sanitary Physician of the Russian Federation and remain in effect until the danger is liquidated.</p> <p>Pursuant to the requirements of Federal Law No. 4979-1 of the Russian Federation "On Veterinary Service" dated 14 May 1993 and the Code of the International Office of Epizootics, relevant measures are applied only to the extent necessary to protect human and animal health. Extraordinary measures require a resolution by the Chief State veterinary Inspector of the Russian Federation and remain in effect until the source of a transmittable animal disease is liquidated.</p> <p>The exporting countries are notified of all measures through their Embassies in the Russian Federation. In the case of clear and present danger to human and animal life and health due to an epizootic in the exporting countries:</p> <p>-an immediate decision to suspend import will be taken based on the official information of the International Office for Epizootics (IOE) or information provided by the veterinary service of the exporting country. In such a case Embassies of the exporting countries in the Russian Federation will be promptly notified.</p>

WTO Reference	Commitments (by the time of accession)	Progress of Implementation; Estimated Time Required to Undertake the Commitment
		<p>Measures restricting imports of animal products reflect proposals from the veterinary services of the importing countries provided that such proposals are timely and science-based.</p> <p>Under Resolution No. 268 of the Government of the Russian Federation "On the State Plant Quarantine Service of the Russian Federation" dated 23 April 1992, phytosanitary quarantine applies only to the extent necessary to suspend import until acclimation of items subject to quarantine in the Russian Federation.</p> <p>Federal Law No. 99-FZ "On Quarantine of Plants" of 15 July 2000 provides framework principles for implementing plant quarantine in the Russian Federation.</p> <p>Russia refers to the SPS Agreement and reserves the right, as all other countries, to introduce phytosanitary measures in respect of harmful organisms which have not been completely studied in phytosanitary terms and can be potentially dangerous for Russia, with subsequent analysis of the phytosanitary risk involved in accordance with the international guidelines (standards).</p>

WTO Reference	Commitments (by the time of accession)	Progress of Implementation; Estimated Time Required to Undertake the Commitment
5. Articles 2.2, 3.3 and 5.2.	5. Science-based regulations: regulations governing animal and plant health protection and food safety control shall be based on scientific evidence.	<p>Pursuant to Federal Law No. 52-FZ "On Sanitary and Epidemiological Well-Being of the Population" dated 30 March 1999, regulations governing human health protection and food safety shall be based on comprehensive scientific evidence and relevant international experience (Article 38).</p> <p>Pursuant to Law No. 4979-1 of the Russian Federation "On Veterinary Service" dated 14 May 1993, any existing and newly developed veterinary regulatory documents have to be based on scientific evidence or international requirements.</p> <p>The Federal Law "On Quarantine of Plants" and Resolution No. 268 of the Government of the Russian Federation "On the State Plant Quarantine Service of the Russian Federation" dated 23 April 1992, require, among other provisions, that phytosanitary risks and their management (i.e. phytosanitary measures) must be evidenced and supported by scientific evidence, and prohibit application of phytosanitary measures for purposes other than plant quarantine regulation, etc.</p> <p>According to the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the recommendations of the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO), science-based phytosanitary measures must be evidenced by research projects based on international guidelines (standards).</p>

WTO Reference	Commitments (by the time of accession)	Progress of Implementation; Estimated Time Required to Undertake the Commitment
6. Articles 3.1, 3.3 and 3.4.	6. Harmonization: to the maximum possible extent, members shall follow international standards, guidelines, and recommendations in establishing SPS measures.	<p>Federal Law No. 52-FZ "On Sanitary and Epidemiological Well-Being of the Population" dated 30 March 1999 (Article 38) and the Statute on the State Sanitary and Epidemiological Regulations approved by Resolution No. 554 of the Government of the Russian Federation dated 24 July 2000 (Section 5 and 6), require that international requirements and recommendations must be analysed and used in national sanitary regulations and legislation. The harmonisation proceeds by reference to the documents of the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius, WHO recommendations, EC documents and documents of other international organisations.</p> <p>Implementing provisions are included in Federal Law No. 4979-1 "On Veterinary Service" dated 14 May 1993 and Resolution No. 268 of the Government of the Russian Federation "On the State Plant Quarantine Service of the Russian Federation" dated 23 April 1992. Notably, for the purposes of substantiation of a phytosanitary measure, the above instruments refer, wherever applicable, to recommendations of IPPC and EPPO and international standards.</p> <p>For the purposes of WTO accession, Russia is reviewing its legislative and regulatory acts, guidelines and procedural documents related to valuation and control of products and goods to ensure their compliance to international standards and requirements. Such works will continue though the effectiveness and expedition are conditional on the availability of budgetary financing and foreign technical assistance.*</p>

WTO Reference	Commitments (by the time of accession)	Progress of Implementation; Estimated Time Required to Undertake the Commitment
7. Article 4.	7. Equivalence: Members shall recognize measures maintained by other Members provided that the same level of protection is achieved.	<p>Russia is complying with the equivalence principle for the purposes of the SPS Agreement as long as sanitary and phytosanitary measures maintained by other countries achieve the necessary level of protection of public, animal and plant health.</p> <p>The procedure for sanitary and epidemiological examination of products and issuance of sanitary and epidemiological opinions establishing conformity (or non-conformity) of products to sanitary and epidemiological requirements are provided by Russian law, resolutions of the Government of the Russian Federation and Order 325 of the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation "On Sanitary and Epidemiological Assessment of Products" dated 15 August 2001 (as amended and supplemented by Order No. 84 of the Ministry of Health 18 March 2002) (Order of the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation of 20 July 1998, No. 217 is inoperative.)</p> <p>The procedure for veterinary and sanitary examination of animal products and primary products and issuance of a veterinary opinion establishing conformity (or non-conformity) of products to veterinary and sanitary requirements are provided by Russian law, resolutions of the Government of the Russian Federation, the "Instruction on the Procedure for Issuance of Veterinary Accompanying Documents for Cargoes Regulated by the State Veterinary Surveillance Authority" approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Products of the Russian Federation on 12 April 1997, No. 13-7-2/871 and registered with the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation on 22 May 1997, No. 1310.</p> <p>In terms of phytosanitary control, the procedures and the authority to conduct laboratory analysis and laboratory examination of regulated products are provided by Federal Law 99-FZ "On Quarantine of Plants" on 15 July 2000 and the Regulations of the State Service of Quarantine of Plants in the Russian Federation approved by Resolution 268 of the Government of the Russian Federation dated 23 April 1992 (as amended and supplemented on 1 October 1998).</p>

WTO Reference	Commitments (by the time of accession)	Progress of Implementation; Estimated Time Required to Undertake the Commitment
8. Article 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3.	8. Risk Assessment: obtaining scientific evidence and conducting risk assessments to ensure that measures are science-based and applied only to the extent necessary to protect human, animal and plant health.	<p>Under current legislation of the Russian Federation (Federal Law No. 52-FZ "On Sanitary and Epidemiological Well-Being of the Population" dated 30 March 1999, Federal Law No. 99-FZ "On Quarantine of Plants" dated 15 July 2000, Federal Law No. 4979-1 "On Veterinary Service" dated 14 May 1993, and Resolution No. 268 of the Government of the Russian Federation "On the State Plant Quarantine Service of the Russian Federation" dated 23 April 1992) all measures undertaken are based on scientific evidence and risk assessment (examination of the degree of potential threat latent in a harmful factor or commodity) to the extent that is necessary for protection of human, environmental, animal and plant health. The current state regulation system is organised to the extent allowed by the technical and economic capabilities of the country.</p> <p>Russia envisages further improvement of regulation of risk assessment through harmonisation with international risk assessment methods, a profound analysis and development of theoretical solutions, perfecting methods of analysis and control of safety of products for human, animal and plants health. The success of this effort-consuming undertaking will largely depend on the finances available, foreign, technical, expert assistance and consultations, access to modern technologies and control and analytical equipment for research institutions and product control laboratories.*</p>
9. Article 6 and Annexes A.6 and A.7.	9. Regional characteristics: measures reflect the regional characteristics both of the areas from which products originate and the areas for which they are destined.	<p>All measures maintained under sanitary legislation apply without discrimination to both the area of origin of the goods and the target area. Regional characteristics are relevant only for the purposes of risk assessment of different factors, including the public nutrition structure, and subject to the permitted daily dose (PDD) recommended by international organisations. Pursuant to the Statute on the State Sanitary and Epidemiological Regulations approved by Resolution No. 554 of the Government of the Russian Federation dated July 24, 2000, the relevant regulation in the Russian Federation is provided by federal sanitary rules and hygienic regulations only. Where necessary to accommodate certain special hygienic, epidemiological and ecological factors and the state of public health in any particular region of the Russian Federation, special sanitary rules will be adopted for and will regulate such territory.</p> <p>Veterinary measures reflect the regional characteristics pursuant to Federal Law No. 4979-1 "On Veterinary Service" dated 14 May 1993, and the requirements of the International Office of Epizootics.</p> <p>Regional characteristics are a factor for the purposes of devising phytosanitary measures for use in a particular region.</p>

WTO Reference	Commitments (by the time of accession)	Progress of Implementation; Estimated Time Required to Undertake the Commitment
10. Article 2.3, and Annex C.1(a) and (d).	10. Non-discrimination: unwarranted discrimination of Members and differentiated treatment of national and foreign suppliers are prohibited.	Non-discriminatory treatment is provided by the current legislation of the Russian Federation. Sanitary-epidemiological, veterinary and phytosanitary requirements are applied without discrimination to both domestic and foreign producers and domestic and foreign suppliers.
11. Article 8 and Annex C.	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 foodstuffs comply with the Agreement.	<p>The Russian Federation continues to improve its procedures for sanitary and phytosanitary control, inspection and approval, to such extent as the available technologies and finances allow. Notably, the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation approved new "Regulations on Sanitary and Epidemiological Examination of Products by Order 325 of 15 August 2001 (replacing Order 217 of the Ministry of Health) (as amended and supplemented on 18 March 2002, No. 84). This Order specifies and details products that are subject to sanitary and epidemiological examination the list of which has been reduced as compared to the previous version, provides a revised validity term for a sanitary and epidemiological approval (5 years or 1 year for pilot batch). An approval issued by a centre of the State Sanitary and Epidemiological Surveillance Authority is valid everywhere in the Russian Federation.</p> <p>Procedures for sanitary and phytosanitary control, inspection and approval will be gradually adjusted to the SPS Agreement requirements through development of new legislation and regulations, improvement of logistics of sanitary, veterinary and quarantine institutions under the Interministerial Programme of Measures to Ensure Complete Compliance with the TBT/SPS Agreements of the WTO for 2002 – 2005.</p>

* Given the current economic situation in the country successful implementation of the above measures largely depends on the extent to which the following arrangements and tasks may be implemented:

- identify, obtain, translate into Russian, analyse in scientific and legal terms the relevant new international, regional and national documents related to protection of human, environmental, animal health and quarantine of plants;
- compare them with the existing Russian regulatory and legal documents and guidelines in terms of the realities of world trade and current regulation of products and goods maintained by the exporting countries.
- conduct further scientific studies and research for the purpose of improving the methodology of risk assessment and preparation of modern national risk assessment guidelines;
- develop new criteria of safety of products and services;
- develop and implement modern control methods for safety criteria and retooling of academic and research institutions and controlling institutions directly involved in SPS area.

This review may be successfully carried out granted timely financial support enabling access to information and acquisition of equipment, and granted also expert assistance and consulting, additional specialised seminars, expert training, including language courses, experience sharing and its use for improvement of the existing Russian SPS regulation to provide better guarantees for protection of human, animal and plant health. We also need to educate Russian producers and suppliers of import products about the changes taking place in the structure and practices of state surveillance and safety control of products entering the consumer market.

To organise and coordinate these activities, it is required to create supplementary specialised divisions within the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation and the Ministry of Agriculture equipped with professional staff qualified to deal with the WTO-related issues.
