



22 December 2014

(14-7408)

Page: 1/2

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.6

1.	Notifying Member: <u>UNITED STATES OF AMERICA</u> If applicable, name of local government involved (Article 3.2 and 7.2):
2.	Agency responsible: Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), Department of Agriculture (USDA) [959] Name and address (including telephone and fax numbers, email and website addresses, if available) of agency or authority designated to handle comments regarding the notification shall be indicated if different from above: Please submit comments to: USA WTO TBT Inquiry Point Email: ncsci@nist.gov
3.	Notified under Article 2.9.2 [X], 2.10.1 [], 5.6.2 [], 5.7.1 [], other:
4.	Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable): Organic products. Food products in general (ICS: 67.040)
5.	Title, number of pages and language(s) of the notified document: Exemption of Organic Products from Assessment under a Commodity Promotion Law (26 pages, in English)
6.	Description of content: This proposal would modify the organic assessment exemption regulations under 23 Federal marketing orders and 22 research and promotion programs. The current regulations would be amended to allow persons that produce, handle, market, or import certified organic products to be exempt from paying assessments associated with commodity promotion activities, including paid advertising, conducted under a commodity promotion program administered by the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). The exemption would cover all "organic" and "100 percent organic" products certified under the National Organic Program regardless of whether the person requesting the exemption also produces, handles, markets, or imports conventional or nonorganic products. Currently, only persons that exclusively produce and market products certified as 100 percent organic are eligible for an exemption from assessments under commodity promotion programs. The authority for this proposal is in section 10004 of the Agricultural Act of 2014.
7.	Objective and rationale, including the nature of urgent problems where applicable: Prevention of deceptive practices and consumer protection
8.	Relevant documents: 79 Federal Register (FR) 75005, 16 December 2014; Title 7 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 900, 1150, 1160, 1205, 1206, 1207, 1208, 1209, 1210, 1212, 1214, 1215, 1216, 1217, 1218, 1219, 1220, 1221, 1222, 1230, 1250, 1260, and 1280. Will appear in the Federal Register when adopted.
9.	Proposed date of adoption: To be determined Proposed date of entry into force: To be determined

10. Final date for comments: 15 January 2015

11. Texts available from: National enquiry point [] or address, telephone and fax numbers and email and website addresses, if available, of other body:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-12-16/html/2014-29280.htm>

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