

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/SPS/N/USA/242  
21 March 2000

(00-1174)

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

## NOTIFICATION

1.	<b>Member to Agreement notifying:</b> <u>UNITED STATES</u> <b>If applicable, name of local government involved:</b>
2.	<b>Agency responsible:</b> Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)
3.	<b>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). Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable:</b> Cured pork products
4.	<b>Title and number of pages of the notified document:</b> Elimination of Requirements for the Compliance Monitoring System for Cured Pork Products (3 pages)
5.	<b>Description of content:</b> The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is proposing to amend the meat inspection regulations by removing the regulations that prescribe the Agency's compliance monitoring system for cured pork products. Removing these regulations will not affect the regulatory requirements that industry is responsible for meeting. The proposal will remove requirements that specify the frequency with which FSIS samples these products and the enforcement actions that the Agency will take in response to specific laboratory findings from analysis of product samples. FSIS is proposing to remove these prescriptive controls on itself because the Agency intends to institute a new approach to sampling and testing meat and poultry products to verify that the products meet regulatory requirements for consumer protections other than food safety (i.e. misbranding and economic adulteration). If the Agency takes this action, it will be able to reallocate some of its in-plant and laboratory resources to give greater emphasis to food safety concerns.
6.	<b>Objective and rationale:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> food safety, <input 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
7.	<b>An international standard, guideline or recommendation does not exist</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> . <b>If an international standard, guideline or recommendation exists, give the appropriate reference and briefly identify deviations:</b>
8.	<b>Relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available:</b> 65 FR 14489, 17 March 2000; 9 CFR Parts 318, 319 and 327 (Available in English)
9.	<b>Proposed date of adoption:</b> To be determined.
10.	<b>Proposed date of entry into force:</b> To be determined.

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| <b>11.</b> | <b>Final date for comments:</b> 16 May 2000.<br><b>Agency or authority designated to handle comments:</b> Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA<br><b>[ ] National notification authority, [ ] National enquiry point, or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body:</b> 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.                           |
| <b>12.</b> | <b>Texts available from: [ X ] National notification authority, [ X ] National enquiry point or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body:</b><br><br>United States SPS Enquiry Point/Notification Authority<br>USDA/FAS/FSTSD<br>ATTN: Carolyn F. Wilson<br>Room 5545 South Agriculture Building<br>Stop 1027<br>1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.<br>Washington, D.C. 20250<br>Phone (202) 720-2239<br>Fax (202) 690-0677<br>E-mail Address: ofsts@fas.usda.gov |