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India

Post: New Delhi

WTO Notified Plant Quarantine Fifth Amendment 2016

Report Categories:

FAIRS Subject Report

WTO Notifications

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Wood Products

Trade Policy Monitoring

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Report Highlights:

The Government of India (GOI) notified Draft Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) (Fifth Amendment) Order, 2016 to the WTO for comments on May 2 with the comment period closing on May 15. The Amendment has significant text revisions to the 2003 Plant Quarantine order. Wood and forestry products are featured prominently in the later portion of the Amendment but the document covers multiple plant species for varying uses from numerous countries.

General Information:

Disclaimer: The information contained in this report was retrieved from GOI and WTO websites: http://agricoop.nic.in/ and http://www.wto.org. The Office of Agricultural Affairs and/or the U.S. Government make no claim of accuracy or authenticity. The summary below is based on a cursory review of the subject announcement and, therefore, should not under any circumstances be viewed as a definitive interpretation of the regulation in question, or of its implications for U.S. agricultural trade interests.

Content Synopsis: The GOI notified Draft Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) (Fifth Amendment) Order, 2016 to the WTO for comments (see <a href="https://www.wto.sps.nc/wto.

The Draft prescribes that grain, seed, plant and plant products can only enter through certain sea, land, and airports as listed in Schedule 1 of the order and amends or eliminates several import permit and plant quarantine forms. Additionally, the document touches on requirements for products with solid wood packing material as well as bulk shipments that may be of grains and/or have transgenic plants or plant products in the shipment.

Of commercial/economic interest for American agriculture, the Draft affects various wood species by placing them in Schedule 6 of the Plant Quarantine Order and requires Phytosanitary Certificates with endorsements at origin on freedom from for soil and quarantine weed seeds and either fumigation with Methyl Bromide (MB) at specified or equivalent (time/dosage/temperature) values as specified in India's NSPM 11 or Kiln Drying (KD). Some of the species now listed in Schedule 6 are: Acer pseudoplatanus/Acer spp. (Sycamore/Maple); Carya glabra (Hickory); Cedrus spp. (Cedar); Dalbergia spp. (Rosewood); Dialyanthera spp. (White Cedar); Fagus grandifolia (Beech); Sequia spp./Metasequoia spp. (Western Red Cedar); Tsuga spp. (Hem-fir/Hemlock).

Along with the changes the Draft drops numerous plant/wood species from Schedule 7 of the Order, fixes inspection volumes and fees, establishes administrative zones for quarantine officials, and adds 9 regulated non-quarantine pests that had not previously been listed in the Order.

The draft regulation can be accessed at

http://agricoop.nic.in/Admin_Agricoop/Uploaded_File/WTO1032016.pdf and should be considered along with the 2003 Plant Quarantine Order – Consolidated Version (with Amendments as published on March 7, 2016) http://plantquarantineindia.nic.in/PQISPub/pdffiles/PQorder2015.pdf

Comments should be sent to:

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Final administrative details on the draft regulation:

Type of Regulation: Draft

Publication on the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Website: March 9, 2016

WTO Notification Date: May 2, 2016 Final Date for Comments: May 15, 2016

Date of Implementation: May 23, 2016 (proposed) **WTO Notification Number**: G/SPS/N/IND/144

Agency in Charge: Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare