

WORLD TRADE  
ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

**G/SPS/W/87**

12 February 1998

(98-0512)

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**Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

Original: English

PROCEDURE TO MONITOR THE PROCESS  
OF INTERNATIONAL HARMONIZATION

Submission by the United States

At its meeting of 15-16 October 1997, the Committee adopted a provisional procedure to monitor the use of international standards (G/SPS/11). In accordance with paragraph 6 of that procedure, the United States proposes the two issues attached for the Committee's consideration.

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PORK AND PORK PRODUCTS

<b>Commodities affected:</b>	Pork and pork products
<b>Disease/problem/issue:</b>	Chlortetracycline (CTC) residues
<b>Is international trade significantly affected because of this issue?</b>	Yes, trade in pork and pork products is significantly affected. There is also the potential to significantly affect trade in cattle, sheep, chicken, turkey and duck products.
<b>Does there currently exist an international standard for this disease/problem/issue with these commodities?</b>	No
<b>If so:</b>	
<b>Briefly describe the existing standard:</b>	N/A
<b>Is the international standard inappropriate?</b>	N/A
<p><b>Description of how trade is affected by this issue and how the issue can be resolved through new or existing international standards:</b></p> <p>Of the tetracyclines (CTC, Oxytetracycline and Tetracycline), only Oxytetracycline has a MRL international standard. In an effort to harmonize standards for the tetracyclines, Codex is currently considering one MRL standard that would apply to each of the three tetracyclines. However, the draft MRL has not been finalized by Codex - Codex is currently at step 6 of this process - and therefore a formal international standard for CTC has not been set. JECFA plans to reconsider the proposed tetracycline standards at its February 1998 meeting. JECFA is reconsidering the draft standards because of new scientific information that has recently been made available. The Commission will then reconsider the proposed standards at step 8 at its scheduled meeting in late June 1999. Because of the impact on international trade, it is important that Codex move as quickly as possible to finalize MRLs for CTC.</p> <p>Some countries have no tolerance or maximum residue limit (MRL) in place for CTC. However, studies conducted to evaluate the toxicology and residue depletion profile of CTC have demonstrated that it is possible to establish a MRL for CTC that is safe for human consumption.</p>	

CANNED/BOTTLED PRODUCTS - JAMS

<b>Commodities affected:</b>	Canned/Bottled Products - Jams
<b>Disease/problem/issue:</b>	<i>Bacilli</i>
<b>Is international trade significantly affected because of this issue?</b>	Yes
<b>Does there currently exist an international standard for this disease/problem/issue with these commodities?</b>	Yes
<b>If so:</b>	
<b>Briefly describe the existing standard:</b>	CODEX Standard 79-1981: Jams shall be free from microorganisms in amounts which represent a hazard to health
<b>Is the international standard inappropriate?</b>	No
<b>Description of how trade is affected by this issue and how the issue can be resolved through new or existing international standards:</b>	
<p>CODEX standards for jam state that products should be free from microorganisms in amounts which may represent a hazard to health. The current CODEX standard presupposes that zero tolerance is not necessary to eliminate health hazards. However, some countries have rejected jam imports containing bacteria (<i>Bacillus Cereus</i>) without substantiating whether the level of bacteria present poses a hazard to health. This is inconsistent with the CODEX standard and appears to be an unnecessary trade restriction.</p>	