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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 03-050-1]

International Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standard-Setting Activities

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with legislation implementing the results of the Uruguay Round of negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, we are informing the public of international standard-setting activities of the Office International des Epizooties, the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention, and the North American Plant Protection Organization, and we are soliciting public comment on the standards to be considered.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by postal mail/commercial delivery or by e-mail. If you use postal mail/commercial delivery, please send four copies of your comment (an original and three copies) to: Docket No. 03-050-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 03-050-1. If you use e-mail, address your comment to regulations@aphis.usda.gov. Your comment must be contained in the body of your message; do not send attached files. Please include your name and address in your message and "Docket No. 03-050-1" on the subject line.

You may read any comments that we receive on this docket in our reading room. The reading room is located in room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.,

Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 690-2817 before coming.

APHIS documents published in the **Federal Register**, and related information, including the names of organizations and individuals who have commented on APHIS dockets, are available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webrepor.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general information on the topics covered in this notice, contact Mr. John Greifer, Director, Trade Support Team, International Services, APHIS, room 1132, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250; (202) 720-7677. For specific information regarding standard-setting activities of the Office International des Epizooties, contact Dr. Michael David, Chief, Sanitary International Standards Team, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 33, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231; (301) 734-8093. For specific information regarding the standard-setting activities of the International Plant Protection Convention or the North American Plant Protection Organization, contact Mr. Nancy Klag, Program Director, Phytosanitary Issues Management, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 60, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236; (301) 734-8469, e-mail: narcy.g.klag@aphis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Background

The World Trade Organization (WTO) was established as the common international institutional framework for governing trade relations among its members in matters related to the Uruguay Round Agreements. The WTO is the successor organization to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. U.S. membership in the WTO was approved by Congress when it enacted the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (Pub. L. 103-465), which was signed into law by the President on December 8, 1994. The WTO Agreements, which established the WTO, entered into force with respect to the United States on January 1, 1995. The Uruguay Round Agreements Act amended title IV of the Trade Agreements Act of 1979 (19 U.S.C. 2531 *et seq.*). Section 491 of the Trade

Agreements Act of 1979, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2578), requires the President to designate an agency to be responsible for informing the public of the sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standard-setting activities of each international standard-setting organization. The designated agency must inform the public by publishing an annual notice in the **Federal Register** that provides the following information: (1) The SPS standards under consideration or planned for consideration by the international standard-setting organization; and (2) for each SPS standard specified, a description of the consideration or planned consideration of that standard, a statement of whether the United States is participating or plans to participate in the consideration of that standard, the agenda for U.S. participation, if any, and the agency responsible for representing the United States with respect to that standard.

- "International standard" is defined in 19 U.S.C. 2578b as any standard, guideline, or recommendation: (1) Adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex) regarding food safety; (2) developed under the auspices of the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) regarding animal health and zoonoses; (3) developed under the auspices of the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) in cooperation with the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) regarding plant health; or (4) established by or developed under any other international organization agreed to by the member countries of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) or the member countries of the WTO.

The President, pursuant to Proclamation No. 6780 of March 23, 1995 (60 FR 15845), designated the Secretary of Agriculture as the official responsible for informing the public of the SPS standard-setting activities of Codex, OIE, IPPC, and NAPPO. The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) informs the public of Codex standard-setting activities and USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) informs the public of OIE, IPPC, and NAPPO standard-setting activities.

FSIS publishes an annual notice in the **Federal Register** to inform the public of SPS standard-setting activities

for Codex. Codex was created in 1962 by two United Nations organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization. It is the major international organization for encouraging international trade in food and protecting the health and economic interests of consumers.

APHIS is responsible for publishing an annual notice of OIE, IPPC, and NAPPO activities related to international standards for plant and animal health and representing the United States with respect to these standards.

Following are descriptions of the OIE, IPPC, and NAPPO organizations and the standard-setting agenda for each of these organizations. We have described the agenda that each of these organizations will address at their annual general sessions, including standards that may be presented for adoption or consideration, as well as other initiatives that may be underway at the OIE, IPPC, and NAPPO.

The agendas for these meetings are subject to change, and the draft standards identified in this notice may not be sufficiently developed and ready for adoption as indicated. Also, while it is the intent of the United States to support adoption of international standards and to participate actively and fully in their development, it should be recognized that the U.S. position on a specific draft standard will depend on the acceptability of the final draft. Given the dynamic and interactive nature of the standard-setting process, we encourage any persons who are interested in the most current details about a specific draft standard or the U.S. position on a particular standard-setting issue, or in providing comments on a specific standard that may be under development, to contact APHIS. Contact information is provided at the beginning of this notice under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

OIE Standard-Setting Activities

The OIE was established in Paris, France, in 1924 with the signing of an international agreement by 28 countries. It is currently composed of 164 member nations, each of which is represented by a delegate who, in most cases, is the chief veterinary officer of that country. The WTO has recognized the OIE as the international forum for setting animal health standards, reporting global animal disease events, and presenting guidelines and recommendations on sanitary measures relating to animal health.

The OIE facilitates intergovernmental cooperation to prevent the spread of

contagious diseases in animals by sharing scientific research among its members. The major functions of the OIE are to collect and disseminate information on the distribution and occurrence of animal diseases and to ensure that science-based standards govern international trade in animals and animal products. The OIE aims to achieve this through the development and revision of international standards for diagnostic tests, vaccines, and the safe international trade of animals and animal products.

The OIE provides annual reports on the global distribution of animal diseases, recognizes the free status of member countries for certain diseases, categorizes animal diseases with respect to their international significance, publishes bulletins on global disease status, and provides animal disease control guidelines to member countries.

Various OIE commissions and working groups undertake the development and preparation of draft standards, which are then circulated to member countries for consultation (review and comment). Draft standards are revised accordingly and then presented to the OIE General Session, which meets annually every May, for review and adoption. Adoption, as a general rule, is based on consensus of the OIE membership.

The next OIE General Session is scheduled for May 23–28, 2004, in Paris, France. The Deputy Administrator for APHIS' Veterinary Services is the official U.S. delegate to the OIE. The Deputy Administrator intends to participate in the proceedings and will discuss or comment on APHIS' position on any standard up for adoption. Information about current and past OIE draft Code chapters may be found on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ncie/oie/> or by contacting Dr. Michael David (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** above).

Code Commission Name Changes

The name of the International Animal Health Code Commission has been changed to the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission. However, it will continue to be referred to as the "Code Commission."

The name of the Fish Diseases Commission has been changed to the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission, and will be referred to as the Aquatic Animals Commission. The Aquatic Animals Commission will continue to develop and revise chapters that address issues such as the health certification, diagnosis and surveillance of animal species.

OIE Code Chapters Up for Adoption

Existing Code chapters that may be revised and new chapters that may be drafted in preparation for the next General Session in 2004 include the following:

1. Avian Influenza

This chapter was recently redrafted to include the H5 and H7 low pathogenic strains. Although many countries supported the chapter, significant changes still need to be made before the new chapter can be adopted.

2. Bluetongue

This is a vector-borne disease that primarily affects sheep. Draft surveillance guidelines for bluetongue will be drafted by an ad hoc group and presented to the delegates for comment.

3. Maedi-visna

This is a disease of sheep and goats. This would represent a new OIE Code chapter. The chapter will provide recommendations for the trade of sheep and goats and their products as it pertains to Maedi-visna. A draft chapter may be presented for comment.

4. Diseases of Bees

An ad hoc group was convened in June 2003 to address the many comments and to draft a revised chapter to be submitted for adoption in 2004.

5. Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)

This chapter is continuously being updated as new and additional information becomes available. For the next General Session, the International Committee agreed to open up the chapter for review with the intent of considering changing the categories under which countries are placed with respect to BSE.

6. Animal Welfare

At least two ad hoc groups will be convened before the end of 2003 to draft chapters establishing international standards for the transportation of livestock.

Code Commission Future Work Program

During the next few years, the OIE Code Commission is expected to address the following issues or establish ad hoc groups of experts to update and/or develop standards for the following issues:

1. BSE in Small Ruminants

This would be a new OIE Code chapter intended to provide guidance for export certification of sheep and

goats and their products. The United States will consider its position on this new standard after it reviews a draft.

2. Animal Welfare

Various chapters on animal welfare, including transportation, humane slaughter, and housing, will be drafted by ad hoc groups and presented to the International Committee for comment.

The Process

These chapters are drafted (or revised) by either the Commission or by ad hoc groups composed of technical experts nominated by the Director General of the OIE by virtue of their subject-area expertise. Once a new chapter is drafted or an existing one revised, the chapter is distributed to member countries for review and comment. The OIE attempts to provide proposed chapters by early September to allow member countries sufficient time for comment. Comments are due by mid-November of the same year. The draft standard is revised by the OIE Code Commission on the basis of relevant scientific comments received from member countries.

The United States (*i.e.*, USDA/APHIS) intends to review and, where appropriate, comment on all draft chapters and revisions once it receives them from the OIE. USDA/APHIS intends to distribute these drafts to the U.S. livestock and aquaculture industries, veterinary experts in various U.S. academic institutions, and other interested persons for review and comment. Additional information regarding these draft standards may be obtained by contacting Dr. Michael David (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** above).

Generally, if a country has concerns with a particular draft standard, and supports those concerns with sound technical information, the pertinent OIE Code Commission will revise that standard accordingly and present the revised draft for adoption at the General Session in May. In the event that a country's concerns regarding a draft standard are not taken into account, that country may refuse to support the standard when it comes up for adoption at the General Session. However, each member country is obligated to review, comment, and make decisions regarding the adoption of standards strictly on their scientific merits.

Other OIE Topics

Every year at the General Session, two technical items are presented. For the May 2004 General Session, the following technical items will be presented:

1. Emerging and reemerging viral diseases and ways to predict, prevent, and control outbreaks (with particular reference to hemorrhagic fevers, avian influenza, and rabies).

2. Animal identification and traceability.

The information in this notice includes all the information available to us on OIE standards currently under development or consideration. Information on OIE standards is available on the Internet at <http://www.oie.int>. Further, a formal agenda for the next General Session will be available to member countries in February 2004, and copies will be available to the public once the agenda is published. For the most current information on meeting times, working groups, and/or meeting agendas, including information on official U.S. participation in OIE activities, and U.S. positions on standards being considered, contact Dr. Michael David (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** above). Those wishing to provide comments on any areas of work under the OIE may do so at any time by responding to this notice (see **ADDRESSES** above) or by providing comments through Dr. Michael David.

IPPC Standard-Setting Activities

The IPPC is a multilateral convention adopted in 1952 for the purpose of securing common and effective action to prevent the spread and introduction of pests of plants and plant products and to promote appropriate measures for their control. Under the IPPC, the understanding of plant protection has been, and continues to be, broad, encompassing the protection of both cultivated and noncultivated plants from direct or indirect injury by plant pests. Activities addressed by the IPPC include the development and establishment of international plant health standards, the harmonization of phytosanitary activities through emerging standards, the facilitation of the exchange of official and scientific information among countries, and the furnishing of technical assistance to developing countries that are signatories to the IPPC.

The IPPC is placed under the authority of the FAO, and the members of the Secretariat of the IPPC are appointed by the FAO. The IPPC is implemented by national plant protection organizations in cooperation with regional plant protection organizations, the Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (ICPM), and the Secretariat of the IPPC. The United States plays a major role in all standard-setting activities under the IPPC and has

representation on FAO's highest governing body, the FAO Conference.

The United States became a contracting party to the IPPC in 1972 and has been actively involved in furthering the work of the IPPC ever since. The IPPC was amended in 1979, and the amended version entered into force in 1991 after two-thirds of the contracting countries accepted the amendment. More recently, in 1997, contracting parties completed negotiations on further amendments that were approved by the FAO Conference and submitted to the parties for acceptance. This 1997 amendment updated phytosanitary concepts and formalized the standard-setting structure within the IPPC. The 1997 amended version of the IPPC will enter into force once two-thirds of the current contracting parties notify the Director General of FAO of their acceptance of the amendment. At this date, 44 of the required 80 member countries have deposited their official letters of acceptance. The U.S. Senate gave its advice and consent to acceptance of the newly revised IPPC on October 18, 2000. The President submitted the official letter of acceptance to the FAO Director General on October 4, 2001.

The IPPC has been, and continues to be, administered at the national level by plant quarantine officials whose primary objective is to safeguard plant resources from injurious pests. In the United States, the national plant protection organization is APHIS' Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) program. The steps for developing a standard under the revised IPPC are described below.

Step 1

Proposals for a new international standard for phytosanitary measures (ISPM) or for the review or revision of an existing ISPM are submitted to the Secretariat of the IPPC in the form of a discussion paper accompanied by a topic or draft standard. Drafts can be submitted by individual countries, but are more commonly submitted by regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs). Alternately, the Secretariat can propose a new standard or amendments to existing standards.

Step 2

A summary of proposals is submitted by the Secretariat to the ICPM. The ICPM identifies the topics and priorities for standard setting from among the proposals submitted to the Secretariat and others that may be raised by the ICPM.

Step 3

Specifications for the standards identified as priorities by the ICPM are drafted by the Secretariat. The draft specifications are submitted to the Standards Committee for approval/amendment and are subsequently made available to members and RPPOs for comment (60 days). Comments are submitted in writing to the Secretariat. Taking into account the comments, the Standards Committee finalizes the specifications.

Step 4

The standard is drafted or revised in accordance with the specifications by a working group designated by the Standards Committee. The resulting draft standard is submitted to the Standards Committee for review.

Step 5

Draft standards approved by the Standards Committee are distributed to members by the Secretariat and RPPOs for consultation (120 days). Comments are submitted in writing to the Secretariat. Where appropriate, the Standards Committee may establish open-ended discussion groups as forums for further comment. The Secretariat summarizes the comments and submits them to the Standards Committee.

Step 6

Taking into account the comments, the Secretariat, in cooperation with the Standards Committee, revises the draft standard. The Standards Committee submits the final version to the ICPM for adoption.

Step 7

The ISPM is established through formal adoption by the ICPM according to Rule X of the Rules of Procedure of the ICPM.

Step 8

Review of the ISPM is completed by the specified date or such other date as may be agreed upon by the ICPM.

Each member country is represented on the ICPM by a single delegate. Although experts and advisers may accompany the delegate to meetings of the ICPM, only the delegate (or an authorized alternate) may represent each member country in considering a standard up for approval. Parties involved in a vote by the ICPM are to make every effort to reach agreement on all matters by consensus. Only after all efforts to reach a consensus have been exhausted may a decision on a standard be passed by a vote of two-thirds of delegates present and voting.

Technical experts from the United States have participated directly in working groups and indirectly as reviewers of all IPPC draft standards. In addition, documents and positions developed by APHIS and NAPPO have been sources of significant input for many of the standards adopted to date. This notice describes each of the IPPC standards currently under consideration or up for adoption. The full text of each standard will be available on the APHIS Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/pim/standards/>. Interested individuals may review the standards posted on this Web site and submit comments via the Web site.

The next ICPM meeting is scheduled for March 29–April 2, 2004, at FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy. The Deputy Administrator for APHIS' PPQ programs is the U.S. delegate to the ICPM. The Deputy Administrator intends to participate in the proceedings and will discuss or comment on APHIS' position on any standard up for adoption. The provisional agenda for the meeting is as follows:

Provisional Agenda for the Fifth Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Report by the chairperson.
4. Report by the Secretariat.
5. Adoption of international standards (see section below entitled "IPPC Standards Up for Adoption in 2004" for details).
6. Items arising from the Fourth Session of the ICPM (see section below entitled "New Standard Setting Initiatives" for details).
7. Work program for harmonization.
8. Status of the 1997 revised IPPC.
9. Other business.
10. Date and venue of the next meeting.
11. Adoption of the report.

IPPC Standards Up for Adoption in 2004

It is expected that the following standards will be sufficiently developed to be considered by the ICPM for adoption at its April 2004 meeting. The United States, represented by APHIS' Deputy Administrator for PPQ, will participate in the consideration of these standards. The U.S. position on each of these issues will be developed prior to the ICPM session and will be based on APHIS' analysis, information from other U.S. Government agencies, and relevant scientific information from interested stakeholders. The standards that are most likely to be considered for adoption include:

1. Pest Risk Analysis for Regulated Non-Quarantine Pests

Certain pests that are not quarantine pests may be subject to phytosanitary regulations and procedures because their presence above a specific level results in economically unacceptable impacts associated with the intended use of the plants. Such pests are referred to as regulated non-quarantine pests (RNQP). Under the IPPC, phytosanitary regulations and procedures covering RNQP should be technically justified. The classification of a pest as an RNQP and any restrictions placed on the importation of the plant species with which it is associated must be justified by pest risk analysis. This standard will provide guidance for (1) Conducting an appropriate pest risk assessment necessary to demonstrate that a particular plant for planting is a pathway that may result in an economically unacceptable impact and (2) subsequent risk management decisions. This draft standard was posted on APHIS' Web site on June 20, 2003, with comments due by September 15, 2003. Subsequently, this draft will be prepared for ICPM approval at its 6th session in April 2004. The United States (*i.e.*, USDA/APHIS) intends to support adoption of this draft standard.

2. Pest Risk Analysis for Living Modified Organisms (LMOs)

At the third session of the ICPM in April 2001, members agreed that phytosanitary risks that may be associated with an LMO, or any organism with novel traits, fall within the scope of the IPPC and should be considered using pest risk analysis to facilitate decisions regarding pest risk management. Accordingly, members subsequently agreed on the need to develop an IPPC standard that provides guidance to National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) on the assessment of LMOs regarding pest risk. This draft standard, which provides guidance on the conduct of pest risk analysis for LMOs was posted on APHIS' Web site on June 20, 2003, with comments due by September 15, 2003. Subsequently, this draft will be prepared for ICPM approval at its 6th session in April 2004. The United States (*i.e.*, USDA/APHIS) intends to support adoption of this draft standard.

3. Guidelines for an Import Regulatory System

The primary objective of an import regulatory system is to prevent the entry of regulated pests with imported commodities. In operating an import regulatory system, the NPPO has

functions that include administration, regulatory development, pest risk analysis and pest listing, compliance checks, action taken on non-compliance, emergency action, authorization of personnel, and other such functions described in the Convention. This standard describes the structure and operation of a phytosanitary import regulatory system and the rights, obligations, and responsibilities that should be considered in establishing, operating, and revising such a system. This draft standard was posted on APHIS' Web site on June 20, 2003, with comments due by September 15, 2003. Subsequently, this draft will be prepared for ICPM approval at its 6th session in April 2004. The United States (*i.e.*, USDA/APHIS) intends to support adoption of this draft standard.

New Standard-Setting Initiatives, Including Those in Development

A number of expert working group meetings or other technical consultations will take place during 2003 and 2004 on the topics listed below. These standard-setting initiatives are not expected to be completed prior to April 2004 and, therefore, will not be ready for adoption at the 2004 ICPM session. Nonetheless, APHIS intends to participate actively and fully in each of these working groups. The U.S. position on each of the topics to be addressed by these various working groups will be developed prior to these working group meetings and will be based on APHIS' technical analysis, information from other U.S. Government agencies, and relevant scientific information from interested stakeholders.

1. Efficacy of Phytosanitary Measures

This standard will provide guidance for evaluating the efficacy of phytosanitary measures. This will be significant guidance as the IPPC begins to develop recommendations on acceptable phytosanitary measures for managing specific pests. A range of supplemental and specific standards could follow (*e.g.*, hot water treatment for fruit flies). Work on this standard will continue through 2004 with the goal of having the standard ready for ICPM approval in 2005.

2. Equivalence

This standard will provide guidance to NPPOs for evaluating and making judgments of equivalence in the phytosanitary arena. The expert working group is expected to develop a standard that describes the fundamental principles and concepts involved in making an equivalence determination;

identifies approaches that are most useful for phytosanitary purposes; and outlines the sequence of steps that would be involved in evaluating equivalence, including the information that may be required to be exchanged during this process.

3. Low pest prevalence

This standard is likely to provide guidance for establishing, maintaining, and verifying areas of low pest prevalence (*i.e.*, "An area, whether all of a country, part of a country, or all or parts of several countries, as identified by the competent authorities, in which a specific pest occurs at low levels and which is subject to effective surveillance, control, or eradication measures * * *" (IPPC, 1997). Benefits of establishing and recognizing a low pest area may include reduced use of non-toxic control measures in the field (*e.g.*, sterile insect technique); market access for areas that were previously excluded; and less restrictive movement control. The standard is likely to describe measures for maintaining specified pest populations at low levels, monitoring the pest, quarantine operations, and emergency planning and response. It would describe the role of the NPPO to ensure compliance with this standard.

4. Revision of ISPM No. 2 (Guidelines of Pest Risk Analysis, General Standards)

This standard was adopted in 1995 and is considered a foundation standard describing the basic framework for conducting a pest risk analysis. Since then, new standards have been adopted such as specific standards on pest risk analysis for quarantine pests versus pest risk analysis requirements for regulated non-quarantine pests. As a result, ICPM members agreed on the need to review, update, and make consistent the original concept standard with these more contemporary standards.

5. Guidelines for Surveillance for Specific Pests (Citrus Canker)

This standard provides guidelines to plant health officials for obtaining information on pests of concern in specific sites in an area over a defined period of time through specific surveys. The collected information may be used to determine the presence or distribution of pests in an area, or on a host or commodity.

6. Inspection Methodology

This standard addresses pest detection aspects of post-harvest compliance procedures based on inspection when used for the importation or exportation of plants,

plant products, and other regulated articles for purposes of determining phytosanitary actions for individual consignments. Many of the same principles and procedures apply to systems that rely upon closely related activities such as testing as the means for detecting pests and determining phytosanitary measures.

7. Update ISPM No. 1 (Principles of Plant Quarantine)

This reference standard describes the general rule and specific principles of plant quarantine as related to international trade. A number of principles and terms contained in the current edition (adopted in 1993) need to be updated and aligned with the WTO SPS Agreement, 1997 revised Convention, and recently adopted IPPC standards.

For more detailed information on the above topics, which will be addressed by various working groups established by the ICPM, contact Mr. Nancy Klag (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** above).

APHIS posts draft standards on the Internet (<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/pim/standards/>) as they become available and provides information on when comments on standards are due. Additional information on IPPC standards is available on the FAO's Web site at <http://www.ippc.int/IPP/En/default.htm>. For the most current information on official U.S. participation in IPPC activities, including U.S. positions on standards being considered, contact Mr. Nancy Klag (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** above). Those wishing to provide comments on any of the areas of work being undertaken by the IPPC may do so at any time by responding to this notice (see **ADDRESSES** above) or by providing comments through Mr. Klag.

NAPPO Standard-Setting Activities

NAPPO, a regional plant protection organization created in 1976 under the IPPC, coordinates the efforts among Canada, the United States, and Mexico to protect their plant resources from the entry, establishment, and spread of harmful plant pests, while facilitating intra- and inter-regional trade.

NAPPO conducts its business through panels and annual meetings held among the three member countries. The NAPPO Executive Committee charges individual panels with the responsibility for drawing up proposals for NAPPO positions, policies, and standards. These panels are made up of representatives from each member country who have scientific expertise

related to the policy or standard being considered.

Proposals drawn up by the individual panels are circulated for review to government and industry officials in Canada, Mexico, and the United States, who may suggest revisions. In the United States, draft standards are circulated to industry, States, and various Government agencies for consideration and comment. The draft standards are posted on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/pim/standards/>; interested persons may submit comments via that Web site. Once revisions are made, the proposal is sent to the NAPPO working group and the NAPPO standards panel for technical reviews and then to the Executive Committee for final approval, which is granted by consensus.

The annual NAPPO meeting is scheduled for October 20–24, 2003, in New Orleans, LA. The NAPPO Executive Committee meeting will take place on October 19, 2003, and a special session will be held on October 20, 2003, to solicit comment from industry groups so that suggestions can be incorporated into the NAPPO work plan for the 2004 NAPPO year. The Deputy Administrator for APHIS' PPQ programs is a member of the NAPPO Executive Committee. The Deputy Administrator intends to participate in the proceedings and will discuss or comment on APHIS' position on any standard up for adoption or any proposals to develop new standards.

The work plan for 2003 was established after the October 2002 Annual Meeting in Oaxaca, Mexico. The Deputy Administrator for PPQ participated in establishing this NAPPO work plan (see panel assignments below).

Below is a summary of current panel assignments as they relate to the ongoing development of NAPPO standards. The United States (*i.e.*, USDA/APHIS) intends to participate actively and fully in the work of each of these panels. The U.S. position on each topic will be guided and informed by the best scientific information available on each of these topics. For each of the following panels, the United States will consider its position on any draft standard after it reviews a prepared draft. Information regarding the following NAPPO panel topics, assignments, activities, and updates on meeting times and locations may be obtained from the NAPPO homepage at <http://www.napppo.org> or by contacting Mr. Nancy Klag (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** above).

1. Accreditation Panel (*Inspector Accreditation*)

This panel will work towards facilitating the proper implementation of the standard "Accreditation of Individuals to Sign Federal Phytosanitary Certificates." A review of the U.S. system was conducted in June 2001, and a review of the Canadian system was conducted in early 2002. A review of Mexico's system was conducted in June 2003. A written report was to be provided to the Executive Committee at its meeting in July 2003.

2. Biological Control Panel

This panel will work on developing a standard for biological control facilities.

3. Biotechnology Panel

This panel will continue to develop a NAPPO standard for the review of products of biotechnology that focuses on the assessment of the potential to present a plant pest risk. Modules on the importation into contained facilities and confined release into the environment have been completed. It is anticipated that the module dealing with unconfined release into the environment will be completed in 2003. A draft for the final module, importation for uses other than propagation, will also be developed.

4. Citrus Panel

The panel will continue to work on the standard for the entry of citrus propagative material into NAPPO member countries and will include consideration of mites and insects.

5. Forestry Panel

The panel will work on trying to harmonize, between NAPPO countries, the implementation of the international standard for wood packaging material.

6. Fruit Panel

The panel will finalize the standard, "Areas of Low Pest Prevalence." This standard should be approved by the NAPPO Executive Committee in 2003.

7. Fruit Tree Panel

The panel will begin development of a standard on "Guidelines for the Importation of Fruit Trees." This panel will also continue to develop a concept paper on "The Movement of Propagative Material, which may lead to the development of a standard at a future date."

8. Grapevine Panel

This panel will expand the current version of the NAPPO grapevine

standard to include other significant pests such as nematodes and insects.

9. In Transit Panel

The panel will begin development of a NAPPO standard that outlines the phytosanitary procedures to be followed for regulated articles that pass through a "third" country on their way to the destination country.

10. Pest Risk Analysis Panel

This panel will coordinate NAPPO input on the development of the IPPC standard entitled "Pest Risk Analysis for Regulated Non-Quarantine Pests."

11. Phytosanitary Alert System

This panel will finalize the NAPPO standard on pest reporting. The standard should be approved by the Executive Committee this year.

12. Potato Panel

This panel will review and revise the NAPPO Potato Standard pest list and finalize a revised standard for NAPPO Executive Committee approval.

13. Standards Panel

This panel is responsible for the following: Providing updates on standards for the NAPPO newsletter; coordinating the review of new and amended NAPPO standards and ensuring that comments received during the country consultation phase are incorporated as appropriate; organizing conference calls and preparing NAPPO discussion documents for possible use at the IPPC; and promoting implementation of recently adopted IPPC standards. The panel will finalize a NAPPO standard for implementing the recently adopted IPPC standard "Notification of Interceptions and Non-Compliance," and will finalize a standard for developing bilateral workplans.

The PPQ Deputy Administrator, as the official U.S. delegate to NAPPO, intends to participate in the adoption of these regional plant health standards, including the work described above, once they are completed and ready for such consideration.

The information in this notice includes all the information available to us on NAPPO standards currently under development or consideration. For updates on meeting times and for information on the working panels that may become available following publication of this notice, check the NAPPO Web site on the Internet at <http://www.napppo.org> or contact Mr. Nancy Klag (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** above). Information on official U.S.

participation in NAPPO activities, including U.S. positions on standards being considered, may also be obtained from Mr. Klag. Those wishing to provide comments on any of the topics being addressed by any of the NAPPO panels may do so at any time by responding to this notice (see **ADDRESSES** above) or by transmitting comments through Mr. Klag.

Done in Washington, DC, this 5th day of August, 2003.

Peter Fernandez,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 03-20247 Filed 8-7-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List; Proposed Additions

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase from People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Proposed additions to Procurement List.

SUMMARY: The Committee is proposing to add to the Procurement List products and a service to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE: September 7, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Jefferson Plaza 2, Suite 10800, 1421 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202-3259.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sheryl D. Kennerly, (703) 603-7740.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published pursuant to 41 U.S.C 47(a) (2) and 41 CFR 51-2.3. Its purpose is to provide interested persons an opportunity to submit comments of the proposed actions. If the Committee approves the proposed additions, the entities of the Federal Government identified in the notice for each product or service will be required to procure the products and service listed below from nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

Regulatory Flexibility Act Certification

I certify that the following action will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. The major factors considered for this certification were:

1. If approved, the action will not result in any additional reporting, recordkeeping or other compliance requirements for small entities other than the small organizations that will furnish the products and service to the Government.

2. If approved, the action will result in authorizing small entities to furnish the products and service to the Government.

3. There are no known regulatory alternatives which would accomplish the objectives of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (41 U.S.C. 46-48c) in connection with the products and service proposed for addition to the Procurement List. Comments on this certification are invited. Commenters should identify the statement(s) underlying the certification on which they are providing additional information.

(End of Certification)

The following products and service are proposed for addition to Procurement List for production by the nonprofit agencies listed:

Products

Product/NSN: CD Cases, Slim, 7045-00-NIB-0179, 7045-00-NIB-0180.

NPA: Wiscraft Inc.—Wisconsin Enterprises for The Blind, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Contract Activity: Office Supplies & Paper Products Acquisition Center, New York, New York.

Product/NSN: Full Spectrum Battle Equipment (FSBE), 8415-00-NSH-0691—Basic Shooter's Kit A, 8415-00-NSH-0692—Platoon Kit A, 8415-00-NSH-0768—Platoon Kit B, 8415-00-NSH-0769—Basic Shooter's Kit B, 8415-00-NSH-0770—Platoon Kit C, 8415-00-NSH-0771—Basic Shooter's Kit C.

NPA: Chautauqua County Chapter, NYSARC, Jamestown, New York.

Contract Activity: U.S. Army Robert Morris Acquisition Center, Natick, Massachusetts.

Product/NSN: Lighted Baton, 6260-00-NIB-0005—Amber, 6260-00-NIB-0006—InfraRed, 6260-00-NIB-0008—Red, 6260-00-NIB-0009—Green, 6260-00-NIB-0010—Blue, 6260-00-NIB-0011—Two Toned (Amber/Red).

NPA: L.C. Industries for the Blind, Inc., Durham, North Carolina.

Contract Activity: Office Supplies & Paper Products Acquisition Center, New York, New York.

Product/NSN: Markers, Liquid Impression, 7520-00-NIB-1677—Set/Medium Point (Black, Blue, Red, Green), 7520-00-NIB-1678—Medium Point (Black), 7520-00-NIB-1679—Medium

Point (Red), 7520-00-NIB-1680—Medium Point (Blue), 7520-00-NIB-1681—Set/Extra Fine Tip (Black, Blue, Red, Green), 7520-00-NIB-1682—Extra Fine Tip (Black), 7520-00-NIB-1683—Extra Fine Tip (Red), 7520-00-NIB-1684—Extra Fine Tip (Blue).

NPA: Winston-Salem Industries for the Blind, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Contract Activity: Office Supplies & Paper Products Acquisition Center, New York, New York.

Product/NSN: Markers, Permanent Impression, 7520-00-NIB-1667—Fine Tip (Black), 7520-00-NIB-1668—Fine Tip (Red), 7520-00-NIB-1669—Fine Tip (Blue), 7520-00-NIB-1670—Fine Tip (Green), 7520-00-NIB-1671—Set/Fine Tip (Black, Blue, Red, Green), 7520-00-NIB-1672—Ultra Fine Tip (Black), 7520-00-NIB-1673—Ultra Fine Tip (Red), 7520-00-NIB-1674—Ultra Fine Tip (Blue), 7520-00-NIB-1675—Ultra Fine Tip (Green), 7520-00-NIB-1676—Set/Ultra Fine Tip (Black, Blue, Red, Green).

NPA: Winston-Salem Industries for the Blind, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Contract Activity: Office Supplies & Paper Products Acquisition Center, New York, New York.

Product/NSN: Professional LYSOL Brand II Aerosol Disinfectant Spray, 6840-00-NIB-0039—Original Scent, 6840-00-NIB-0040—Fresh Scent, 6840-00-NIB-0041—Country Scent, 6840-00-NIB-0042—Crisp Linen Scent, 6840-00-NIB-0043—Sprint Waterfall, 6840-00-NIB-0044—Plus Fabric Refresher.

NPA: L.C. Industries For The Blind, Inc., Durham, North Carolina.

Contract Activity: Office Supplies & Paper Products Acquisition Center, New York, New York.

Product/NSN: Skilcraft Toner Cartridge, 7510-00-NIB-0633 (New—compatible with HP Part No. 92298A), 7510-00-NIB-0641 (New—compatible with HP Part No. C3903A), 7510-00-NIB-0642 (New—compatible with HP Part No. C3906A), 7510-00-NIB-0644 (New—compatible with HP Part No. C4092A).

NPA: Alabama Industries for the Blind, Talladega, Alabama.

Contract Activity: Office Supplies & Paper Products Acquisition Center, New York, New York.

Service

Service Type/Location: Janitorial/ Grounds Maintenance, INS Florence Processing Center, Florence, Arizona.

NPA: J.P. Industries, Inc., Tucson, Arizona.