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POLICY

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Date: 12/13/2017

GAIN Report Number: IN7156

India

Post: New Delhi

Draft Amendments to the 2003 Plant Quarantine Order

Report Categories:

FAIRS Subject Report

WTO Notifications

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Wood Products

Trade Policy Monitoring

SP2 - Prevent or Resolve Barriers to Trade that Hinder

U.S. Food and Agricultural Exports

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Report Highlights:

The Government of India (GOI) published draft amendments to the 2003 Plant Quarantine Order that could affect the import of certain plants and plant materials; including, North American softwoods on October 31, 2017. Once notified to the World Trade Organization (WTO), trading partners will have the opportunity to comment on the draft regulation. Presently, the GOI is receiving Indian industry input.

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 published the Draft Plant Quarantine Order (Regulation of Import into India) (Tenth Amendment), 2017 on October 31. The draft notification was released on the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare website on November 1, 2017. The draft regulation claims to further liberalize provisions governing imports of 18 items listed under Schedule 6 and one item under Schedule 7 of the 2003 Plant Quarantine Order (Regulation of Import into India). The deadline for comments on the draft order was listed as 60 days from the date of circulation, with a proposed date of entry into force six months from the date of publication. The document has not been notified to the WTO for member comment.

The draft amendment includes changes in Schedule 6 of the Plant Quarantine Order, 2003. The revisions are for wood without bark to wood with/without bark for 18 wood species. A number of additional declarations will be required. Species of wood with/without bark specifically referenced to in the regulation and attributed to North America include: *Albies spp.* (Fir), *Picea abies* (Spruce), *Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Douglas Fir). There were several other changes to Schedule 6 that were specific to Canada. American companies sourcing and supplying Canadian wood to India along with shipments from the United States should review the regulation in its entirety. The draft amendment in Schedule 7 of the Plant Quarantine Order refers to cashew nuts (raw)/husk for consumption.

The draft regulation can be accessed at <http://agricoop.nic.in/sites/default/files/Notification.%201st%20Nov%202017.pdf> and should be considered along with the 2003 Plant Quarantine Order – Consolidated Version (with Amendments as published on May 7, 2017) <http://plantquarantineindia.nic.in/PQISPub/pdf/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: November 1, 2017

WTO Notification Date: Not yet published

Final Date for WTO Comments: Not yet published

Date of Implementation: Six months from date of publication

Date of Entry into force: Six months from date of publication

WTO Notification Number: Not yet allotted

Agency in Charge: Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare