

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/SPS/N/USA/260

25 April 2000

(00-1659)

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

## NOTIFICATION

1.	<b>Member to Agreement notifying:</b> <u>UNITED STATES</u> <b>If applicable, name of local government involved:</b>
2.	<b>Agency responsible:</b> Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.
3.	<b>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:</b> Livestock.
4.	<b>Title and number of pages of the notified document:</b> Origin Health Certificate for Livestock Exported From the United States(4 pages).
5.	<b>Description of content:</b> The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is proposing to amend the animal export regulations to allow origin health certificates issued for animals intended for export from the United States to be valid for longer than 30 days in some cases, based on the requirements of the country of destination. Currently, origin health certificates for animals intended for export from the United States must certify that the animals were inspected within the 30 days prior to the movement for export. They must also contain information about any tests required to be conducted prior to export. Generally, the animals are inspected and tested (or samples are taken for testing) on the same day. However, some countries require or allow testing to be conducted more than 30 days prior to the date of export. This action would allow animals to be inspected for the origin health certificate as early as the required testing or sampling may be performed, in accordance with the requirements of the country of destination. We believe this can be allowed without increasing the risk of infected or exposed animals being exported, since all livestock leaving the United States by sea or air are inspected again by a U.S. Department of Agriculture veterinarian within 24 hours of export; and animals exported to Canada or Mexico by land are inspected by those nations prior to crossing the land border. This action would simplify the export process and reduce costs for exporters.
6.	<b>Objective and rationale:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> food safety, <input checked="" 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
7.	<b>An international standard, guideline or recommendation does not exist</b> <input type="checkbox"/> . <b>If an international standard, guideline or recommendation exists, give the appropriate reference and briefly identify deviations:</b> All animals are inspected at the point of embarkation within 24 hours prior to shipment. This action is in accordance with international standards set by the Office International des Epizooties.

<b>8.</b>	<b>Relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available:</b> 65 FR 20384, 17 April 2000; 9 CFR Parts 91 and 161. (Available in English.)
<b>9.</b>	<b>Proposed date of adoption:</b> To be determined.
<b>10.</b>	<b>Proposed date of entry into force:</b> The date of entry into force will be announced when the final rule is published in the Federal Register.
<b>11.</b>	<b>Final date for comments:</b> 16 June 2000. <b>Agency or authority designated to handle comments:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>National notification authority,</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>National enquiry point, or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body.</b> Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA 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.
<b>12.</b>	<b>Texts available from:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>National notification authority,</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>National enquiry point or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body:</b>  United States SPS Enquiry Point/Notification Authority USDA/FAS/FSTSD Attn: Carolyn F. Wilson Room 5545 South Agriculture Building Stop 1027 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20250 Phone (202) 720-2239 Fax (202) 690-0677 E-mail Address: ofsts@fas.usda.gov