



12 December 2014

(14-7225)

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: Spanish

**DECLARATION OF AREAS FREE FROM PINK BOLLWORM
(*PECTINOPHORA GOSSYPIELLA*)**

COMMUNICATION FROM MEXICO

The following communication, dated 11 December 2014, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Mexico.

1. Pursuant to Article 7 of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and paragraph 3(b) of Annex B thereto, Mexico hereby advises WTO Members that the Decision declaring the State of Chihuahua, the municipality of Sierra Mojada in the State of Coahuila and the municipalities of Álamos, BÁCUM, Benito Juárez, Cajeme, Etchojoa, Huatabampo, Navojoa and San Ignacio Río Muerto in the State of Sonora, to be areas free from pink bollworm (*Pectinophora gossypiella*), was published in the *Diario Oficial de la Federación* (Mexican Official Journal) on 8 December 2014.

2. The notified Decision declares the State of Chihuahua, the municipality of Sierra Mojada in the State of Coahuila and the municipalities of Álamos, BÁCUM, Benito Juárez, Cajeme, Etchojoa, Huatabampo, Navojoa and San Ignacio Río Muerto in the State of Sonora, to be areas free from pink bollworm (*Pectinophora gossypiella*). It furthermore states that, in accordance with the procedures indicated in Mexican Official Standard NOM-026-FITO-1995 establishing cotton plant pest controls and Mexican Official Standard NOM-069-FITO-1995 on the establishment and recognition of pest-free areas, phytosanitary measures were introduced to determine the absence of pink bollworm (*Pectinophora gossypiella*), on the basis of phytosanitary status assessments carried out by the Directorate-General of Plant Health of the National Agriculture and Food Health, Safety and Quality Service of Mexico.

3. The Decision was published in order to ensure that the State of Chihuahua, the municipality of Sierra Mojada in the State of Coahuila and the municipalities of Álamos, BÁCUM, Benito Juárez, Cajeme, Etchojoa, Huatabampo, Navojoa and San Ignacio Río Muerto in the State of Sonora, remain free from pink bollworm (*Pectinophora gossypiella*), in accordance with the phytosanitary measures established in Articles 19 to 22 of the Federal Plant Health Law, and in point 4.4(c), (d) and (f) of Mexican Official Standard NOM-069-FITO-1995 on the establishment and recognition of pest-free areas.

4. The Decision is available in Spanish at <http://www.dof.gob.mx>, http://dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5374638&fecha=08/12/2014 and from the National Enquiry Point (normasomc@economia.gob.mx).

5. Lastly, Mexico wishes to state that this communication is being made for purposes of transparency, without prejudice to Mexico's rights and obligations under the SPS Agreement.