

NOTIFICATION OF EMERGENCY MEASURES

1. Notifying Member: <u>COSTA RICA</u> If applicable, name of local government involved:
2. Agency responsible: <i>Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería, Servicio Fitosanitario del Estado, SFE (Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, State Phytosanitary Service)</i>
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): Used wooden pallets marked in accordance with ISPM No. 15 (Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade)
4. Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All trading partners, or <input type="checkbox"/> Specific regions or countries:
5. Title of the notified document: <i>Guía Técnica ARF 08. Requisitos fitosanitarios para la importación de productos misceláneos, incluidas las tarimas de madera nuevas y usadas (Technical Document on High Phytosanitary Risk No. 08: Phytosanitary requirements for the importation into Costa Rica of miscellaneous goods, including new and used wooden pallets)</i> Full text of notification available online at: http://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2010/sps/CRI/10_0821_00_s.pdf Language: Spanish Number of pages: 8
6. Description of content: The notified text lays down phytosanitary requirements for the importation into Costa Rica of miscellaneous goods, including new and used wooden pallets.
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> protect territory from other damage from pests.
8. Nature of the urgent problem(s) and reasons for urgent action: The immediate adoption of emergency measures has become necessary following an increase in applications to import wooden pallets. Taking into account ISPM No. 15 of the IPPC, which states that " <i>The phytosanitary measures described in this standard are not intended to provide ongoing protection from contaminating pests or other organisms</i> ", and Article 5(e) of Phytosanitary Protection Law No. 7664, which stipulates that " <i>The State Phytosanitary Service (SFE) may issue and implement technical, legal and administrative measures to prevent and delay the introduction or the establishment of new plant pests</i> ",

and given the fact that it is difficult to determine the previous uses and the origin of pallets, the materials previously packaged therein, and the measures taken in this respect outside the country to mitigate the risk of contaminating pests, it is considered necessary to apply measures to reduce the phytosanitary risk, with fumigation being the most effective and rapid form of achieving this aim.

ISPM No. 15 specifies that "*Dunnage in particular has been shown to present a high risk of introduction and spread of quarantine pests. Furthermore, wood packaging material is very often reused, repaired or remanufactured (as described in section 4.3). The true origin of any piece of wood packaging material is difficult to determine, and thus its phytosanitary status cannot easily be ascertained. Therefore the normal process of undertaking pest risk analysis to determine if measures are necessary, and the strength of such measures, is frequently not possible for wood packaging material*".

9. Is there a relevant international standard? If so, identify the standard:

Codex Alimentarius Commission (e.g. title or serial number of Codex standard or related text)

World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) (e.g. Terrestrial or Aquatic Animal Health Code, chapter number)

International Plant Protection Convention (e.g. ISPM No.) ISPM No. 15

None

Does this proposed regulation conform to the relevant international standard?

Yes No

If no, describe, whenever possible, how and why it deviates from the international standard:

10. Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available: Costa Rican Technical Regulation (RTCR) No. 379:2000: *Procedimientos para la aplicación de requisitos fitosanitarios para la importación de plantas, productos vegetales y otros capaces de transportar plagas* (Procedures for the implementation of phytosanitary requirements for the importation of plants, plant products and other plant material capable of harbouring pests); Decree No. 29473-MEIC-MAG of the Ministry of the Economy, Industry and Trade (MEIC) and Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG), published in Official Journal La Gaceta No. 93 of 16 May 2001.

11. Date of entry into force (dd/mm/yy)/period of application (as applicable): Immediately upon notification.

Trade facilitating measure

12. Agency or authority designated to handle comments: **National Notification Authority**, **National Enquiry Point**. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:

13. Texts available from: National Notification Authority, National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:

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