

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/SPS/N/USA/141
15 December 1998

(98-5066)

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): Weed seeds
4.	Title and number of pages of the notified document: Noxious Weeds; Update of Weed Lists
5.	Description of content: The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is proposing to amend the noxious weed regulations by adding <i>Solanum tampicense</i> Dunal (wetland nightshade) and <i>Caulerpa taxifolia</i> (Mediterranean clone) to the list of aquatic weeds and removing <i>Ipomoea triloba</i> Linnaeus from the list of terrestrial weeds. APHIS is also proposing to update the taxonomic names of two other weeds currently listed and make one editorial change to the regulations. These actions appear to be necessary to prevent the artificial spread of noxious weeds into non-infested areas of the United States, to remove unnecessary restrictions, and to make the regulations easier to understand.
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 conducted weed risk assessment for the weeds we propose to add and the weed we propose to delete. The methods APHIS uses for plant pest risk assessment are consistent with the International Plant Pest Convention (IPPC)
8.	Relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available: 63 FR 67011, 4 December 1998 (available in English, 4 pages); 7 CFR Parts 360 and 361
9.	Proposed date of adoption: To be determined.
10.	Proposed date of entry into force: The date of entry into force will be announced when the final rule is published in the Federal Register.

11. Final date for comments: 2 February 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:

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