NOTIFICATION

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1.** | **Notifying Member:** United States of America**If applicable, name of local government involved:**  |
| **2.** | **Agency responsible:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) |
| **3.** | **Products covered (provide tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO; ICS numbers should be provided in addition, where applicable):** Plants in approved growing media |
| **4.** | **Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable:****[****X]** **All trading partners** **[ ]****Specific regions or countries:**  |
| **5.** | **Title of the notified document:** Notice of Availability and Request for Comments: Importation of Plants in Approved Growing Media Into the United States [Docket No. APHIS-2018-0101].**Language(s):** English. **Number of pages:** 1<https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=APHIS-2018-0101-0001> |
| **6.** | **Description of content:** APHIS is advising the public that it is making available a draft programmatic environmental assessment for the importation of plants in approved growing media. The programmatic environmental assessment considers the potential environmental effects of a standardized set of pest risk mitigations for routine market requests to import plants in approved growing media. The programmatic environmental assessment would eliminate the need to prepare a unique environmental assessment for each routine market request, thereby making the process for approving imports of plants in approved growing media simpler and more efficient. APHIS is making the programmatic environmental assessment available to the public for review and comment. (Federal Register Vol. 84, No. 69, Wednesday, 10 April 2019, pg. 14340) |
| **7.** | **Objective and rationale: [ ]****food safety, [ ]****animal health, [****X]****plant protection, [ ]****protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, [ ]****protect territory from other damage from pests.**  |
| **8.** | **Is there a relevant international standard? If so, identify the standard:****[ ]****Codex Alimentarius Commission *(e.g. title or serial number of Codex standard or related text)*:** **[ ]****World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) *(e.g. Terrestrial or Aquatic Animal Health Code, chapter number)*:** **[ ]****International Plant Protection Convention *(e.g. ISPM number)*:** **[****X]** **None****Does this proposed regulation conform to the relevant international standard?** **[ ]****Yes [ ]****No****If no, describe, whenever possible, how and why it deviates from the international standard:**  |
| **9.** | **Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available:**   |
| **10.** | **Proposed date of adoption *(dd/mm/yy)*:** To be determined.**Proposed date of publication *(dd/mm/yy)*:** To be determined. |
| **11.** | **Proposed date of entry into force: [ ]****Six months from date of publication**, **and/or** ***(dd/mm/yy)*:** To be determined.**[ ]****Trade facilitating measure**  |
| **12.** | **Final date for comments: [ ]****Sixty days from the date of circulation of the notification and/or *(dd/mm/yy)*:** 10 May 2019**Agency or authority designated to handle comments: [ ]****National Notification Authority, [ ]****National Enquiry Point.** **Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:** Ms Lydia E. Colón, Senior Regulatory Policy Specialist, Plant Health Programs, Plant Protection and Quarantine, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, 4700 River Road Unit 133, Riverdale, MD 20737-1237; +(301) 851 2302; E-mail: Lydia.E.Colon@aphis.usda.gov |
| **13.** | **Text(s) available from: [ ]****National Notification Authority, [ ]****National Enquiry Point.** **Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:** <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=APHIS-2018-0101-0001> |