



30 September 2016

(16- 5223)

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

NOTIFICATION OF EMERGENCY MEASURES

1. Notifying Member: AUSTRALIA If applicable, name of local government involved:
2. Agency responsible: Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources
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): Seeds for sowing of <i>Citrullus lanatus</i> (watermelon) and <i>Cucumis melo</i> (melon); nursery stock of <i>Citrullus lanatus</i> (watermelon), <i>Cucumis melo</i> (melon), <i>Cucumis sativus</i> (cucumber) and <i>Lagenaria siceraria</i> (bottle gourd)
4. Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All trading partners <input type="checkbox"/> Specific regions or countries:
5. Title of the notified document: Emergency measures for cucurbit seeds against Melon necrotic spot virus (MNSV). Language(s): English. Number of pages: 3 http://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2016/SPS/AUS/16_4101_00_e.pdf
6. Description of content: Emergency phytosanitary measures for the importation of cucurbit seeds from all countries are being introduced to mitigate the biosecurity risk posed by Melon necrotic spot virus (MNSV) which is seed transmitted in <i>Citrullus lanatus</i> and <i>Cucumis melo</i> .
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. Nature of the urgent problem(s) and reason for urgent action: Seed-borne viruses of cucurbit crops are increasing their geographic range and causing significant economic consequences globally. Melon necrotic spot virus (MNSV) has recently been detected in Australia, has a limited distribution and is under official control in Australia. MNSV is reported to be seed-borne in <i>Citrullus lanatus</i> and <i>Cucumis melo</i> ; however, Australia's existing policy does not require specific risk mitigation measures against MNSV for the importation of these hosts seeds. Therefore, emergency measures against MNSV are required for the seeds for sowing of <i>Citrullus lanatus</i> and <i>Cucumis melo</i> to prevent the further introductions of this virus. In addition to the emergency measures, Australia is currently undertaking a draft review of policy for the importation of cucurbit seeds from all countries for stakeholder consultation. All trading partners will be notified of the release of the draft review of policy for cucurbitaceous seeds for sowing by an SPS notification. Please see the attached PDF for details of the Emergency Measures for MNSV.

<p>9. Is there a relevant international standard? If so, identify the standard:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Codex Alimentarius Commission (e.g. title or serial number of Codex standard or related text):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) (e.g. Terrestrial or Aquatic Animal Health Code, chapter number):</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Plant Protection Convention (e.g. ISPM number): IPPC Article 7 and IPSM 1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p>Does this proposed regulation conform to the relevant international standard?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If no, describe, whenever possible, how and why it deviates from the international standard:</p>
<p>10. Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available:</p>
<p>11. Date of entry into force (dd/mm/yy)/period of application (as applicable): 19 October 2016</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Trade facilitating measure</p>
<p>12. Agency or authority designated to handle comments: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Notification Authority, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:</p> <p>The Australian SPS Contact Point GPO Box 858 Canberra ACT 2601 Australia Fax: +(61 2) 6272 3678 E-mail: sps.contact@agriculture.gov.au</p>
<p>13. Text(s) available from: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Notification Authority, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:</p> <p>The Australian SPS Contact Point GPO Box 858 Canberra ACT 2601 Australia Fax: +(61 2) 6272 3678 E-mail: sps.contact@agriculture.gov.au</p>