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

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ACCESSION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

General Description of the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Regime

The Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation has submitted the following information regarding sanitary and phytosanitary measures in Russia, with the request that it be circulated to the Members of the Working Party.

1. Hygienic Certification of Imported Food, Certain Types of Industrial Products and Household Items

Responsible agency: Department of Sanitary and Epidemic Surveillance of the Russian Ministry of Health ("Gossanepidnadzor").
Address: Vadkovsky, 18/20 Moscow, 101479, Russia.

Products imported into Russia must meet the safety requirements in effect in the Russian Federation unless the contrary is provided by an intergovernmental agreement.

In particular, the requirements for safety, nutrition value and labelling of food products are contained in the Regulation 5061-89, "On Medical and Biological Requirements for Quality of Food and Food Components" dated 1 August 1989, of the Ministry of Health. In 1996-1997, this Regulation was substantially revised, taking into account, in particular, the provisions existing within the framework of the relevant international organisations, i.e. FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission. This revised version of this normative document has been prepared and now it is under consideration by the Russian Gossanepidnadzor.

The hygienic requirements for the safety of different products are also presented in a set of sanitary rules and hygienic standards such as "Hygienic Requirements for Video Display Units", "Personal Computers and Organization of Work", "Hygienic Requirements for Hand Tools and Organizations of Work", "Sanitary Regulations for Practice and Distribution of Fishery Products", "Sanitary Norms of Permissible Levels for Physical Factors During Use of Domestic Articles " and etc.

Imports into and circulation within Russian territory of food products, materials in contact with food, materials and equipment for water supply, perfumes, cosmetics, products for children, etc. require the issuance of a hygienic certificate which is a permit or agreement of the Ministry of Health confirming that a certain product is safe for human health.

The procedure of hygienic certification is established by the Regulation of the Russian Gossanepidnadzor No. 1 "On The Procedure Of Issuing Hygienic Certificates For Products" dated 5 January 1993.

This Regulation has been prepared on the basis of the following Laws of the Russian Federation: Law "On Sanitary And Epidemiological Well Being Of The Population" dated 19 April 1991; Law 2-FZ "On The Protection Of Consumer's Rights" dated 9 January 1996; Fundamentals of the Legislation of the Russian Federation No. 5487-1 "On Health Protection" dated 22 July 1993; Law No. 5151-1 "On Certification Of Products And Services" dated 10 June 1993; and, Law No. 2060-1 "On Protection of the Natural Environment" dated 19 December 1991.

The hygienic certificate is issued by the Federal and regional centres of Gossanepidnadzor for a specific product for a period of one to five years and is valid throughout the territory of the Russian Federation.

The labelling requirements for food products are subject to Law 2-FZ "On The Protection Of Consumer's Rights" dated 9 January 1996, and Government Regulation No. 1575 "On The Procedure For Ensuring That Products Imported Into The Russian Federation Contain Labels In The Russian Language" dated 27 December 1996.

2. Veterinary Control of Importation of Live Animals into the Territory of Russia and of Imported Products of Animal Origin.

Responsible agency: Department of Veterinary Control, Ministry of Agriculture and Food.
Address: Orlikov per., d.1/11 Moscow, 107139, Russia.

The importation and sale of live animals, raw materials and products of animal origin in the territory of the Russian Federation is done on the basis of an import permit delivered by the Department of Veterinary Control of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. In addition, a hygienic certificate is required for importation and sale of edible products of animal origin. This is established by the Law of the Russian Federation "On Veterinary Control" dated 14 May 1993.

Products of animal origin and live animals must be accompanied by a veterinary certificate of the exporting country, cleared by the Department of Veterinary Control. The certificate includes a list of diseases, microorganisms and poisonous substances which must not be contained in food products or animals.

The elaboration and approval of such certificates, as a rule, is the subject of bilateral negotiations between the veterinary services of Russia and the exporting country. Recommendations of the International Office of Epizootics and the "Medical and Biological Requirements for Quality of Raw Materials and Food in Russia" are taken into account.

In some cases, upon agreement with the exporting country, the Department of Veterinary Control sends its experts to the country in question to perform checks on the existing veterinary, sanitary and hygienic conditions for production of edible products of animal origin, as well as the inspection and storage systems in use.

Products imported on the basis of an agreed certificate and permit of the Department of Veterinary Control are subject to inspection by the veterinary service at the border. In case of any discrepancies with standards, thorough laboratory analyses are performed. After the goods have crossed the border, the veterinary certificate is replaced with a veterinary permit valid in the Russian Federation.

In case of non-compliance with veterinary requirements, the cargo may either be disinfected or denied entry into Russia.

3. Control of the Import of Plant Products and Other Quarantine Materials

Responsible agency: State Plant Quarantine Inspection of the Russian Federation (auspices of the Russian Ministry of Agriculture and Food).
Address: Orlikov per., 3A., Moscow, 107139, Russia.

Imports and exports of plant products and other quarantine materials are subject to "Rules for Safety on the Territory of the Russian Federation from Quarantine Pests" dated 19 February 1996, approved by the Russian Ministry of Agriculture and Food. These rules have been published in English by the Secretariat of the European and Mediterranean Organisation on Plant Protection (EPPO), of which the Russian Federation is a member.

In accordance with the EPPO recommendations, Russia adopted a "List of quarantine objects of the Russian Federation" (6 October 1992). The List includes three categories: Category A1 - organisms not existing within territory of Russia; Category A2 - organisms existing on a limited scope within the territory of Russia; Category A3 - organisms whose quarantine status is under examination. The List is subject to reviews every five to six years.

Russian importers of plant products subject to quarantine are provided with an import quarantine permit which may define the terms of importation for the product. The shipment is inspected at the border and provided it is accompanied by an import permit, and a phytosanitary certificate of the exporting country, the shipment in question is cleared for circulation within the customs territory of Russia. In the event of non-compliance with the quarantine requirements, the shipment may either be disinfected or not permitted entry into Russia.

At present, the State of Plant Quarantine Inspection of the Russian Federation is in the process of developing scientific grounds for adaptation of international agreements of the WTO, FAO/WHO and EPPO to specific Russian conditions.

All relevant Russian legislation concerning sanitary and phytosanitary standards is available for consultation in the WTO Secretariat and has been listed in the following documents: L/7410.Add.1, WT/ACC/RUS/2/Add.1 and Add.3, WT/ACC/RUS/15, WT/ACC/RUS/15/Add.1 and WT/ACC/SPEC/RUS/6