

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/SPS/N/USA/145

3 February 1999

(99-0411)

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
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): Unmanufactured wood articles and solid wood packing material
4.	Title and number of pages of the notified document: Importation of Unmanufactured Wood Articles; Solid Wood Packing Material
5.	Description of content: The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is soliciting public comment on how to amend the regulations on the importation of logs, lumber, and other unmanufactured wood articles to decrease the risk of solid wood packing material (e.g., crates, dunnage, wooden spools, pallets, packing blocks) introducing exotic plant pests into the United States. Introductions of exotic plant pests such as the pine shoot beetle and the Asian longhorned beetle have been linked to the importation of solid wood packing material. These and other plant pests that could be carried by imported solid wood packing material pose a serious threat to US agriculture and to natural cultivated, and urban forests.
6.	Objective and rationale: Plant health
7.	An international standard, guideline or recommendation does not exist []. If an international standard, guideline or recommendation exists, whenever possible, identify deviations: APHIS is taking this action in accordance with Article 6, paragraph 1 of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)
8.	Relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available: 64 FR 3049, 20 January 1999 (Available in English, 4 pages); 7 CFR Part 319
9.	Proposed date of adoption: To be determined.
10.	Proposed date of entry into force: To be determined.

11. Final date for comments: 22 March 1999

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

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

United States SPS Enquiry Point:
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