

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/SPS/N/MEX/187

18 June 2002

(02-3387)

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
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): Commercial birds, backyard poultry, wildfowl, songbirds and ornamental cage birds, fighting birds, ostriches and birds used in social programmes, and poultry products, by-products and instruments, which present a risk of transmitting Avian Influenza.
4.	Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable: All countries that trade with Mexico in commercial birds, backyard poultry, wildfowl, songbirds, ornamental cage birds, fighting birds and ostriches and birds used in social programmes, and poultry products, by-products and instruments, which present a risk of transmitting Avian Influenza.
5.	Title, language and number of pages of the notified document: Mexican Official Emergency Standard NOM-EM-016-ZOO-2002, entitled National Campaign Against Avian Influenza (21 pages)
6.	Description of content: This Standard is mandatory throughout national territory and is designed to standardize the procedures, activities, criteria, strategies and operative techniques used in the prevention, control and eradication of Avian Influenza throughout national territory, including among commercial birds, backyard poultry, wildfowl, songbirds, ornamental cage birds, fighting birds, ostriches and birds used in social programmes.
7.	Objective and rationale: <input type="checkbox"/> food safety, <input type="checkbox"/> animal health, <input type="checkbox"/> plant protection, <input type="checkbox"/> protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, <input type="checkbox"/> protect territory from other damage from pests
8.	Nature of the urgent problem(s) and reasons for urgent action: Under the Organic Law of the Federal Public Administration, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food is responsible, <i>inter alia</i> , for the organization and administration of livestock protection and animal health monitoring services, as well as for the prevention, control and eradication of pests and diseases that affect national livestock and poultry farming, including all Avian Influenza (AI) serotypes.

8. Nature of the urgent problem(s) and reasons for urgent action: (cont'd)

The AI virus is divided according to its pathogenicity and virulence into low-pathogenic and high-pathogenic strains, potentially posing a serious health and marketing problem at national and international levels.

Highly-Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) is a contagious and fatal viral disease that affects domestic and wild fowl, causing a high level of morbidity and mortality among such birds.

The low-pathogenic strain of the AI virus classified as A/H5N2 has been isolated in Mexico since 23 May 1994.

It has been demonstrated that the low-pathogenic strains of the AI virus, including the H5 and H7 subtypes, can undergo mutations and become highly pathogenic, and could potentially kill all birds on infected farms.

For the purposes of protecting national poultry farming against Highly-Pathogenic Avian Influenza, it is necessary to establish tight control over the Low-Pathogenic Avian Influenza virus (LPAI), in order to prevent its introduction into disease-free areas and to control and eradicate it in enzootic areas with viral isolation or serological evidence, and to establish a system of close epidemiological surveillance that would allow the timely detection of any mutations of the virus into a highly pathogenic strain.

Since June 1995, Mexico has been free of Highly-Pathogenic Avian Influenza and has an active and a passive epidemiological surveillance programme, applying to both intensive poultry farming and, *inter alia*, backyard poultry, fighting birds, songbirds, ornamental birds, wildfowl in captivity and ostriches.

In view of the fact that the disease has spread towards some recognized disease-free areas in which vaccination is not practised, there is a high risk that infection will occur in such areas.

In order to prevent, control and eradicate LPAI in areas where it is still endemic, it is necessary to make vaccination against this disease compulsory, both in areas where control and eradication is mandatory and in disease-free areas where it is voluntary.

In order to achieve the goals that have been set, which are unquestionably of social and public interest, it is necessary to launch a mandatory campaign to prevent, control and eradicate Avian Influenza among birds, seeking the support and cooperation of all sectors in the country that are closely linked to national poultry farming, as well as the public at large.

9. International standard, guideline or recommendation:

☐ Codex Alimentarius Commission, ☐ Office International des Epizooties,
☐ International Plant Protection Convention, ☐ None

If an international standard, guideline or recommendation exists, give the appropriate reference and briefly identify deviations:

10. Relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available: Official Journal (*Diario Oficial de la Federación*) of 24 May 2002 (in Spanish).

11.	Date of entry into force/period of application (as applicable): This Standard will enter into force the day following its publication in the Official Journal and will remain in force for a period of six months from the day following its publication.
12.	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:
13.	Texts available from: [] National notification authority, [] National enquiry point or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body: Web site: www.economica-normas.gob.mx (Standards Catalogue). Dirección General de Normas (Directorate General of Standards) (52+55) 5729 93 00 Ext. 4156 Fax: 57 29 94 84