

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/SPS/N/VEN/11  
12 March 2003

(03-1406)

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: Spanish

## NOTIFICATION

1.	<b>Member to Agreement notifying:</b> <u>VENEZUELA</u> <b>If applicable, name of local government involved:</b>
2.	<b>Agency responsible:</b> Ministry of Agriculture and Land / Autonomous Agricultural Health Service (SASA)
3.	<b>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):</b>  <b>Chapter XII: 12.09:</b> 12.09.21.00 to 12.09.29.00. Seeds of forage plants.
4.	<b>Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable:</b> All countries.
5.	<b>Title, language and number of pages of the notified document:</b> Resolution Issuing the Regulation on the Importation of Seeds of Forage Plants
6.	<b>Description of content:</b> The purpose of this instrument is to regulate the importation of seeds of forage plants. The Autonomous Agricultural Health Service (SASA) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and the National Seed Service (SENASA) of the National Fund for Agricultural Research (FONAIAP) are established as the competent authorities.  The Regulation establishes the forage plant species and varieties declared eligible for importation by the SENASA and the assessment and authorization procedures to be conducted by this body. It also provides for mandatory identification by means of green and blue labels corresponding to control and/or certification, respectively.  The Regulation prohibits both exotic weeds and seeds of the following weeds: <i>Cenchrus echinatus</i> (southern sandbur), <i>Ischaemum rugosum</i> (muraina grass or wrinkle duck-beak), <i>Oryza sativa</i> (red rice), <i>Paspalum virgatum</i> , <i>Rottboellia exaltata</i> (buffalo bean grass or itchgrass), <i>Sorghum halepense</i> (Johnson grass) and <i>Sorghum verticilliflorum</i> (wild sorghum).  It also specifies the minimum quality standards for imported forage plant seeds in relation to humidity, purity and germination and the requirements as regards their packaging, labelling and storage facilities.
7.	<b>Objective and rationale:</b> [ ] food safety, [ ] animal health, [ ] plant protection, [ X ] protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, [ X ] protect territory from other damage from pests

<b>8.</b>	<b>International standard, guideline or recommendation:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Codex Alimentarius Commission, <input type="checkbox"/> Office International des Epizooties, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Plant Protection Convention, <input type="checkbox"/> None  <b>If an international standard, guideline or recommendation exists, give the appropriate reference and briefly identify deviations:</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available:</b> Extraordinary Official Gazette of the Republic of Venezuela No. 5,286, Resolution DM (Office of the Minister)/No. 702 (available in Spanish).
<b>10.</b>	<b>Proposed date of adoption:</b> 29 November 1998
<b>11.</b>	<b>Proposed date of entry into force:</b> 30 November 1998
<b>12.</b>	<b>Final date for comments:</b> Although the measure has already been adopted and entered into force, comments will be accepted for 60 days following submission of the notification by the Permanent Mission to the Central Registry of Notifications for subsequent amendments. <b>Agency or authority designated to handle comments:</b> <input checked="" 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>  Autonomous Agricultural Health Service (SASA), Av. Lecuna, Torre Este, 12 <sup>th</sup> floor, Parque Central, El Conde, Caracas, Venezuela. Tel.: (58 212) 509-0140 / 509-0184 / 509-0315 / 509-0378 Fax: (58 212) 509-0376 E-mail: mat_sasa@yahoo.es
<b>13.</b>	<b>Texts available from:</b> <input checked="" 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>