ARTICLE 6.14

Equivalence

1. The importing Party shall accept sanitary and phytosanitary measures of the exporting Party as equivalent if the exporting Party objectively demonstrates to the importing Party that its measures achieve the importing Party's appropriate level of protection. For that purpose, reasonable access shall be given, upon request, to the importing Party for inspection, testing and other relevant procedures.

2. The Parties shall, on request of either Party, enter into consultations with the aim of achieving arrangements determining the equivalence of specified sanitary and phytosanitary measures.

3. In determining the equivalence of sanitary and phytosanitary measures, the Parties shall take into account the relevant guidance of the WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, in particular its Decision on the Implementation of Article 4 of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures[1] and international standards, guidelines and recommendations of the Codex Alimentarius, OIE or IPPC.

4. Where equivalence has been determined, the Parties may agree on alternative import conditions and simplified certificates, taking into account international standards, guidelines or recommendations of the Codex Alimentarius, OIE or IPPC.

ARTICLE 6.15

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

1. The Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures established pursuant to Article 23.3 shall be responsible for the effective implementation and operation of this Chapter.

2. The objectives of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures are to:

(a) enhance each Party's implementation of this Chapter;

(b) consider sanitary and phytosanitary matters of mutual interest; and

(c) enhance communication and cooperation on sanitary and phytosanitary matters of mutual interest.

3. The Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures:

(a) shall provide a forum to improve the Parties' understanding of sanitary and phytosanitary matters that relate to the implementation of the SPS Agreement;

(b) shall provide a forum to enhance mutual understanding of each Party's sanitary and phytosanitary measures and the related regulatory processes;

(c) shall monitor, review and exchange information on the implementation and operation of this Chapter;

(d) shall serve as a forum to address the concerns referred to in paragraph 1 of Article 6.12 with a view to reaching mutually acceptable solutions provided that the Parties have first attempted to address them through the technical consultations pursuant to Article 6.12 and other topics agreed by the Parties;

(e) shall determine the appropriate means, which may include *ad hoc* working groups, to undertake specific tasks related to the functions of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures;

(f) may identify and consider technical cooperation projects between the Parties in relation to the development, implementation and application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures; and

(g) may consult on matters and positions for the meetings of the WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and meetings held under the auspices of the Codex Alimentarius, OIE and IPPC.

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[1] WTO Document G/SPS/19/Rev.2, dated 23 July 2004, as may be revised.