

NON-OFFICIAL TRANSLATION**SECRETARY OF ENVIRONMENT
AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

AGREEMENT modifying the Mexican Official Rule NOM-144-SEMARNAT-2004, that establishes internationally recognized phytosanitary measures for wood packaging used in international trade of goods and products, published on the 18th of January 2005.

In the margin, there is a stamp with the National Shield, that says: United States of Mexico. - Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources.

JOSE RAMON ARDAVIN ITUARTE, Undersecretary of Development and Environmental Regulation and Chairperson of the National Consulting Committee for Environmental and Natural Resources Standardization, based on article 32 bis sections I and IV of the Organic Law of the Federal Public Administration; 51 second paragraph of the Federal Law on Metrology and Standardization and article 8 section V of the Internal Regulation of the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, and

CONSIDERING THAT

Dated on the 18th of January 2005, the Mexican Official Rule NOM-144-SEMARNAT-2004, that establishes internationally recognized phytosanitary measures for wood packaging used in international trade of goods and products, was published in the Federal Official Register.

The rule states in section 4.1.3. that "Pursuant to articles 23 section II and 24 of the Federal Law of Plant Health, wood packaging used to import goods and products must comply with phytosanitary measures and bear the mark indicated in this rule."

NOM-144-SEMARNAT-2004, determines in the second article under provisional that: "Sections 5 and 6.6 of this rule, regarding wood packaging in imports of goods and products, will come into effect on the sixteenth day of September of the year two thousand and five."

Due to the importance of achieving the correct implementation of the Rule regarding wood packaging used to import goods and products, it is necessary that importers of goods and products have the minimum time necessary to adopt the measures foreseen in the Mexican Official Rule, without diminishing the sanitary control of wood packaging by the authority.

To facilitate compliance of the Mexican Official Rule without detriment of its objective of sanitary protection, it is advisable to modify the content of the second article under provisional in regards to entry into effect of the provisions. At the same time, the authority will support the importers through outreach activities that they consider relevant and that with this modification there are no new requirements or procedures, nor stricter specifications. It is not necessary to comply with the full procedure to modify a Mexican Official Rule, in accordance with that set out above I have issued the following:

AGREEMENT MODIFYING THE MEXICAN OFFICIAL RULE NOM-144-SEMARNAT-2004, THAT ESTABLISHES INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES FOR WOOD PACKAGING USED IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE OF GOODS AND PRODUCTS, PUBLISHED IN THE FEDERAL OFFICIAL REGISTER ON THE 18TH OF JANUARY 2005

ONLY ARTICLE. The second article under the section entitled "Provisional" of the NOM-144-SEMARNAT-2004, that establishes internationally recognized phytosanitary measures for wood packaging used in international trade of goods and products, published in the Federal Official Register on the 18th of January 2005, is modified and will remain as follows:

"SECOND: What is established in sections 5 and 6.6 of this rule, regarding wood packaging in imports of goods and products, will come into effect on the sixteenth day of September of the year two thousand and five, except sections 5.3 and 6.6.3 section II, which will come into effect on the first day of February of the year two thousand and six. If there is evidence of live pests, pursuant to section 5.4, this exception will not apply."

PROVISIONAL

The above modifications will come into effect the day after its publication in the Federal Official Register.

City of Mexico, Federal District, on the fourteenth day of September 2005.- the Undersecretary of Development and Environmental Regulation and Chairperson of the National Consulting Committee for Environmental and Natural Resources Standardization, **José Ramón Ardavin Ituarte**.- Signature.