

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/SPS/N/USA/563

2 April 2002

(02-1637)

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, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service – APHIS
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> Fruit and vegetables
4.	<b>Title and number of pages of the notified document:</b> Irradiation Phytosanitary Treatment of Imported Fruits and Vegetables – Proposed Rule; Supplemental (6 pages)
5.	<p><b>Description of content:</b> The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is proposing additional changes related to an earlier proposed rule (notified as G/SPS/N/USA/286) to establish regulations providing for use of irradiation as a phytosanitary treatment for fruits and vegetables imported into the United States. The irradiation treatment provides protection against fruit flies and the mango seed weevil. This supplemental proposed rule concerns the use of radiation indicators on packaging of irradiated articles and additional provisions for monitoring foreign irradiation facilities.</p> <p>In G/SPS/N/USA/286 APHIS proposed a framework for the use of irradiation as a phytosanitary treatment for imported fruits and vegetables, and proposed specific standards for an irradiation treatment for fruit flies and the mango seed weevil in imported fruits and vegetables. We received 2,212 comments by the end of the comment period. Several of those comments suggested that the proposed rule establish certain requirements not included in the proposal. APHIS is publishing this supplemental proposed rule (and has asked that it be notified to the WTO separately rather than as an addendum to the earlier notification) to allow an opportunity for public comment on these issues that were not included in the earlier proposed rule. After evaluating any comments received on this supplemental proposal, APHIS will publish a final rule addressing comments on both G/SPS/N/USA/286 and G/SPS/N/USA/563.</p>
6.	<b>Objective and rationale:</b> <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.	<b>An international standard, guideline or recommendation does not exist</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> . APHIS is proposing this action in accordance with Article 6, Paragraph 1 of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

<b>8.</b>	<b>Relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available:</b> 67 FR 11610, 15 March 2002 (Available in English)
<b>9.</b>	<b>Proposed date of adoption:</b> To be determined.
<b>10.</b>	<b>Proposed date of entry into force:</b> To be determined.
<b>11.</b>	<p><b>Final date for comments:</b> APHIS will consider all comments we receive that are postmarked, delivered or e-mailed by 15 April 2002.</p> <p><b>Agency or authority designated to handle comments:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>National notification authority,</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>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.</p>
<b>12.</b>	<p><b>Texts available from:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>National notification authority,</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>National enquiry point or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body:</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"> 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  Tel: (202) 720-2239  Fax: (202) 690-0677  E-mail: <a href="mailto:ofsts@fas.usda.gov">ofsts@fas.usda.gov</a> </p>