

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/SPS/N/USA/705
6 June 2003

(03-2929)

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

NOTIFICATION OF EMERGENCY MEASURES

1. Member to Agreement notifying: <u>UNITED STATES</u> If applicable, name of local government involved:
2. Agency responsible: Animal Plant Health 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): Solid wood packing material
4. Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable: Trading partners
5. Title, language and number of pages of the notified document: Importation of solid wood Packing Material pp. 27480-127491 Volume 68 Number 97, www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webrepor
6. Description of content: APHIS is proposing to amend its regulations related to the importation of solid wood packing material and adopt the international standard, "Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packing Material in International Trade", which was approved by the Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures of the International Plant Protection Convention on 15 March 2002. APHIS intends to require that most wood packaging material entering the United States either be heat treated or fumigated with methyl bromide, in accordance with the Guidelines, and marked with an approved international mark certifying treatment. We propose to adopt the IPPC Guidelines, because they represent the current international standard determined to be necessary and effective for controlling pests in wood packaging material used in global trade, and because the current US requirements for wood packaging material have been shown not to be fully effective, as evidenced by the increased number of pest interceptions at ports.
7. Objective and rationale: <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
8. Nature of the urgent problem(s) and reason for urgent action: This action is warranted to control the pests in wood packaging material.
9. International standard, guideline or recommendation: <input type="checkbox"/> Codex Alimentarius Commission, <input type="checkbox"/> Office International des Epizooties, <input checked="" 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: Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packing Material in International Trade

10. Relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available: English
11. Date of entry into force/period of application (as applicable): TBA
12. Agency or authority designated to handle comments: <input 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: Please submit comments by 21 July 2003 to Docket No. 02-032-2, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3c71, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 10737-1238
13. Texts available from: <input 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: Mr. William Janis, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Stop 1027, Washington, D.C. 20250. Telephone: 202 720-9047; E-mail: fstsd@usda.gov