

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/SPS/N/USA/379  
12 January 2001

(01-0168)

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

## NOTIFICATION OF EMERGENCY MEASURES

1.	<b>Member to Agreement notifying:</b> <u>UNITED STATES</u> <b>If applicable, name of local government involved:</b>
2.	<b>Agency responsible:</b> Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service - APHIS
3.	<b>Products covered (provide tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO; ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable). Europe Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable:</b> Rendered animal protein products
4.	<b>Title and number of pages of the notified document:</b> Prohibition on All Rendered Animal Protein Products From Europe (1 page)
5.	<b>Description of content:</b> As of 7 December 2000, the US Department of Agriculture has prohibited all imports of rendered animal protein products, regardless of species, from Europe. This decision followed the recent determination by the European Union that feed of non-ruminant origin was potentially cross-contaminated with the bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) agent. The restriction applies to products originating, rendered, processed or otherwise associated with European products. USDA is taking this emergency action to prevent potentially cross-contaminated products entering the United States. The same type of rendered product from ruminant origin has been prohibited from BSE infected countries since 1989 and the entirety of Europe since 1997.  USDA bases all decisions regarding imports on sound science and extensive research. Although no case of BSE has ever been diagnosed in this country, we continue to take aggressive measures to protect the United States from BSE introduction and to ensure the security of US export markets. These measures include active surveillance, testing, prevention, education, and emergency preparation. Since 1989, the United States has banned the import of live ruminants (cattle, sheep, goats) and most ruminant products from countries where BSE has been reported.
6.	<b>Objective and rationale:</b> [ ] food safety, [ X ] animal health, [ ] plant protection, [ X ] protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, [ ] protect territory from other damage from pests
7.	<b>Nature of the urgent problem(s):</b> This action is necessary on an emergency basis to prevent the introduction of BSE into the United States.
8.	<b>An international standard, guideline or recommendation does not exist</b> [ ]. <b>If an international standard, guideline or recommendation exists, give its appropriate reference and briefly identify deviations:</b> APHIS is taking this action in accordance with Chapter 2.3.13 of the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) Animal Health Code.

**9. Relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available:** 19 December 2000, statement of Dr. Craig Reed, Administrator, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (Available in English)

**10. Date of entry into force/period of application (as applicable):** 7 December 2000

**11. Texts available from/and agency or authority designated to handle comments:**  
 **National notification authority,  National enquiry point or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body:** USDA consulted representatives of the affected countries about this measure on 14 December 2000. A formal document regarding this action will be published in the Federal Register in the near future. The text cited in this notification is available from the address below.

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