

WORLD TRADE

ORGANIZATION

G/SPS/N/GTM/34

26 May 2005

(05-2153)

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: Spanish

NOTIFICATION

1.

Member to Agreement notifying: GUATEMALA

If applicable, name of local government involved:

2.

Agency responsible: Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food

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): Wood packaging material

4.

Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable:

Countries trading with Guatemala

5.

Title, language and number of pages of the notified document: Ministerial Agreement No. 2055-2004 of 15 December 2004. Provisions Governing Wood Packaging Material used in International Trade (12 pages)

6.

Description of content: The Agreement regulates certification of raw coniferous and non-coniferous wood packaging material with a view to controlling quarantine pests associated therewith, and establishes rules for the registration of natural and legal persons that treat raw wood packaging material used in international trade. The Agreement does not cover wood packaging manufactured entirely from wood products such as plywood, particle board, oriented strand board or veneer sheets manufactured using glue, heat and pressure or a combination thereof. Nor does it cover wood packaging such as veneer peeler cores (by-products of veneer production), sawdust, wood chips (raw or thinly cut to a thickness of less than six millimetres), wood wool.

It also sets forth requirements for the registration of natural or legal persons that carry out chemical and/or heat treatment on raw wood packaging used in shipments; establishes the period of validity of the

registration of natural or legal persons; describes the equipment, personal protection gear, materials and plant to be used in chemical (methyl bromide) treatment using fixed chambers and the characteristics thereof; the fumigation equipment and materials (and personal protection gear) to be used in chemical (methyl bromide) treatment using the tent method; technical specifications for chemical treatment and heat treatment; pest families targeted by the treatment; treatment certificate; packaging mark; requirements for recycled, remanufactured or repaired wood packaging; types of packaging; agricultural pesticides; reciprocity under this Agreement; prohibitions and disciplinary measures; transitional measures and validity.

7.

Objective and rationale: food safety, animal health, plant protection,

protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, protect territory from other damage from pests

8.

International standard, guideline or recommendation:

Codex Alimentarius Commission, World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), International Plant Protection Convention, None

If an international standard, guideline or recommendation exists, give the appropriate reference and briefly identify deviations: ISPM No. 15: Guidelines for regulating wood packaging material in international trade.

9.

Relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available: Ministerial Agreement 2055-2004 of 15 December 2004 (available in Spanish)

10.

Proposed date of adoption: Guatemala, 25 January 2005

11.

Proposed date of entry into force: Guatemala, 26 January 2005

12.

Final date for comments: 60 days after date of notification

Agency or authority designated to handle comments: National notification authority, National enquiry point, or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body:

Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación, Unidad de Políticas e Información Estratégica, Área de Información, 5ª. Avenida 8-06 zona 9, Guatemala City. Tel.: (502) 2361-7786, 2334-1048; Fax: (502) 2361-7783; E-mail: informacion.upie@maga.gob.gt

Enquiry Point:

Contact Person: Gustavo Adolfo Hernández Arreaga

E-mail: ghernandez@maga.gob.gt

Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación, Unidad de Normas y Regulaciones, Oficina de Normas y Procedimientos, 7ª. Avenida 12-90 zona 13, Anexo Edificio Monja Blanca. Fax: (502) 24753058, 2457-3068, 2475-3074; E-mail: correo@unr.gob.gt

13.

Texts available from: [X] National notification authority, [X] National enquiry point, or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body:

Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación, Unidad de Políticas e Información Estratégica, Área de Información, 5ª. Avenida 8-06 zona 9, Guatemala City.

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