

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

NOTIFICATION

1.	Member to Agreement notifying: <u>UNITED STATES</u> If applicable, name of local government involved:
2.	Agency responsible: Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
3.	Products covered (tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable): Fruits and vegetables
4.	Title and number of pages of the notified document: Importation of Fruits and Vegetables (8 pages)
5.	Description of content: The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is proposing to allow a number of previously prohibited fruits and vegetables to be imported into the United States from certain parts of the world. All of the fruits and vegetables, as a condition of entry, would be subject to inspection, disinfection, or both, at the port of first arrival as may be required by a US Department of Agriculture inspector. In addition, some of the fruits and vegetables would be required to meet other special conditions. The removal of these prohibitions would provide the United States with additional kinds and sources of fruits and vegetables while continuing to provide protection against the introduction and dissemination of injurious plant pests by imported fruits and vegetables. We are also proposing to extend the production area in Arava, Israel, where peppers may be grown for importation into the United States; to eliminate the distribution restrictions for peppers from Arava, Israel; to eliminate the trust fund provisions for papayas from Costa Rica; to declare all provinces in Chile free of the Mediterranean fruit fly; and to make several nonsubstantive editorial changes to the regulation.
6.	Objective and rationale: To relieve restrictions while continuing to prevent the introduction of plant pests into the United States.
7.	An international standard, guideline or recommendation does not exist []. If an international standard, guideline or recommendation exists, whenever possible, identify deviations: We are in accordance with the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Pest Risk Analysis Standard and the Pest Free Area Standard.

8.	Relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available: 62 FR 14037, 25 March 1997; 7 CFR Parts 300 and 319
9.	Proposed date of adoption: To be determined.
10.	Proposed date of entry into force: The effective date will be given upon publication of the final rule in the Federal Register.
11.	Final date for comments: 27 May 1997 Agency or authority designated to handle comments: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA
12.	Texts available from: National enquiry point [] or address, telefax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body: United States SPS Enquiry Point USDA/FAS/OFSTS Attn: Carolyn F. Wilson Room 5545 South Agriculture Building 14th and Independence Washington, D.C. 20250 Tel: (202) 720 2239 Fax: (202) 690 0677 E-mail address: Wilsonc@fas.usda.gov