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Page: 1/1

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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**IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 8 AND ANNEX C OF THE AGREEMENT ON
SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES
EXPERIENCES AND APPROACHES RELATING TO INSPECTION**

COMMUNICATION FROM CANADA

The following communication, received on 9 October 2020, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of Canada.

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1. The Fifth Review of the Operation and Implementation of the SPS Agreement (G/SPS/64) includes a recommendation that the Committee establish a formal SPS Committee agenda item on Annex C under the Operation and Implementation of the SPS Agreement agenda item to enable Members to share information and continue discussions and information exchange on the topic of control, inspection and approval procedures.
 2. In this vein, Canada would like to share information concerning resources that are available regarding the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's (CFIA) recent experiences and approaches to inspection.
 3. In recent years, CFIA identified consistent and efficient inspections as one of its strategic priorities. General information on CFIA's inspection priorities can be found here: <https://www.inspection.gc.ca/about-cfia/strategic-priorities/cfia-s-strategic-priorities/eng/1521141282459/1521141282849#a3>.
 4. Canada would also like to highlight specific information that is available regarding CFIA's inspection initiatives.
 - a. CFIA's Standard Inspection Procedure (SIP) outlines a common inspection approach that will apply a consistent method of inspection for all regulated commodities: plant, animal and food. It describes how an inspection is conducted, and provides inspectors with the flexibility to adapt to different situations that may arise during an inspection. SIP is being implemented through an iterative process across regulated commodities. <https://www.inspection.gc.ca/food-safety-for-industry/compliance-continuum/guidance-for-food-inspection-activities/sip/overview>
 - b. The Operational Procedure: Meat Compliance Verification System (CVS) provides guidance to inspection staff on how to conduct inspections in all licensed meat processing, storage and slaughter establishments. Specific information regarding operational guidelines can be found in section 7.0, and Appendix B. <https://www.inspection.gc.ca/food-safety-for-industry/compliance-continuum/guidance-for-food-inspection-activities/preventive-control-inspection/meat-cvs/eng/1546020762883/1546020962628>
 5. Canada encourages other Members to share information on their experiences with control, inspection and approval procedures and hopes that by exchanging information on experiences and approaches, Members will be able to enhance their implementation of Article 8 and Annex C.
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