

ANNEX F

PROCEDURES FOR OPEN HEARINGS

CONTENTS		PAGE
F-1	Procedures for open hearings, first and second substantive meetings of the Panel	F-2

**UNITED STATES – CERTAIN COUNTRY OF ORIGIN
LABELLING (COOL) REQUIREMENTS
(DS384 and DS386)**

Procedures for open hearings, first and second substantive meetings of the Panel¹

1. Subject to the availability of suitable WTO meeting rooms, the Panel will start its first and second substantive meetings, on 14-16 September 2010 and 1-3 December 2010, respectively, with a session with the parties open to the public. At that session, be that within the context of the first or the second substantive meeting with the parties, each party will be asked to make an opening and closing statement. After the parties have made their statements, they will be given the opportunity to pose questions to the other party or make comments on the other party's statement. The Panel may pose any questions or make any comments during such session.
2. To the extent that the Panel or any of the parties considers it necessary, the Panel will also hold a session with the parties not open to public observation during which the parties will be allowed to make additional statements or comments and pose questions that involve business confidential information. The Panel may also pose questions during such a session.
3. In addition to its sessions with the parties, at each substantive meeting the Panel will also hold a separate session with the third parties. The Panel will start the third party session at each substantive meeting by opening a portion of this session to the public. At this portion of the third party session, any third party wishing to make its oral statement (first substantive meeting) or brief statement (second substantive meeting) in a public session shall do so. Following the third party open session, the Panel will proceed to a third party closed session during which any other third party shall make its oral or brief statement, depending on the substantive meeting. At each of these third party open or closed sessions, after the third parties' statements, the Panel or any party may pose questions to any third party or make comments concerning these statements. Third parties may also ask questions to the parties or to the other third parties; however, the parties and the other third parties have no obligation to respond to these questions by third parties.
4. The following persons will be admitted into the meeting room during all sessions of the Panel's substantive meetings, whether open or closed to the public:
 - the members of the Panel;
 - all members of the delegations of the parties;
 - all members of the delegations of the third parties; and
 - WTO Secretariat staff assisting the Panel.
5. No person shall disclose any business confidential information at any session open to the public.
6. WTO Members and Observers and the public may observe the Panel's sessions that are open to the public by means of a real time closed-circuit television broadcast to a separate viewing room. The broadcasts will be open to officials of WTO Members and Observers upon presentation of their official badges. Accredited journalists and representatives of relevant NGOs may indicate to the Secretariat their interest in attending the broadcasts (Information and External Relations Division). Members of the general public will be invited to register their interest in attending each broadcast via

¹ These procedures are adopted according to, and are an integral part of, the Panel's Working Procedures of 18 June 2010.

the WTO website, by close of business on 1 September 2010 for the first substantive meeting, and 24 November 2010 for the second substantive meeting.
