

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/SPS/N/USA/296

28 June 2000

(00-2655)

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

1.	Member to Agreement notifying: <u>UNITED STATES</u> If applicable, name of local government involved:
2.	Agency responsible: Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service - APHIS
3.	Products covered (provide tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO; ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable). Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable: Seeds
4.	Title and number of pages of the notified document: Accreditation Standards for Laboratory Seed Health Testing and Seed Crop Field Inspection (6 pages)
5.	Description of content: APHIS is proposing to amend the export certification regulations to provide specific standards under which non-government facilities could become accredited to perform laboratory seed testing and seed crop field inspection services that could serve as the basis for the issuance of a Federal phytosanitary certificate, export certificate for processed plant products, or phytosanitary certificate for reexport. The accreditation standards for these laboratory testing and field inspection services were developed to provide the basis for non-government facilities to become accredited to perform the testing or inspection services that may be used as supporting documentation for the issuance of certificates for certain plants or plant products.
6.	Objective and rationale: <input type="checkbox"/> food safety, <input type="checkbox"/> animal health, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> plant protection, <input type="checkbox"/> protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, <input type="checkbox"/> protect territory from other damage from pests
7.	An international standard, guideline or recommendation does not exist <input type="checkbox"/> . If an international standard, guideline or recommendation exists, give the appropriate reference and briefly identify deviations: APHIS is proposing this action in conformance to North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) standard "The Accreditation of Laboratories for Phytosanitary Testing". This is in accordance with Article 8 Paragraph 2 of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).
8.	Relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available: 65 FR 38218, 20 June 2000 (Available in English)
9.	Proposed date of adoption: To be determined.
10.	Proposed date of entry into force: To be determined.

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| 11. | Final date for comments: 21 August 2000
Agency or authority designated to handle comments: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service [] National notification authority, [] National enquiry point, or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body: Detailed instruction on where and how to send comments is in the body of the full text - which will be sent upon request to the address in paragraph 12. |
| 12. | Texts available from: [X] National notification authority, [X] National enquiry point or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body:

United States SPS Enquiry Point/Notification Authority
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