



3 December 2015

(15-6399)

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

## NOTIFICATION

### *Addendum*

The following communication, received on 3 December 2015, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of the United States of America.

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#### Mandatory Inspection of Fish of the order Siluriformes and Products Derived from Such Fish

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is amending its regulations to establish a mandatory inspection program for fish of the order Siluriformes and products derived from these fish. These final regulations implement the provisions of the 2008 and 2014 Farm Bills, which amended the Federal Meat Inspection Act, mandating FSIS inspection of Siluriformes.

Effective Date: 1 March 2016.

On the effective date (1 March 2016), Siluriformes fish and fish products are under FSIS jurisdiction. By this date, foreign countries seeking to continue exporting Siluriformes fish and fish products to the United States during the transitional period are required to submit lists of establishments (with the establishment name and number) that currently export and will continue to export Siluriformes fish and fish products to the United States. Foreign countries are also required to submit documentation showing that they currently have laws or other legal measures in place that provide authority to regulate the growing and processing of fish for human food and to assure compliance with the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) regulatory requirements in 21 CFR 123, Fish and Fishery Products.

Transitional Period (transition to complete implementation): Beginning on 1 March 2016 and continuing until 1 September 2017, FSIS will conduct inspection and exercise broad enforcement discretion in domestic establishments that slaughter or slaughter and process and distribute Siluriformes fish and fish products. Foreign countries seeking to continue to export Siluriformes fish and fish products to the United States after the transitional period has expired are required to submit to FSIS by 1 September 2017 adequate documentation showing the equivalence of their Siluriformes inspection systems with that of the United States. Foreign countries submitting such documentation by the deadline are permitted to continue exporting Siluriformes fish and fish products to the United States while FSIS undertakes an evaluation as to equivalency.

Date of Full Enforcement (1 September 2017): FSIS will fully enforce these regulations in domestic Siluriformes fish products and fish processing establishments. Foreign countries seeking to continue exporting Siluriformes fish and fish products to the United States upon full enforcement are required to submit their documentation showing equivalence by this date.

Text for the final rule is available at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-12-02/pdf/2015-29793.pdf>.

**This addendum concerns a:**

- Modification of final date for comments
- Notification of adoption, publication or entry into force of regulation
- Modification of content and/or scope of previously notified draft regulation
- Withdrawal of proposed regulation
- Change in proposed date of adoption, publication or date of entry into force
- Other:

**Comment period:** *(If the addendum extends the scope of the previously notified measure in terms of products and/or potentially affected Members, a new deadline for receipt of comments should be provided, normally of at least 60 calendar days. Under other circumstances, such as extension of originally announced final date for comments, the comment period provided in the addendum may vary.)*

- Sixty days from the date of circulation of the addendum to the notification and/or (dd/mm/yy): 1 March 2016

**Agency or authority designated to handle comments:**  National Notification Authority,  National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:

David Engeljohn, Assistant Administrator, Office of Policy and Program Development, FSIS, United States Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-3700, +(202) 205 0495

**Text(s) available from:**  National Notification Authority,  National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:

United States SPS National Notification Authority, USDA Foreign Agricultural Service, International Regulations and Standards Division (IRSD), Stop 1014, Washington D.C. 20250; Tel: +(1 202) 720 1301; Fax: +(1 202) 720 0433; E-mail: us.spsenquiry@fas.usda.gov

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