

V. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, the Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to a national securities exchange, and, in particular, with Section 6(b)(5).¹⁸

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,¹⁹ that the proposed rule change (SR-PCX-99-04) is approved; and that Amendment No. 4 is approved on an accelerated basis.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.²⁰

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-23614 Filed 9-9-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Data Collection Available for Public Comments and Recommendations

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Small Business Administration's intention to request approval on a new and/or currently approved information collection.

DATES: Submit comments on or before November 9, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Send all comments regarding whether this information collection is necessary for the proper performance of the function of the agency, whether the burden estimate is accurate, and if there are ways to minimize the estimated burden and enhance the quality of the collection, to Mr. Charles Thomas, Small Business Administration, Office of Financial Assistance, 409 3rd Street SW., Suite 8300, Washington, DC 20416.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Charles Thomas, Financial Assistance, 202-205-6656 or Curtis B. Rich, Management Analyst, 202-205-7030.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: SBAExpress/Community Express Borrower Information Form.
Type of Request: New Information Collection.

Form No: SBA Form 1919.
Description of Respondents: Borrowers.

Annual Responses: 12,000.
Annual Burden: 4,800.

Title: Request for SBAExpress/Community Express Loan Number.

Type of Request: New Information Collection.

Form Number: SBA Form 1920.

Description of Respondents: Lenders/Borrowers.

Annual Responses: 12,000.

Annual Burden: 1,200.

Title: Eligibility Information Required for SBAExpress/Community Express Submission.

Type of Request: New Information Collection.

Form Number: SBA Form 2092.

Description of Respondents: Lenders/Borrowers.

Annual Responses: 12,000.

Annual Burden: 12,000.

Title: Supplemental Information for PLP Express/Community Express Processing.

Type of Request: New Information Collection.

Form Number: SBA Form 2093.

Description of Respondents: Lenders/Borrowers.

Annual Responses: 12,000.

Annual Burden: 4,800.

Dated: September 3, 1999.

Jacqueline White,

Chief, Administrative Information Branch.

[FR Doc. 99-23496 Filed 9-9-99; 8:45 am]

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

North American Free Trade Agreement: Sanitary and Phytosanitary Committee

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with legislation implementing the North American Free Trade Agreement, we are informing the public of a meeting to be held Tuesday, September 21, 1999 at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in Washington, D.C. The purpose of this meeting is to solicit public comment on proposed agenda items for the next scheduled meeting of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Committee, November 2-3, 1999, in Ottawa, Canada. It is also to seek public input in identifying any new issues of concern that should be considered for the agenda. Representatives from each of the SPS Committee's eight Technical Working Groups (TWGs) will also be present to

apprise the public of each TWG's progress and to respond to questions.

The November meeting will be the Eighth Meeting of the NAFTA SPS Committee and will include co-chairs or other representatives from the TWGs that report to the Committee. The purpose of the NAFTA SPS Committee is to address sanitary and phytosanitary trade issues affecting the entry of agricultural products among the three member countries.

DATES: The public meeting date will take place Tuesday, September 21, 1999, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., USDA South Building (at the back of USDA cafeteria, 1st floor), 14th Street and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC. Written comments should be submitted by September 16, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carolyn T. Cohen, Foreign Agricultural Service, International Trade Policy, Food Safety and Technical Services Division, Room 5545, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW, Washington DC, 20250, (202) 720-1301; or e-mail ofsts@fas.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with Article 722 of NAFTA, the NAFTA SPS Committee is responsible for facilitating: (a) the enhancement of food safety and sanitary and phytosanitary conditions in the territories of the parties; (b) activities of the Parties pursuant to Articles 713 and 714 relating respectively to international standards and equivalence; (c) technical cooperation; and (d) consultation on specific bilateral issues. An SPS issue can be raised by any party and is sent to the Committee for consideration. The Committee will either consider the matter itself or refer the issue to an individual, working group or relevant standard setting organization for technical advice.

Since the entry into force of NAFTA on January 1, 1994, the NAFTA SPS Committee has met on seven separate occasions: March 24, 1994, in Washington, DC; October 6, 1994, in Washington, DC; September 21, 1995, in Mexico City; February 14, 1996, in Mexico City; June 20, 1996, in Ottawa; November 18-19, 1997, in Washington, DC; and November 4-5, 1998, in Mexico City. The Committee meets at least once a year with meetings rotating among the three countries. Starting in 1998, the dates for meetings of the NAFTA SPS Committee are fixed for the first week in November. Each TWG is to send at least one representative to the annual Committee meeting to report on its progress and activity. The eight TWGs under the NAFTA SPS Committee and their points of contacts are as follows:

¹⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

¹⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

²⁰ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

1. Animal Health

A. Point of Contact: Dr. Alfonso Torres, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), USDA.

B. Status: Bilateral working groups exist within the larger TWG. The North American Animal Health Committee is a trilateral forum.

C. Work in Progress: 1. Harmonization of veterinary biologics licensing processes and standardization of import policies; and 2. Establishing a regional approach on transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs).

D. Future Work Plan: The North American Animal Health Meeting issues: 1. Harmonization of diagnostic services; 2. common approach for disease freedom recognition; 3. emergency preparedness; 4. approach to evaluate the veterinary services within member countries; 5. North American interaction with OIE; and, 6. management of the North American FMD vaccine bank.

E. Meeting Schedule: The North American Animal Health Committee has been meeting since 1972. The 29th Annual Tripartite meeting took place in Victoria, Canada, on April 20–22, 1999. The next meeting is scheduled for April, 10–14, 2000 in Oaxaca, Mexico.

2. Plant Health, Seeds & Fertilizers

A. Point of Contact: Mr. Ronald Campbell, Phytosanitary Issues Management, APHIS/USDA.

B. Status: Annual bilateral plant protection meetings are held in addition to the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) which is trilateral.

C. Work in Progress: 1. Harmonization of Japanese beetle regulations; 2. Developing harmonized approach to Asian & European Gypsy Moth; 3. Equivalency of Greenhouse certification; 4. Recognition of accredited laboratories for seed certification; and, 5. Panels on Accreditation, Biological Control, Biotechnology, Citrus, Forestry, Fruit Flies, Grapevines, Grains, Fruit Trees, Pest Risk Analysis, Potatoes, and Standards, to discuss issues of mutual concern in each area.

D. Future Work Plan: 1. Recognition of private laboratories; and 2. NAPPO's priorities for international standards: Regulated non-quarantine pests, Pest Risk Assessments for Quarantine pests, Phytosanitary certificates, Regulated pest lists, Notifications of interceptions and non-compliance, and Wood Dunnage.

E. Meeting Schedule: The 23rd Annual NAPPO meeting will be in Cancun, Mexico, from October 18–22, 1999. There are 3 NAPPO Working

Group meetings and 3 NAPPO Executive Committee Meetings per year. Each panel meets at least once during the year.

3. Fish & Fishery Product Inspection

A. Point of Contact: Dr. Philip Spiller, Office of Seafood, Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

B. Status: This TWG is trilateral and last met March 4–5, 1998 in San Antonio, Texas.

C. Issues Addressed to Date: 1. Development of US-Canada Mutual Recognition Agreement on seafood inspection; 2. Exchange of letters between US and Canada regarding seafood HACCP and inspection; 3. Negotiation of US-Canada equivalence agreement regarding molluscan shellfish inspection programs; 4. Development of criteria for seafood equivalence determination as part of the process for reaching an agreement; and, 5. Approaches for training and accreditation in HACCP/QMP audit and verification.

D. Future Work Plan: 1. Continuation of MRA/Equivalence discussions; 2. Development of a joint protocol on how to conduct audits of inspection systems; 3. Continuation of the work of the SWG on Essential Quality and Composition; and 4. Establishment of "North American Centers of Expertise" that would see Canada, Mexico and the United States potentially combine their efforts on various studies and research development initiatives.

E. Meeting Schedule: The TWG meets annually with the next meeting scheduled for October 1999 in Halifax, Canada.

4. Meat, Poultry & Egg Inspection

A. Point of Contact: Dr. John C. Prucha, Food Safety Inspection Service, USDA.

B. Status: This TWG is trilateral and has met eight times over the last four years.

C. Work in Progress: 1. Achieving and maintaining equivalency; 2. Exchange of information on proposed changes; 3. Exchange of information on foreign system and establishment reviews; 4. Finalizing USDA's position recognizing Mexico's poultry system as equivalent; and 5. Exchange of information on import reinspection procedures, including import inspection standards and inspection procedure for residues of chemical contaminants.

D. Future Work Plan: 1. Harmonization of inspection procedures; 2. Examination of health certificates; 3. Technical Subgroup addressing technical inspection matters; activity report presented at each

meeting; and, 4. Coordination of planning & implementation of changes.

E. Meeting Schedule: This TWG meets approximately twice a year, depending on the availability of its members. It plans to meet again in the fall or winter 1999/2000.

5. Dairy, Fruits, Vegetables and Processed Foods

A. Point of Contact: Dr. Terry Troxell, Office of Plant & Dairy Foods & Beverages, FDA.

B. Status: This TWG is bilateral (US-Canada), as representatives have not yet been identified by Mexico.

C. Issues Addressed to Date: 1. Discussion of equivalence of US-Canada Grade A dairy inspection systems; and 2. Harmonization of US-Canada potato grade system.

D. Future Work Plan: 1. Continuation of Equivalence Discussions, and 2. Full integration of Mexico into the TWG.

E. Meeting Schedule: The first and only meeting of the TWG was in November 1997. A specific date has not been set for a future meeting.

6. Veterinary Drugs & Feed

A. Point of Contact: Dr. Robert Livingstone, Center for Veterinary Medicine, FDA.

B. Status: This TWG is bilateral (US-Canada), as a representatives has not been identified by Mexico. This TWG last met in 1995.

C. Issues Addressed to Date: 1. Methods harmonization; 2. Discussions of equivalence of registration systems; and, 3. Coordination with corresponding Codex activities.

D. Future Work Plan: 1. Equivalence of analytical methods for drug residues; and 2. Integration of Mexico into the TWG.

E. Meeting Schedule: None scheduled at this time.

7. Food Additives and Contaminants

A. Point of Contact: Dr. Alan Rulis, Office of Pre-Market Approval, FDA.

B. Status: This TWG is trilateral.

C. Issues Addressed to Date: 1. Harmonization of US-Canada food additive regulations; and, 2. Discussion of issues and positions for the Codex Committee on Food Additives & Contaminants (CCFAC).

D. Future Work Plan: 1. Development of joint positions for the CCFAC; and, 2. Further exploration of potential for joint reviews of food additives petitions.

E. Meeting Schedule: This TWG last met January 19–20, 1998 in Mexico City. The next session for this TWG has not been scheduled.

8. Pesticides

A. Point of Contact: Ms. Marcia Mulkey, Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency.

B. Status: This TWG is trilateral, consisting of an Executive Board, a Secretariat, Technical Subcommittee and Project Teams. This TWG last met May 24–26, 1999 in San Antonio, Texas.

C. Issues Addressed to Date: 1. Completed four US/Canada joint reviews (three reduced risk pesticides and one pheromone); 2. Focused cooperative work to reevaluate and reregister older chemical pesticides on organophosphates, carbamates, and B2 carcinogens and agreed to share information on the associated tolerance reassessment process to minimize trade problems; 3. Developed clear categories to trade irritants and a procedure and priority scheme for their resolution; 4. Harmonized 17 environmental fate and toxicology protocols; 5. Completed a prototype ecoregion map that will lead to reduced data development costs for terrestrial field studies; 6. Coordinated development of field residue data among NAFTA countries to support registration of pesticides for minor crops; and 7. Developed stakeholder projects to promote Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies for canola and cranberries.

D. Future Work Plan: 1. Develop and implement strategic plan for communicating areas of pesticide regulatory harmonization; 2. Work with the Departments of Agriculture, growers, and industry to identify and prioritize registration needs in NAFTA countries to facilitate equal access to pesticides and avoid potential agricultural impediments to trade; 3. Investigate the impact of EPA's emergency use exemption program on Mexican/Canadian growers; 4. Complete the first trinational review of a pesticide (zoxamide) for use on grapes and potatoes; 5. Work cooperatively to reevaluate and reregister older chemical pesticides; 6. Work toward a harmonized approach to pesticide certification and training; 7. Share information and explore how NAFTA countries might work together on the evaluation and regulation of persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic substances and endocrine disrupting chemicals; and, 8. Increase interaction between the TWG on Pesticides and the US-Mexico Pesticide Information Exchange Program.

E. Meeting Schedule: The full TWG, which includes stakeholder participation, meets annually. The Executive Board meets formally two times per year. The TWG Executive

Board will meet in January 2000 in Mexico City. The full TWG will have its annual meeting in June 2000 in Ottawa.

Public Meeting

The public meeting date will take place Tuesday, September 21, 1999, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., USDA South Building (at the back of USDA cafeteria, 1st floor), 14th Street and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC.

Written Comments

Those persons wishing to submit written comments should provide five (5) typed copies to John Payne, Director for SPS Affairs, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th St., NW, Room 421; Washington, DC 20508. If the submission contains business confidential information, five copies of a confidential version must also be submitted. A justification as to why the information contained in the submission should be treated confidentially must be included in the submission. In addition, any submissions containing business confidential information must be clearly marked "Confidential" at the top and bottom of the cover page (or letter) and of each succeeding page of the submission. The version that does not contain confidential information should also be clearly marked, at the top and bottom of each page, "public version" or "non-confidential."

Written comments submitted in connection with this request, except for information granted "business confidential" status pursuant to 15 CFR 2003.6, will be available for public inspection in the USTR Reading Room, Room 101, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC. An appointment to review the file may be made by calling Brenda Webb (202) 395-6186. The Reading Room is open to the public from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon, and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Frederick L. Montgomery,
Chairman, Trade Policy Staff Committee.
[FR Doc. 99-23623 Filed 9-9-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3190-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of The Secretary

[Docket No. OST-95-246]

North American Free Trade Agreement's Land Transportation Standards Subcommittee and Transportation Consultative Group: Annual Plenary Session

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice (1) announces the sixth joint annual plenary session of the North American Free Trade Agreement's (NAFTA) Land Transportation Standards Subcommittee (LTSS) and the Transportation Consultative Group (TCG) and other related meetings; and (2) invites representatives of non-governmental entities with an interest in land transportation issues to participate in a listening session immediately preceding the plenary meeting and to attend a briefing at a later date. Only U.S., Canadian, and Mexican government officials may attend the plenary and working group meetings.

Background

The Land Transportation Standards Subcommittee (LTSS) was established by the North American Free Trade Agreement's (NAFTA) Committee on Standards-Related Measures to examine the land transportation regulatory regimes in the United States, Canada, and Mexico, and to seek to make certain standards more compatible. The Transportation Consultative Group (TCG) was formed by the three countries' departments of transportation to address non-standards-related issues that affect cross-border movements among the countries, but that are not included in the NAFTA's LTSS work program (Annex 913.5.a-1).

Meetings and Deadlines

The sixth joint annual LTSS/TCG plenary session will be held from October 25 to 28, 1999, at the Hilton Baltimore and Towers, 20 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201. The following LTSS working groups will meet during the same week and at the same location: (1) Compliance and Driver and Vehicle Standards; (2) Vehicle Weights and Dimensions; and (3) Hazardous Materials Transportation Standards. Similarly, the following TCG working groups are expected to meet: (1) Cross-Border Operations and Facilitation; (2) Rail Safety and Economic Issues; (3) Automated Data Exchange; (4) Science and Technology; and (5) Maritime and Ports Policy.

Also at the same Baltimore site, on October 25, 1999, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., a listening session will be held for representatives of the truck, bus, and rail industries, transportation labor unions, brokers and shippers, chemical manufacturers, insurance industry, public safety advocates, and others who have notified us of their interest to attend and have submitted copies of their presentations, in English and