

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/SPS/N/MEX/194

6 June 2003

(03-2935)

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: Spanish

NOTIFICATION OF EMERGENCY MEASURES

1.	Member to Agreement notifying: <u>MEXICO</u> If applicable, name of local government involved:
2.	Agency responsible: Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA)
3.	Products covered (provide tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO; ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable). Prickly pears (<i>Opuntia</i>) and the products and by-products thereof
4.	Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable: Australia, South Africa, Haiti, United States of America, Argentina, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Antigua, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Montserrat, Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Cuba, Uruguay, Brazil, Paraguay, Mauritius, Hawaii, Spanish Islands, Cayman Islands, Saint Helena, Ascension Island, Zimbabwe, Namibia and all other countries where the cactus moth (<i>Cactoblastis cactorum</i> Berg) is detected.
5.	Title and number of pages of the notified document: Emergency Mexican Official Standard NOM-EM-040-FITO-2003 Implementing the System to Prevent the Introduction, Spread and Establishment of the Cactus Moth (<i>Cactoblastis cactorum</i> Berg) in Mexican Territory (10 pages, in Spanish).
6.	<p>Description of content: This Emergency Mexican Official Standard establishes a sampling, inspection and monitoring system for the timely detection of the possible introduction, spread and establishment of the cactus moth (<i>Cactoblastis cactorum</i> Berg) in Mexican territory and, where appropriate, the application of phytosanitary measures to control and eradicate this pest.</p> <p>This Emergency Standard applies to pest host plants, plant products and by-products of the genus <i>Opuntia</i>, with the exception of those which have been processed and do not present a phytosanitary risk to Mexico.</p> <p>It also applies to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Production areas of <i>Opuntia</i> plants hosting <i>C. cactorum</i>, including commercial orchards, backyard orchards in urban areas, national parks, ecological reserves and woodland areas.(b) <i>Opuntia</i> fruit and vegetable packing, processing, brokerage, treatment and selection facilities and quarantine units.(c) motor freight vehicles in general, private motor vehicles and passenger transport vehicles.(d) storage and marketing centres.(e) luggage, bags and packages containing <i>Opuntia</i> fruit or vegetables at internal checkpoints, railway terminals, passenger transport facilities, sea ports, airports and frontiers.

6.	Description of content: (cont'd) (f) seaport, airport and frontier installations. (g) recreation parks, tourist areas and main international transit routes.
7.	Objective and rationale: <input type="checkbox"/> food safety, <input type="checkbox"/> animal health, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> plant protection, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> protect territory from other damage from pests
8.	<p>Nature of the urgent problem(s) and reasons for urgent action: In order to prevent the introduction of plant pests into Mexico and subject the import and export of plants, plant products and by-products and the causal agents of phytosanitary problems to phytosanitary controls, phytosanitary measures must urgently be established to avoid the risk of the cactus moth (<i>Cactoblastis cactorum</i> Berg) being introduced into Mexico. This insect is considered a major cactus quarantine pest and has affected various regions of the world, causing severe damage to plant populations of the genus <i>Opuntia</i>.</p> <p>A further reason for issuing this emergency measure is that the introduction of this insect would cause considerable economic harm to the "nopal" (cactus stems or pads) and "tuna" (cactus fruit) industry - prickly pears being used in Mexico both for animal fodder and for human consumption. Other risks include possible environmental damage which would endanger the species of <i>Opuntia</i> found in Mexico which are susceptible to this pest.</p> <p>The main way in which the cactus moth could be introduced in and spread to Mexico is by the importation from affected countries of plants, plant products and by-products of the genus <i>Opuntia</i> as well as the insect's own natural dissemination mechanisms.</p> <p>The above circumstances call for the issue of this Emergency Standard, pursuant to Article 48 of the Law on Metrology and Standardization.</p>
9.	<p>International standard, guideline or recommendation: <input type="checkbox"/> Codex Alimentarius Commission, <input type="checkbox"/> Office International des Epizooties, <input type="checkbox"/> International Plant Protection Convention, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None If an international standard, guideline or recommendation exists, give the appropriate reference and briefly identify deviations:</p>
10.	<p>Relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available: <i>Diario Oficial de la Federación</i> (Official Journal) of 20 May 2003 (available in Spanish).</p>
11.	<p>Date of entry into force/period of application (as applicable): This Standard will enter into force on the day following its publication in the Official Journal and will be valid for six months as of that date.</p>
12.	<p>Agency or authority designated to handle comments: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National notification authority, <input type="checkbox"/> National enquiry point, or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body:</p>

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

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