



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 11/10/2003

GAIN Report Number: MX3151

Mexico

Biotechnology

Mexico Promulgates the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

2003

Approved by:

William L. Brant
U.S. Embassy Mexico City

Prepared by:

Benjamin Juarez

Report Highlights:

On October 28, 2003, the Government of Mexico published a decree promulgating the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. Through this decree the protocol provisions have now entered into force.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Mexico [MX1]
[MX]

Introduction: This report summarizes a decree published in Mexico's "*Diario Oficial*" (Federal Register) on October 28, 2003.

Disclaimer: This summary is based on a *cursory* review of the subject announcement and therefore should not, under any circumstances, be viewed as a definitive reading of the regulation in question, or of its implications for U.S. agricultural export trade interests. In the event of a discrepancy or discrepancies between this summary and the complete regulation or announcement as published in Spanish, the latter shall prevail.

FAS/Mexico's Executive Summary: On October 28, 2003, the Secretariat of Foreign Relationships published in the *Diario Oficial* (Mexico's "Federal Register") a decree promulgating the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB) of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Through this decree, the Cartagena Protocol enters into force in Mexico as law. It should be noted that in Mexico, the legal hierarchy is the following: (1) the constitution; (2) international treaties, such as the CPB, and (3) national laws. On May 24, 2000, the Government of Mexico signed the CPB; the Mexican Senate ratified it on July 1, 2002.

Title: Promulgated Decree of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety of the Convention on Biological Diversity, adopted in Montreal on January 29, 2000.

Type of Rule: Final

Products affected: Living modified organisms (LMOs), such as seeds and animals, resulting from modern biotechnology.

Important Dates

1. Publication Date: October 28, 2003

2. Effective Date: October 28, 2003

Additional Information:

The Cartagena protocol is part of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), a wider international treaty designed to protect genetic differences between and within species. Governments that are parties to the CBD adopted the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety on January 29, 2000 in Cartagena, Colombia. The international treaty designed to protect biological diversity, regulates the spread of genetically modified organisms or genetically engineered (GE) technology through a prior informed consent process. The treaty requires that countries that accept shipments of GE food be provided with prior written notification, enabling them to make informed decisions before GE crops, seeds or other modified organisms are intentionally introduced into the environment.

For More Information:

AgMexico@usda.gov

Fax: 011-52-55-5080-2776

Internet Connections

FAS Mexico Web Site: We are available at <http://www.fas-la.com/mexico> or visit our headquarter's home page at <http://www.fas.usda.gov> for a complete selection of FAS' worldwide agricultural reporting.

Useful Mexican Web Sites: Mexico's equivalent of the Department of Agriculture (SAGARPA) can be found at www.sagarpa.gob.mx and Mexico's equivalent of the Department of Commerce (SE) can be found at www.se.gob.mx. These web sites are mentioned for the readers' convenience but USDA does NOT in any way endorse, guarantee the accuracy of, or necessarily concur with the information contained on the mentioned sites.