

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/SPS/N/MEX/205  
2 February 2004

(04-0375)

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: Spanish

## NOTIFICATION OF EMERGENCY MEASURES

<b>1. Member to Agreement notifying:</b> <u>MEXICO</u> <b>If applicable, name of local government involved:</b>
<b>2. Agency responsible:</b> Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA)
<b>3. Products covered (provide tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO; ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable).</b> Live or dead aquatic crustaceans and the products and by-products thereof
<b>4. Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable:</b> Any of Mexico's trading partners
<b>5. Title and number of pages of the notified document:</b> Emergency Mexican Official Standard NOM-EM-006-PESC-2004 Establishing the Aquatic Health Requirements for the Production of Live or Dead Aquatic Crustaceans and the Products and By-products Thereof and for Their Importation into the United Mexican States (16 pages, in Spanish).
<b>6. Description of content:</b> This Emergency Mexican Official Standard establishes additional aquatic health requirements for the production of aquatic crustaceans and the products and by-products thereof, including the use of pharmaceutical products in shrimp farming, and for the importation of such crustaceans into Mexican national territory.
<b>7. Objective and rationale:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> food safety, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> animal health, <input type="checkbox"/> plant protection, <input type="checkbox"/> protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, <input type="checkbox"/> protect territory from other damage from pests
<b>8. Nature of the urgent problem(s) and reasons for urgent action:</b> A number of aquatic health measures were incorporated into Mexican Official Standard NOM-030-PESC-2000 "Establishing Requirements for Determining the Presence of Viral Diseases in Live or Dead Aquatic Crustaceans and the Products and By-products Thereof, in any Form of Presentation, and <i>Artemia</i> for Importation into and Movement within the National Territory", published in the <i>Diario Oficial de la Federación</i> (Official Journal) on 23 January 2002. These measures have, however, proved insufficient as regards preventing the introduction of increasingly resistant and virulent pathogens which affect farmed populations and constitute a risk to wild penaeid shrimp populations and a serious threat both to their health and to the sustainability of fishing and aquaculture.

Furthermore, it has come to light that the incorrect use of antibiotics leads to an accumulation of residues in the tissues and organs of treated specimens and that these affect the health of human consumers. This is true of chloramphenicol, nitrofurans, including furazolidone, nitrofurazone and other antibiotics which have been detected in batches of aquatic crustaceans in transport in other countries and which constitute a risk since safe residue levels for products for human consumption cannot currently be determined. There is therefore a need for regulations governing the use of antibiotics in the domestic shrimp farming industry to prevent harm both to crustaceans and to the consumers of fishery and aquaculture products.

Control must also be established with regard to the indiscriminate and repeated use of antibiotics to treat diseases affecting farmed shrimps, a factor which contributes to the resistance of the bacteria in question. There is therefore an urgent need for other pharmaceutical products to be used in order to prevent economic and ecological harm to national territory.

In light of the above, there was an need to adopt, as a matter of urgency, aquatic health measures over and above those established in Mexican Official Standard NOM-030-PESC-2000 and thereby to prevent imminent risk, by strengthening preventive measures against the introduction and spread of more resistant viral diseases in aquatic crustaceans, and to establish health-related measures for farmed shrimp production processes, in particular regulation of the use of pharmaceutical products.

It should be noted that, as a result of the issue of this Emergency Mexican Official Standard and with a view to achieving greater efficiency with regard to the processes and verification of the requirements set out therein, as well as laboratory tests to ensure the health of aquatic crustaceans intended for importation into Mexico, only the major points of entry into national territory may be used.

**9. International standard, guideline or recommendation:**

Codex Alimentarius Commission,  Office International des Epizooties,  International Plant Protection Convention,  None

**If an international standard, guideline or recommendation exists, give the appropriate reference and briefly identify deviations:** Recommendations in the International Aquatic Animal Health Code.

**10. Relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available:** *Diario Oficial de la Federación* (Official Journal) of 26 January 2004 (available in Spanish).

**11. Date of entry into force/period of application (as applicable):** Day after publication in the Official Journal / six months.

**12. Agency or authority designated to handle comments:**  National notification authority,  National enquiry point, or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body:

**13. Texts available from: [ X ] National notification authority, [ ] National enquiry point, or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body:**

Web site: [www.economia.gob.mx/?P=85](http://www.economia.gob.mx/?P=85) (Standards catalogue).

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