

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/SPS/N/USA/468

23 July 2001

(01-3651)

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 - APHIS
3.	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). Avocados Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable: Mexico
4.	Title and number of pages of the notified document: Mexican Hass Avocado Import Programme; Proposed Rule (15 pages)
5.	Description of content: APHIS is proposing to amend the regulations governing the importation of fruits and vegetables to expand the number of States in which fresh avocado fruit grown in approved orchards in approved municipalities in Michoacan, Mexico, may be distributed. We are also proposing to increase the length of the shipping season during which the Mexican Hass avocados may be imported into the United States. We are proposing this action in response to a request from the Government of Mexico and after determining that expanding the current Mexican avocado import programme would present a negligible risk of introducing plant pests into the United States.
6.	Objective and rationale: <input type="checkbox"/> food safety, <input type="checkbox"/> animal health, <input checked="" 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.	An international standard, guideline or recommendation does not exist <input type="checkbox"/> . If an international standard, guideline or recommendation exists, give the appropriate reference and briefly identify deviations: APHIS is proposing 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: 66 FR 36891, 13 July 2001 (Available in English)
9.	Proposed date of adoption: To be determined.
10.	Proposed date of entry into force: To be determined.

11. Final date for comments: APHIS invites you to comment. We will consider all comments that we receive by 11 September 2001.

Agency or authority designated to handle comments: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service [] **National notification authority,** [] **National enquiry point, or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body:** 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.

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

United States SPS Enquiry Point/Notification Authority
USDA/FAS/FSTSD
ATTN: Carolyn F. Wilson
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