

**PARAGRAPH 5 OF THE DECISION ON EQUIVALENCE: GUIDELINES FOR
ACCELERATED PROCEDURES FOR THE RECOGNITION OF EQUIVALENCE OF
HISTORICALLY TRADED PRODUCTS**

Guidelines for Accelerated Procedures for the Recognition of Equivalence of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures applied to Historically Traded Products¹

Communication from Argentina

Addendum

Members agree as follows:

1. Importing Members shall consider the amount of information that the sanitary and phytosanitary services have on the product for which recognition of equivalence is requested.

This information refers to:

- (i) The historic knowledge and confidence that the competent authority of the importing Member has of the competent authority of the exporting Member.
- (ii) The existence of an evaluation and recognition of the products-related system of inspection and certification of the exporting Member by the importing Member.
- (iii) The available scientific information supporting the request for the recognition of equivalence.

The amount of information as a variable for the simplification of the equivalence procedure will result in:

- Accelerated procedure: there is enough information;
- Simplified procedure: there is sufficient information identified in points (i) to (iii) above, but not on all of them;
- Ordinary procedure: there is not sufficient information available.

2. Members shall consider the existence of information between competent authorities related to sanitary and phytosanitary measures of other products (different from the one for which equivalence is requested) when this information is useful.

¹ Changes or additions to the text in document G/SPS/W/123/Add.1, in accordance with comments submitted by Members at the 27th SPS Committee Meeting, have been underlined.

3. Members shall consider the risk of the product to which the sanitary and phytosanitary measures are applied, in order to reduce requirements and the number of steps in the procedure in cases of low risk.

4. Members shall not seek again information already available to the importing Member with respect to the determination of the equivalence of sanitary and phytosanitary measures proposed by the exporting Member, unless this information needs to be updated.

5. For accelerated procedures, the importing Member shall estimate the steps that the demonstration of equivalence will require, and inform the exporting Member on an estimated time schedule for the whole process. This schedule shall be agreed between exporting and importing Members, in order to give predictability and legal certainty to the process of determination of equivalence.

When more than one agency is involved, the requirements of all of these agencies must be taken into account and included in the steps and time schedule agreed by the parties.
