SPS Information Management System (SPS IMS)

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

Fifth Special Meeting on Procedures For Information Exchange

7-8 November 2007

WTO OMC

Why a new SPS Information Management System?

- Since 1995

  – > 8200 SPS notifications
  – > 1600 other SPS documents
  – > 250 specific trade concerns
  – Enquiry Point/Notification Authority Info changing frequently

Why a new SPS Information Management System?

- Challenge

  - Members, WTO Secretariat and other interested parties - managing information flow

What is the SPS IMS?

- In brief:

    - Information source for searching and reporting on WTO's SPS-related information

    – Tool facilitating the Secretariat's tasks

    – Tool for Members and other interested parties to track SPS information according to their specific needs

What is the data contained in the SPS IMS?

- Content of SPS notifications

- Basic info on all SPS-related documents issued by WTO

- Details of all Specific Trade Concerns

- Contact information on EPs/NNAs

In what languages is the system available?

- Interface: English, French, Spanish

- Data: Mostly in English, French, Spanish – *work-in-progress to make full set available in three languages*

Since when is SPS IMS operational?

- Internal version: 1 June 2007

- Public version: 15 October 2007

  http://spsims.wto.org

How does SPS IMS relate to other information sources?

- Builds on information from Documents Online and the CRN

  - in-house harmonization and consistency

  - avoidance of repetitive/redundant data entry

  - advanced search/report capabilities

How does SPS IMS relate to other information sources?

- FAO's International Portal on Food Safety, Animal and Plant Health (www.ipfsaph.org) – comprehensive source

- SPS IMS to facilitate Portal's access to WTO information

What are some examples of its functions?

- All SPS notifications issued using system, also some of the reports/lists for the SPS Committee.

- The Secretariat Background Note "Overview Regarding the level of Implementation of Transparency Provisions of the SPS Agreement" (G/SPS/W/804)

What are some examples of its functions?

- Notifications: Advanced searching and reporting

- What are regular notifications from "Asia" affecting "meat products (HS Code 02)" issued since 1 August 2007? What is the length of the comment period provided? I need a report in Excel.

  Definitions of geographic groups from Integrated Database

What are some examples of its functions?

- Notifications: Advanced searching and reporting

- Which notifications relating to GMOs have been issued since the beginning of 2007?

   Keywords assigned by CRN

What are some examples of its functions?

- Specific trade concerns: Advanced searching and reporting

- How many specific trade concerns relating to fruits (HS Code 08) have been raised in the SPS Committee? I need a list in Excel.

What are some examples of its functions?

- Specific trade concerns: Advanced searching and reporting

- How many specific trade concerns have been resolved?

- Which specific trade concerns have been raised by my delegation in the area of animal health?

What are some examples of its functions?

- Other SPS documents: Advanced searching and reporting

- Which documents relating to "regionalization" have been submitted to the Committee by the OIE?

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What are some examples of its functions?

- Other SPS documents: Advanced searching and reporting

- What are the documents submitted by members of COMESA to the SPS Committee? I need a "report" in Excel.

What are some examples of its functions?

- Enquiry Points / National Notification Authorities: Searching

- I need the telephone number of the Enquiry Point of Argentina.

- What is the email address of Kenya's NNA?

  Provides most recent info notified to WTO

How can I get more information on the SPS IMS?

- Go to http://spsims.wto.org click on Help

- Contact: Serra Ayral, Agriculture and Commodities Division serra.ayral@wto.org