



7 October 2013

(13-5405)

Page: 1/1

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

FOURTH REVIEW OF THE OPERATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT ON THE APPLICATION OF SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

CATALOGUE OF INSTRUMENTS AVAILABLE TO WTO MEMBERS TO MANAGE SPS ISSUES

Submission by Canada

The following communication, received on 4 October 2013, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of Canada.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. As part of the Fourth Review of the Operation and Implementation of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (the SPS Agreement), pursuant to the provisions of Article 12.7 of the Agreement, the Secretariat has invited Members to identify issues for consideration in the Review by 3 October 2013. Canada has identified the following issue: the development of a catalogue of instruments available to WTO Members to manage SPS issues.

1.2. In the context of the WTO SPS Agreement, there are a number of tools available to manage SPS trade issues that may arise between Members. From Canada's perspective, the considered and timely use of these tools can help Members avoid, manage, escalate, etc., issues. While some of these mechanisms enjoy broad usage by many Members (e.g. the "Specific Trade Concerns" agenda item on the SPS Committee agenda; meetings held on the margins of the SPS Committee meeting where two Members discuss a bilateral issue), others appear to be utilized less frequently (e.g. requesting discussions on comments made on a notification of a proposed measure).

1.3. Canada is of the view that a comprehensive catalogue of the available instruments could facilitate increased awareness and could result in their increased use.

2 PROPOSAL

2.1. The Committee develop a catalogue of instruments available to WTO Members for the management of SPS issues. It is proposed that this catalogue also include mechanisms relevant to the WTO SPS Agreement, e.g. IPPC dispute settlement.
