



17 September 2014

(14-5188)

Page: 1/2

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

Addendum

The following communication, received on 15 September 2014, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of the United States of America.

Determinations: Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Rinderpest Status of a Region of Patagonia, Argentina (Docket APHIS-2013-0105)

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is adding a region of Argentina, consisting of the areas of Patagonia South and Patagonia North B, to the lists of regions that are considered free of rinderpest and foot-and-mouth disease (FMD). We are taking this action because we have determined that this region is free of rinderpest and FMD. We are also adding the Patagonia Region to the list of regions that are subject to certain import restrictions on meat and meat products because of their proximity to or trading relationships with rinderpest- or FMD-affected countries. These actions update the disease status of the Patagonia Region with regard to rinderpest and foot-and-mouth disease while continuing to protect the United States from an introduction of those diseases by providing additional requirements for any meat and meat products imported into the United States from the Patagonia Region of Argentina.

This notice is available in English at: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-08-29/html/2014-20646.htm>

Federal Register Vol. 79, No. 168, Friday 29 August 2014, pages 51528-51535.

In accordance with that process, on 23 January 2014, we published in the Federal Register (79 FR 3775-3777, Docket No. APHIS-2013-0105) a notice of availability in which we announced the availability for review and comment of our evaluation of the FMD status of the areas of Patagonia South and Patagonia North B, referred to below as the Patagonia Region of Argentina. Based on this evaluation, we determined that the animal disease surveillance, prevention, and control measures implemented by Argentina in the Patagonia Region are sufficient to minimize the likelihood of introducing FMD into the United States via imports of FMD-susceptible species or products. However, because of the Patagonia Region's proximity to and trading relationships with FMD-affected regions, we found that it is necessary to impose certain restrictions in accordance with paragraph 94.11 on the importation of meat of any ruminants or swine from the Patagonia Region. In the same notice we also made available an evaluation assessing the rinderpest status of South America for public review and comment. Rinderpest has never been established in South America. No South American country has ever reported the disease except Brazil, which had an outbreak in 1921 that was limited in scope and quickly eradicated. Furthermore, the global distribution of rinderpest has diminished significantly in recent years as a result of the Food and Agriculture Organization Global Rinderpest Eradication Program. The last known cases of rinderpest worldwide occurred in the southern part of the "Somali pastoral ecosystem" consisting of southern Somalia, eastern Kenya, and southern Ethiopia. In May 2011, the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) announced its recognition of global rinderpest freedom. We solicited comments on the notice of availability for 60 days ending on 24 March 2014, and extended the comment period for an additional 30 days, ending 23 April 2014. We received 33 comments by that date.

This addendum concerns a:

- ☐ Modification of final date for comments
- ☒ Notification of adoption, publication or entry into force of regulation
- ☐ Modification of content and/or scope of previously notified draft regulation
- ☐ Withdrawal of proposed regulation
- ☐ Change in proposed date of adoption, publication or date of entry into force
- ☐ Other:

Comment period: *(If the addendum extends the scope of the previously notified measure in terms of products and/or potentially affected Members, a new deadline for receipt of comments should be provided, normally of at least 60 calendar days. Under other circumstances, such as extension of originally announced final date for comments, the comment period provided in the addendum may vary.)*

- ☐ Sixty days from the date of circulation of the addendum to the notification and/or (dd/mm/yy): This rule is effective 28 October 2014.

Agency or authority designated to handle comments: ☐ National Notification Authority, ☐ National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:

For Further Information Contact Dr. Silvia Kreindel, Senior Staff Veterinarian, Regionalization Evaluation Services, National Import Export Services, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 38, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231; Tel: +(301) 851 3300.

Text(s) available from: ☒ National Notification Authority, ☐ National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:

United States SPS National Notification Authority, USDA Foreign Agricultural Service, International Regulations and Standards Division (IRSD), Stop 1014, Washington D.C. 20250; Tel: +1 (202) 720 1301; Fax: +1 (202) 720 0433; E-mail: us.spsenquiry@fas.usda.gov
