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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: Spanish

**DECLARATION OF AREAS FREE FROM LARGE AVOCADO SEED WEEVILS
(*HEILIPUS LAURI*), SMALL AVOCADO SEED WEEVILS
(*CONOTRACHELUS AGUACATAE* AND *C. PERSEAE*)
AND AVOCADO SEED MOTHS
(*STENOMA CATENIFER*)**

COMMUNICATION FROM MEXICO

The following communication, dated 5 March 2015, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Mexico.

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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 municipalities of Zacapu and Charapan in the State of Michoacán to be areas free from the large avocado seed weevil (*Heilipus lauri*), the small avocado seed weevil (*Conotrachelus aguacatae* and *C. perseae*) and the avocado seed moth (*Stenoma catenifer*) was published in the Mexican Official Journal (*Diario Oficial de la Federación*) on 24 February 2015.
 2. The notified Decision declares the municipalities of Zacapu and Charapan in the State of Michoacán to be areas free from the large avocado seed weevil (*Heilipus lauri*), the small avocado seed weevil (*Conotrachelus aguacatae* and *C. perseae*) and the avocado seed moth (*Stenoma catenifer*). In order to establish and recognise pest-free areas, phytosanitary measures were taken to determine the absence of avocado seed weevils, on the basis of phytosanitary status assessments carried out by the Delegation of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA) in the State of Michoacán and the Directorate-General of Plant Health.
 3. This Decision was published in order to declare the municipalities of Zacapu and Charapan, State of Michoacán, free from the large avocado seed weevil (*Heilipus lauri*), the small avocado seed weevil (*Conotrachelus aguacatae* and *C. perseae*) and the avocado seed moth (*Stenoma catenifer*), in accordance with the phytosanitary provisions issued through Mexican Official Standard NOM-069-FITO-1995 on the establishment and recognition of pest-free areas and Mexican Official Standard NOM-066-FITO-2002 establishing specifications for the phytosanitary management and movement of avocados. This declaration contributes to the objective of improving the phytosanitary status of avocado-growing areas in Mexico and strengthens the domestic and international avocado trade.
 4. The Decision is available in Spanish at: <http://www.dof.gob.mx>, http://www.dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5383096&fecha=24/02/2015, or from the National Enquiry Point (normasomc@economia.gob.mx).
 5. Lastly, Mexico wishes to state that this communication is being made for the purposes of transparency, without prejudice to Mexico's rights and obligations under the SPS Agreement.
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