



15 September 2022

(22-6824)

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Committee on Import Licensing

Original: English

AGREEMENT ON IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES

NOTIFICATION UNDER ARTICLE 5.1 TO 5.4 OF THE AGREEMENT¹

UNITED STATES

The following notification dated 14 September 2022, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the United States.

	Category	Notification details
1	Notifying Member	United States
2	Title of new legislation/procedure	Earthworm Permits
3	Date of Publication	20 July 2022
4	Date of entry into force	1 October 2022
5	Website link/Official publication of the new regulation/procedure	www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/import-information/permits/plant-pests/sa_earthworms
6	Have you attached a copy of the regulation (PDF) to the Secretariat	[] Yes. (Please attach a copy of the regulation to the notification.) [X] No.
7	Type of notification	[] (a) New licensing regulation/procedure ² ; (please answer question 8 to 14) [X] (b) Changes to a regulation/procedure which has been previously notified in document: G/LIC/N/3/USA/18, paragraph 1.1; (please answer question 15 and 16)
8	List of products subject to licensing	Please provide the HS codes and detailed descriptions of the products. In case of a long list, please attach the list as an Annex in MS WORD document.
9	Nature of licensing	Automatic: [] Non-Automatic: []
10	Administrative purpose/measure being implemented	(a) <input type="checkbox"/> Protect public morals; (b) <input type="checkbox"/> Protect human, animal or plant life and health; protect environment; (c) <input type="checkbox"/> Collect trade statistics or market surveillance; (d) <input type="checkbox"/> Protection of patents, trademarks and copyrights, and the prevention of deceptive practices; (e) <input type="checkbox"/> Pursue obligations under the UN Charter and other international treaties (i.e. CITES, Basel Convention, Rotterdam Convention, UNSC Resolutions etc.)

¹ It is understood that the notifying Member has also completed its notification obligations under Article 1.4(a) and Article 8.2(b) regarding the relevant law/regulation/procedure notified for by filling this form in a full and complete manner.

² "New licensing regulation/procedure" is understood to refer to any newly introduced law, regulation or procedure, and those which are in force but being notified for the first time to the Committee.

	Category	Notification details
		(f) <input type="checkbox"/> Quota (including TRQ) administration; (g) <input type="checkbox"/> Regulate imports of arms, ammunition or fissionable materials and safeguard national security; (h) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ (please specify)
11	Administrative body(ies) for submission of applications	Ministry/authority and Department: [] Address: [] Website: [] Telephone: [] E-Mail: []
12	Contact point for information on eligibility	Ministry/authority and Department: [] Address: [] Website: [] Telephone: [] E-Mail: []
13	Expected duration of licensing procedure	
14	A summary of the notification in one of the WTO official languages	
15	In the case of 7(b), please indicate the type of new change(s)	(a) <input type="checkbox"/> Termination (b) <input type="checkbox"/> Suspension (c) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Modification of specific details in existing procedures: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Product coverage; <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative purpose; <input type="checkbox"/> Automatic or Non-automatic; <input type="checkbox"/> Duration of licensing; <input type="checkbox"/> Change the nature of quantity/value restriction; <input type="checkbox"/> Eligibility of applicants; <input type="checkbox"/> Contact information on eligibility; <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative body(ies) for submission of application; <input type="checkbox"/> Documentation requirements (including application form); <input type="checkbox"/> Period for Application; <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative body(ies) to issue licence; <input type="checkbox"/> Processing time for issuing licence; <input type="checkbox"/> Licence fee/administrative charge; <input type="checkbox"/> Deposit/advance payment and relevant conditions; <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal regulations/procedures; <input type="checkbox"/> Validity of licence; <input type="checkbox"/> Other conditions of licence (extension, transferability, penalty of non-use etc.); <input type="checkbox"/> Foreign exchange requirements; <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ (please specify).
16	Please elaborate the changes in detail (in one of the WTO official languages)	<p>Beginning 1 October 2022, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) will require all stakeholders who import earthworm species into the United States to request and obtain a PPQ 526 pest permit and to comply with rearing and shipping requirements.</p> <p>Earthworms ingest soil that may contain animal and plant pathogens that could be transported inside the worms, putting U.S. animals and plants at risk. In addition, APHIS considers some exotic earthworms plant pests because they disrupt the soil and may cause undesirable impacts on plant growth and diversity.</p> <p>As notified in G/LIC/N/3/USA/18, and outlined in paragraph 1.1 of the notification, import permits are required for the importation of most plants and some plant products, to protect against the</p>

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		<p>introduction of pests and diseases. Permits are also required for the import, export or re-export of terrestrial plants that are on the endangered species list. Permits are only issued to a firm or individual resident in the United States. PPQ form 526 is already required for plant pests, biocontrol agents, and Federal Noxious Weeds. Earthworms are being added to the list of plant pests and pathogens and host materials requiring a permit.</p> <p>For more information: www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/import-information/permits/plant-pests/sa_earthworms</p>
