equivalence of specified sanitary or phytosanitary measures. The recognition of equivalence under such bilateral recognition arrangements may be with respect to a single measure, a group of measures, or on a systems-wide basis. For this purpose, reasonable access shall be given by the exporting Party, upon request, to the importing Party for inspection, testing, and other relevant procedures.

5. As part of the consultation for equivalence recognition, on request of the exporting Party, the importing Party shall explain and provide:

   (a) the rationale and objective of its measures; and

   (b) the specific risks its measures are intended to address.

6. The exporting Party shall provide necessary information in order for the importing Party to commence an equivalence assessment. Once the assessment commences, the importing Party shall, upon request, and without undue delay, explain the process and plan for making an equivalence determination.

7. The consideration by a Party of a request from another Party for recognition of the equivalence of its measures with regard to a specific product, or group of products, shall not be in itself a reason to disrupt or suspend ongoing imports from the Party of the product or products in question.

8. When an importing Party recognises the equivalence of an exporting Party's specific sanitary or phytosanitary measure, group of measures, or measures on a systems-wide basis, the importing Party shall communicate the decision in writing to the exporting Party and implement the measure within a reasonable period of time. The rationale shall be provided in writing by the importing Party in the event that the decision is negative.

9. The Parties involved in a positive determination of equivalence are encouraged, where mutually agreed, to share information and experiences at the Committee on Goods.

Article 5.6: Adaptation to Regional Conditions, including Pest- or Disease-Free Areas and Areas of Low Pest or Disease Prevalence

1. The Parties recognise the concepts of regional conditions, including pest- or disease-free areas and areas of low pest or disease prevalence. The Parties shall take into account the relevant decisions of the WTO SPS Committee and international standards, guidelines, and recommendations.

2. The Parties may cooperate on the recognition of regional conditions with the objective of acquiring confidence in the procedures followed by each Party for such recognition.

3. On request of an exporting Party, an importing Party shall, without undue delay, explain its process and plan for making a determination of regional conditions.

4. When an importing Party has received a request for a determination of regional conditions from an exporting Party and has determined that the information provided by the exporting Party is sufficient, it shall initiate the assessment within a reasonable period of time.

5. For such an assessment, reasonable access shall be given by the exporting Party, upon request, to the importing Party for inspection, testing, and other relevant procedures.

6. On request of the exporting Party, the importing Party shall inform the exporting Party of the status of the assessment.

7. When an importing Party recognises specific regional conditions of an exporting Party, the importing Party shall communicate that decision to the exporting Party in writing and implement the measures within a reasonable period of time.

8. If the evaluation of the evidence provided by the exporting Party does not result in a decision by the importing Party to recognise the regional conditions, the importing Party shall provide the exporting Party with the rationale for its decision in writing within a reasonable period of time.

9. The Parties involved in a determination recognising regional conditions are encouraged, where mutually agreed, to report the outcome to the Committee on Goods.

Article 5.7: Risk Analysis

1. The Parties shall strengthen their cooperation on risk analysis in accordance with the SPS Agreement while taking into account the