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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

Addendum

The following communication, received on 8 December 2017, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of Australia.

Agricultural Export Legislation – Introduction of Export Control Bill 2017 into Parliament

The Australian Government introduced the Export Control Bill 2017 (the Bill) into the Australian Parliament for consideration on 7 December 2017. This follows the release of an exposure draft of the proposed changes for comment by trading partners in August 2017.

The Bill consolidates export-related provisions within the *Export Control Act 1982* and *Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry Act 1997* into a single Export Control Bill. Commodity-specific requirements will then be reflected in Export Control Rules, which will replace the current Export Control Orders without changing their intent. The Export Control Rules (the rules) are being drafted and trading partners will be provided with an opportunity to comment on the rules in 2018.

There is no change to Australia's commitment to meet the importing requirements of our trading partners, and the improved legislation will continue to meet Australia's international obligations – including those under the SPS agreement.

Improved export legislation provides the framework for complying with exporting requirements, creating a system that is more flexible and efficient to administer. This will ensure the continued integrity of Australia's export system and promote consistent and efficient administration across Australia's export chains.

Business practices and regulatory requirements will remain consistent between the current and future legislation. The continuation of current business practices means costs for regulatory services will remain the same.

Further information on the Bill is available from the Australian Department of Agriculture and Water Resources website at <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/market-access-trade/export-regulation-review>

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): Not applicable

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:

The Australian SPS Notification Authority
GPO Box 858
Canberra ACT 2601
Australia
E-mail: sps.contact@agriculture.gov.au

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