

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/SPS/N/USA/149
2 March 1999

(99-0801)

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): Pork
4.	Title and number of pages of the notified document: Importation of Pork and Pork Products from Yucatan and Sonora, Mexico
5.	Description of content: The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is proposing to amend the regulations concerning the importation of animal products to relieve certain restrictions on the importation of pork and pork products from the Mexican State of Yucatan. Currently, because of the existence of hog cholera in Mexico, pork and pork products from Yucatan must be heated or cured and dried to certain specifications to be eligible for entry into the United States. This proposal would establish new conditions for the importation of fresh and processed pork and pork products from Yucatan into the United States and would also provide for the movement through areas where hog cholera may exist of pork and pork products from Yucatan in transit to the United States. APHIS is also proposing to amend the regulations that provide for the importation of fresh pork from the Mexican State of Sonora to also allow the importation of pork products from Sonora and to modify the import conditions for Sonoran pork and pork products so that those conditions parallel the import conditions proposed for pork and pork products from Yucatan. These proposed amendments would provide for the importation of pork products from Sonora and for the in-transit movement of Sonoran pork and pork products through areas where hog cholera may exist and would make it clear that pork and pork products from Sonora must be derived from swine slaughtered at Federally inspected slaughter plants.
6.	Objective and rationale: Enhance international trade by removing some restrictions while continuing to protect the United States from hog cholera disease.
7.	An international standard, guideline or recommendation does not exist []. If an international standard, guideline or recommendation exists, whenever possible, identify deviations: We believe this action is in accordance with international standards set by the Office international des épizooties.
8.	Relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available: 64 FR 8755, 23 February 1999 (available in English, 7 pages); 9 CFR Part 94

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: 26 April 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 USDA/FAS/FSTSD Attn: Carolyn F. Wilson Room 5545 South Agriculture Building Stop 1027 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20250 Tel: (202) 720 22 39 Fax: (202) 690 06 77 E-mail: ofsts@fas.usda.gov