6. Each Party may establish the zones or compartments referred to in paragraph 2 for diseases not covered by the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code or the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code and agree with the other Party to apply such zones or compartments in the trade between the Parties.

7. With regard to plants and plant products, the Parties recognise the concepts of pest free areas, pest free places of production, pest free production sites and areas of low pest prevalence specified in the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures developed under the IPPC.

8. When establishing or maintaining phytosanitary import conditions on request of the exporting Party, the importing Party shall recognise the pest free areas, pest free places of production, pest free production sites and areas of low pest prevalence established by the exporting Party as a basis for consideration towards the determination to allow or maintain the import.

9. The exporting Party shall identify its pest free areas, pest free places of production, pest free production sites and areas of low pest prevalence. If requested by the importing Party, the exporting Party shall provide a full explanation and supporting data based on the relevant International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures developed under the IPPC, or in other ways as deemed appropriate by the Parties, based on the knowledge acquired through experience of the exporting Party's relevant phytosanitary authorities.

10. In implementing paragraphs 7 to 9, technical consultations and audits may be carried out. Technical consultations shall take place in accordance with Article 6.12. The audits shall be carried out in accordance with Article 6.8, taking into account the biology of the pest and the commodity concerned.

11. Each Party shall ensure that the procedures and obligations set out in paragraphs 8 to 10 are carried out without undue delay.

ARTICLE 6.11

Transparency and exchange of information

1. Each Party shall, in accordance with Article 7 of the SPS Agreement and Annexes B and C to the SPS Agreement:

(a) ensure transparency as regards:

(i) sanitary and phytosanitary measures, including import conditions; and

(ii) control, inspection and approval procedures, including complete details about the mandatory administrative steps, expected timelines and the authorities in charge of receiving import applications and of processing them;

(b) enhance mutual understanding of each Party's sanitary and phytosanitary measures and their application; and

(c) on a reasonable request of the other Party and as soon as possible, provide information on its sanitary and phytosanitary measures and their application, including:

(i) import conditions that apply to the import of specific products;

(ii) the state of progress of applications for authorisation of specific products;

(iii) the frequency of import checks carried out on products from the other Party; and

(iv) matters related to the development and application of its sanitary and phytosanitary measures, including the progress concerning new available scientific evidence, that affect or may affect trade between the Parties with a view to minimising their negative effects.