

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/SPS/N/USA/636
29 August 2002

(02-4619)

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 should be provided in addition, where applicable): Bees and Related Articles
4.	Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable: Trading partners
5.	Title, language and number of pages of the notified document: Bees and Related Articles; Notice of Public Hearings; Proposed Rule (25 pages)
6.	Description of content: The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is proposing to amend the regulations for the importation of honeybees and honeybee semen and the regulations established to prevent the introduction of exotic bee diseases and parasites through the importation of bees other than honeybees, certain beekeeping byproducts, and used beekeeping equipment. Among other things, our proposal would allow honeybees from Australia and honeybees and honeybee germ plasm from New Zealand to be imported into the United States under certain conditions, impose certain conditions on the importation into the United States of bees and related articles from Canada, and prohibit the interstate movement of honeybees into Hawaii. It also would consolidate all of our regulations concerning bees. These changes would make these regulations more consistent with international standards, update them to reflect current research and terminology, and simplify them and make them more useful.
7.	Objective and rationale: <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
8.	International standard, guideline or recommendation: <input type="checkbox"/> Codex Alimentarius Commission, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office International des Epizooties, <input type="checkbox"/> International Plant Protection Convention, <input type="checkbox"/> None If an international standard, guideline or recommendation exists, give the appropriate reference and briefly identify deviations:
9.	Relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available: 67 FR 53843, 19 August 2002; available in English.
10.	Proposed date of adoption: To be determined.

11. Proposed date of entry into force: To be determined.
12. Final date for comments: APHIS will consider all comments that we receive on or before 18 November 2002. Agency or authority designated to handle comments: <input type="checkbox"/> National notification authority, <input type="checkbox"/> National enquiry point, or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Detailed instructions on where and how to send comments are in the body of the full text – which will be sent upon request to the address in paragraph 13.
13. Texts available from: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National notification authority, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 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: fstsd@fas.usda.gov