

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/SPS/N/USA/684

13 January 2003

(03-0160)

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: US Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service
3.	Products covered (provide tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO; ICS numbers should be provided in addition, where applicable):) : Beef products
4.	Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable: All trading partners
5.	Title, language and number of pages of the notified document: E.coli O157:H7 Contamination of Beef Products; Notice (Docket No. 00-0022N) (21 pages).
6.	Description of content: The Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) of the US Department of Agriculture is informing manufacturers of beef products of the Agency's views about the application of the hazard analysis and critical control point (HACCP) system regulations to contamination with <i>Escherichia coli</i> (<i>E. coli</i>) O157:H7. The results of FSIS' introduction of a new <i>E.coli</i> O157:H7 testing method, and recent research studies, provide evidence that <i>E. coli</i> O157:H7 is more prevalent than was previously thought. This scientific data on <i>E. coli</i> O157:H7 constitutes a change that could affect an establishment's hazard analysis or alter its HACCP plans for raw beef products. FSIS regulations require establishments to reassess their HACCP plans in light of this data to determine whether <i>E. coli</i> O157:H7 contamination is a hazard reasonably likely to occur in their production process. Affirmative determinations regarding the likelihood of <i>E. coli</i> O157:H7 food safety hazards in an establishment's production process must be accompanied by corrective modifications to that establishment's HACCP plan. This requirement applies to HACCP plans for all raw beef products, including ground beef, other non-intact beef products, and beef products. USDA plans to follow up this notification with new guidance regarding the control of <i>E. coli</i> O157:H7 and will make available the FSIS's draft comparative risk assessment of intact and non-intact (blade tenderized) steaks.
7.	Objective and rationale: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> food safety, <input type="checkbox"/> animal health, <input 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
8.	International standard, guideline or recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Codex Alimentarius Commission, <input type="checkbox"/> Office International des Epizooties, <input type="checkbox"/> International Plant Protection Convention, <input type="checkbox"/> None If an international standard, guideline or recommendation exists, give the appropriate reference and briefly identify deviations:

<p>9. Relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available: 67 FR 62325, 7 October 2002 (available in English). Accessible for comment at: http://www.fsis.usda.gov/oppde/rdad/default.htm</p>
<p>10. Proposed date of adoption: 6 December 2002</p>
<p>11. Proposed date of entry into force: 6 December 2002 for large plants (all establishments with 500 or more employees); 4 February, 2003 for small plants (all establishments with 10 or more but fewer than 500 employees); and 7 April 2003 for very small plants (all establishments with fewer than 10 employees or annual sales of less than \$2.5 million).</p>
<p>12. Final date for comments: 6 December 2002 Agency or authority designated to handle comments: <input type="checkbox"/> National notification authority, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National enquiry point, or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body: Food Safety and Inspection –Service, USDA</p>
<p>13. Texts available from: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National notification authority, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National enquiry point, or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body: Mr. Bill Janis US Department of Agriculture Stop 1027 Washington DC 20250 Tel: 202 720 9047 Fax: 202 720 0677 E-mail: fstsd@fas.usda.gov</p>