

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/SPS/N/EEC/221/Add.4
13 February 2006

(06-0595)

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

Addendum

The following communication, received on 9 February 2006, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of the European Communities.

Wood packaging material circulating under CN Heading 4415 and wood used to wedge and support non-wood cargo (dunnage)

The EC notifies hereby the "Commission Directive 2006/14/EC of 6 February 2006 amending Annex IV to Council Directive 2000/29/EC on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community" (O.J. L34, 7 February 2006 pp. 24-25).

Pursuing to his Directive, the dates in the last paragraph of points 2 and 8 of Annex IV, Part A, section 1 *to Directive 2000/29/EC on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community* (Official Journal L169, 10 July 2000, p.1) are replaced by: "1 January 2009".

The full text can be downloaded from the internet address indicated below:

EN: http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2006/l_034/l_03420060207en00240025.pdf
FR: http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/LexUriServ/site/fr/oj/2006/l_034/l_03420060207fr00240025.pdf
ES: http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/LexUriServ/site/es/oj/2006/l_034/l_03420060207es00240025.pdf

Background

The Council, by Article 1 of its Directive 2005/15/EC (notified in G/SPS/N/EEC/221/Add.3, 2 March 2005) delayed until 1 March 2006 the debarking provisions for wood packaging materials and dunnage as foreseen in *Commission Directive 2004/102/EC of 5 October 2004 amending Annexes II, III, IV and V to Council Directive 2000/29/EC on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants and plant products and against their spread within the Community* (Official Journal L 309, 6 October 2004, pages 9-25), notified in G/SPS/N/EEC/221 (10 November 2003). Many Third Countries, including developing countries, have requested a further postponement to avoid trade disruption.

In its decision for a further extension of the deadline of the debarking requirement until 1 January 2009, the Commission wants to allow the international community sufficient time to re-evaluate the phytosanitary risk of bark. The Commission will therefore closely follow the

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international review of ISPM n° 15, which should address the EU's concern about the presence of bark attached to wood packaging material.

Pursuing the EC interest for international standards to be established, it encourages countries having submitted comments to its initial proposal to participate in the work of the Committee on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) of the International Plant Protection Convention.

See more in http://europa.eu.int/comm./food/resources/import_conditions/woodpackaging.pdf

The notified document can be obtained from the EC Enquiry Point: sps@cec.eu.int
