

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/SPS/N/USA/846

23 January 2004

(04-0228)

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

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| 1. | Member to Agreement notifying: <u>UNITED STATES</u> If applicable, name of local government involved: |
| 2. | Agency responsible: US Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service |
| 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): Beef cattle intended for slaughter and use as human food |
| 4. | Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable: All trading partners |
| 5. | Title, language and number of pages of the notified document: Prohibition of the Use of Certain Stunning Devices Used to Immobilize Cattle During Slaughter (Docket No. 01-0331F) (Available in English, 36 pages) |
| 6. | Description of content: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is amending the Federal meat inspection regulations to prohibit the use of penetrative captive bolt stunning devices that deliberately inject air into the cranial cavity of cattle. This rulemaking responds to the findings of a risk assessment on bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) conducted by the Harvard Center for Risk Analysis and is part of a series of actions that the US Department of Agriculture is taking to strengthen its BSE prevention programs. FSIS is taking this action to address the potential risk posed by stunning devices that may force visible pieces of brain, known as macro-emboli, into the circulatory system of stunned cattle. Exporting countries will be required to adopt this or an equivalent measure when producing beef products in establishments certified for export to the United States. |
| 7. | Objective and rationale: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> food safety, <input type="checkbox"/> animal health, <input type="checkbox"/> plant protection, <input checked="" 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"/> World Organization for Animal Health, <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: OIE/TAHC Chapter 2.3.13 |
| 9. | Relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available: Accessible for comment at: http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/FRPubs/01-0331F.htm |
| 10. | Proposed date of adoption: 12 January 2004 |

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| 11. Proposed date of entry into force: 12 January 2004 |
| 12. Final date for comments: 12 April 2004 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: Address comments to: FSIS Docket Clerk, Docket 03-025IF, Room 102 Cotton Annex, 300 12 th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-3700, United States |
| 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: Ms. Julie Morin, US Department of Agriculture, Stop 1027, Washington, DC 20250. Tel: (202) 720-4051, Fax: (202) 690-0677, E-mail: julie.morin@fas.usda.gov |