

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

G/PSI/IE/2

26 April 1996

(96-1602)

Agreement on Preshipment Inspection Independent Entity

COMMENCEMENT OF OPERATIONS

With the Decision of the General Council of 13 December 1995 (WT/L/125/Rev.1), approving the Agreement between the WTO, the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and the International Federation of Inspection Agencies (IFIA) establishing the Independent Entity (IE), a temporary moratorium on applications to the IE requesting an independent review was agreed in order to allow the organisations involved to complete the administrative and procedural requirements to commence operations of the IE. Recent communications from the ICC and the IFIA have confirmed that those requirements have now been put in place. Specifically, the relevant information and forms, as contained in WT/L/125/Rev.1, have been translated and distributed to their affiliates and contacts around the world, and the List of Experts for Independent Reviews has been finalized and distributed in document G/PSI/IE/1.

Member governments are hereby notified that as of 1 May 1996, the IE will be prepared to receive applications requesting independent reviews under Article 4 of the Agreement on Preshipment Inspection. Members are reminded that, in accordance with the Decision of 13 December 1995, the IE shall be organized and shall function in accordance with the "Structure and Functions of the Independent Entity Established by Article 4 of the WTO Agreement on Preshipment Inspection," contained in Annex II of the Decision, and that the "Rules of Procedure for the Operation of Independent Reviews under Article 4 of the WTO Agreement on Preshipment Inspection," contained in Annex III, shall apply to the conduct of independent reviews within the meaning of Article 4 of the PSI Agreement within the framework of the IE.

Given the need to circulate the List of Experts for Independent Reviews among exporters and inspection agencies in order for them to be in a position to select potential panellists when and if the need arises, it is suggested that the document G/PSI/IE/1 containing this List be derestricted. Future versions of this List, any addenda, corrigenda, or revisions would also be henceforth issued as unrestricted documents. Unless any Member communicates disagreement with this approach to the IE (tel. 739-5549), the List will be derestricted in 30 days.