

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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
3.	Products covered (tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable): Potatoes
4.	Title and number of pages of the notified document: Foreign potatoes (3 pages)
5.	Description of content: The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is proposing to amend the regulations concerning imported plants and plant products to prohibit the importation of potato tubers from Bermuda and to prohibit the importation of potato plants from Newfoundland and a portion of Central Saanich, British Columbia, Canada. These changes appear necessary to prevent the introduction of foreign potato diseases and insect pests into the United States. We are also proposing to reorganize and streamline the regulations concerning the importation of potatoes into the United States. These changes would remove unnecessary regulations and relieve restrictions that no longer appear warranted.
6.	Objective and rationale: Plant health
7.	An international standard, guideline or recommendation does not exist [X]. If an international standard, guideline or recommendation exists, whenever possible, identify deviations:
8.	Relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available: 62 FR 24849, 7 May 1997; 7 CFR Parts 319, 321 and 330
9.	Proposed date of adoption: To be determined.
10.	Proposed date of entry into force: The effective date will be given upon publication of the final rule in the Federal Register.

11. Final date for comments: 7 July 1997

Agency or authority designated to handle comments: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA

12. Texts available from: National enquiry point [] or address, telefax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body:

United States SPS Enquiry Point
USDA/FAS/OFSTS
Attn: Carolyn F. Wilson
Room 5545 South Agriculture Building
14th and Independence
Washington, D.C. 20250
Tel: (202) 720 2239
Fax: (202) 690 0677
E-mail address: Wilsonc@fas.usda.gov