

NOTIFICATION OF EMERGENCY MEASURES

1.	Member to Agreement notifying: <u>MEXICO</u> If applicable, name of local government involved:
2.	Agency responsible: Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food
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). Penaeid shrimps
4.	Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable: All countries which are engaged in shrimp farming and trade in shrimps with Mexico.
5.	Title and number of pages of the notified document: Mexican Official Emergency Standard NOM-EM-05-PESC-2002 Establishing the Requirements and Measures for the Prevention and Control of the Spread of High-Impact Diseases and for the Use and Application of Antibiotics in Domestic Shrimp Farming (9 pages).
6.	<p>Description of content: The purpose of this Mexican Official Emergency Standard is to establish the requirements and measures for the prevention and control of the spread of high-impact diseases and for the use and application of antibiotics in domestic shrimp farming.</p> <p>This Standard is in partial conformity with Council Directive 96/23/EC, published on 29 April 1996, on measures to monitor certain substances and residues thereof in live animals and animal products and repealing Directives 85/358/EEC and 86/469/EEC and Decisions 89/187/EEC and 91/664/EEC, and with the provisions of USC Regulation No. 21 of the Republic of Chile on measures to protect against, control and eradicate high-risk diseases of hydrobiological species.</p>
7.	Objective and rationale: <input checked="" 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.	<p>Nature of the urgent problem(s) and reasons for urgent action: A range of diseases, including viral diseases, have been identified at global level in farmed aquatic organisms and present a high risk to aquaculture given that, since no effective control treatment is currently available, mortality rates of up to one hundred per cent of affected populations have been recorded.</p> <p>Farmed shrimps in Asia and Central and South America have been adversely affected by several viral diseases which have caused substantial economic losses to production in countries such as China, Thailand and Ecuador.</p>

8. Nature of the urgent problem(s) and reasons for urgent action: (cont'd)

The Mexican Republic has proved no exception to this phenomenon: since the early nineties, Infectious Hypodermal and Haematopoietic Necrosis Virus (IHHNV), Taura Syndrome Virus (TSV), White Spot Syndrome Virus (WSSV) and other viral diseases have been identified in its domestic shrimp farming industry.

Diagnostic laboratories studying the diseases which affect penaeid shrimps farmed in the national territory have, since 1999, been continually identifying and confirming the presence of cases in which the affected specimens under review present the classic symptoms of Taura Syndrome Virus (TSV), along with those caused by the White Spot Syndrome Virus (WSSV) and Infectious Hypodermal and Haematopoietic Necrosis Virus (IHHNV).

Farmed shrimps are also affected by other pathogens such as bacteria, for which, unlike viral diseases, control treatment does exist.

There is evidence that the disease-carrying causal agents which affect farmed shrimps come from asymptomatic carriers and are introduced to or spread from one aquaculture production unit, district, State, region or coast to another across water by birds, other animals, utensils, vehicles, etc.

In the event of an outbreak of disease in a shrimp aquaculture production unit, the causal agent is spread by the water to other ponds in the same unit by way of the waste water outfall entering the receiving body of water, a situation which increases the risk of other production units supplied by this body of water introducing the disease-carrying causal agent into their own installations, with the resulting threat of an outbreak or an epizootic disease.

The quality of the water used for farming aquaculture species such as the penaeid shrimp is a critical element in the production process and must therefore be monitored. Its physical, chemical and biological parameters, including, *inter alia*, the type of plankton introduced into the aquaculture production unit, the suspended solids, total solids, nitrites, nitrates, salinity, temperature, etc., must be suitable for the shrimps to grow and fatten properly, otherwise the farmed population runs a great risk of outbreaks of disease and mortalities as a result of deficiencies or changes in these parameters.

Faced with the problems described above, the aquaculture authorities in several countries have adopted a number of requirements and measures to prevent and control the spread of diseases affecting farmed shrimps, such as certification of the different stages of development of penaeid shrimps used in production, and in relation to the chemical substances used in disease control and prevention.

The results of the laboratory tests conducted in national territory on postlarvae penaeid shrimps caught from natural populations have proved that, at this stage of development, they are carriers of the causal agents of White Spot Syndrome Virus (WSSV) and Taura Syndrome Virus (STV), amongst other viruses, which means that there is a high risk of these diseases being introduced to aquaculture production units supplied by the same source.

Farmed shrimps have a two-phase production process. The first phase corresponds to the cultivation itself, which begins when shrimps in their early stages of development, produced in laboratory-controlled conditions, are introduced into the installations of an aquaculture production unit for fattening, and ends when commercial-size specimens are

8. Nature of the urgent problem(s) and reasons for urgent action: (cont'd)

removed. The second phase begins when the harvested organisms are taken to market for sale, either fresh or in ice, or sent to a plant for processing.

Therapeutic agents, such as antibiotics, are used to prevent and control diseases which can be treated, such as bacterial diseases. Incorrect use can lead to an accumulation of the residues of such products in the aquaculture species harvested.

A wide range of antibiotics exist for treating bacterial diseases in aquaculture, such as chloramphenicol and nitrofurans. The latter belong to a group of synthetic antimicrobial compounds, including furazolidone, which are considered a risk to human health, owing to the metabolites generated during the metabolism of the drug in the live animal and subsequent to its slaughter.

To date, the competent authorities with regard to health and aquatic regulations in other countries have not authorised the use of such substances in aquaculture. However, in some nations, such as the United States of America, some may be used upon request and subject to an assessment of the case in question, provided that their application and use are supervised by a specialist accredited by the competent authority.

The European Union has recently detected chloramphenicol residues in shipments of farmed shrimps from Asia, which has led to the suspension of imports of this crustacean to Europe. Moreover, European countries, in conjunction with other nations such as the United States of America, are carrying out stricter monitoring, with a view to detecting residues of chloramphenicol and other antibiotics, such as those belonging to the nitrofurans group (including furazolidone), in shrimps imported from other countries.

In the light of the above and considering that water is a critical factor in the penaeid shrimp production process and that another critical factor in shrimp farming is the use of therapeutic agents, of which antibiotics are the most frequently used, there is a need for technical regulations to be established to prevent the spread of high-impact diseases in shrimp farming, such as White Spot Syndrome Virus (WSSV), Infectious Hypodermal and Haematopoietic Necrosis Virus (IHHNV), Taura Syndrome Virus (TSV) and any others which are notified to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food by way of a notice published in the *Diario Oficial de la Federación* (Official Journal).

9. International standard, guideline or recommendation:

☐ Codex Alimentarius Commission, ☐ Office International des Epizooties,
☐ International Plant Protection Convention, ☒ None

If an international standard, guideline or recommendation exists, give the appropriate reference and briefly identify deviations: None, although this Standard is in partial conformity with Council Directive 96/23/EC of 29 April 1996 on measures to monitor certain substances and residues thereof in live animals and animal products and repealing Directives 85/358/EEC and 86/469/EEC and Decisions 89/187/EEC and 91/664/EEC, as well as being similar in part to the provisions of USC Regulation No. 21 of the Republic of Chile on measures to protect against, control and eradicate high-risk diseases for hydrobiological species.

10. Relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available: *Diario Oficial de la Federación* (Official Journal) of 19 July 2002 (available in Spanish).

11.	Date of entry into force/period of application (as applicable): 20 July 2002.
12.	Agency or authority designated to handle comments: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National notification authority, <input type="checkbox"/> National enquiry point, or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body:
13.	Texts available from: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National notification authority, <input type="checkbox"/> National enquiry point or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body: Ms Jessica Gutierrez E-mail: cidgn@economia.gob.mx Web site: www.economia.gob.mx/?P=85 (Standards catalogue) Directorate-General of Standards Tel.: (52+55) 57 29 93 00, Ext. 4156 Fax: 55 20 97 15