NOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.6

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| **1.** | **Notifying Member:** UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  **If applicable, name of local government involved (Article 3.2 and 7.2):** |
| **2.** | **Agency responsible:**  Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), Department of Agriculture (USDA) [2052]  **Name and address (including telephone and fax numbers, email and website addresses, if available) of agency or authority designated to handle comments regarding the notification shall be indicated if different from above:**  Please submit comments to: USA WTO TBT Enquiry Point, Email: [usatbtep@nist.gov](mailto:usatbtep@nist.gov) |
| **3.** | **Notified under Article 2.9.2 [****],** **2.10.1 [****],** **5.6.2 [****],** **5.7.1 [****], 3.2 [****], 7.2 [****],** **other****[X]:** Pursuant to the Commodity Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7411–7425) (Act), a referendum will be conducted to ascertain whether continuance of the Paper and Paper-Based Packaging Promotion, Research and Information Order (Order) (7 CFR part 1222) is favored by eligible domestic manufacturers and importers of paper and paper-based packaging covered under the program. |
| **4.** | **Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable):** Paper and Paper-Based Packaging; Environmental protection (ICS code(s): 13.020); Packaging and distribution of goods in general (ICS code(s): 55.020); Packaging materials and accessories (ICS code(s): 55.040); Paper products (ICS code(s): 85.080) |
| **5.** | **Title, number of pages and language(s) of the notified document:** Paper and Paper-Based Packaging Promotion, Research, and Information Order; Continuance Referendum; (2 page(s), in English) |
| **6.** | **Description of content:** Notification of referendum - This document directs that a referendum be conducted among eligible domestic manufacturers and importers of paper and paper-based packaging to determine whether they favor continuance of the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) regulations regarding a national paper and paper-based packaging research and promotion program. This referendum will be conducted by express mail and electronic ballot from 6 October 2023 through 20 October 2023. To be eligible to vote, persons who are currently domestic manufacturers and importers and who domestically manufactured and imported 100,000 short tons or more of paper and paper-based packaging during the representative period from 1 January through 31 December 2022, are eligible to vote in the referendum. Ballots delivered to AMS via express mail or electronic ballot must show proof of delivery by no later than [11:59 p.m.](http://time-time.net/times/time-zones/usa-canada/current-eastern-time-est.php) [Eastern Time](https://24timezones.com/time-zone/et) on 20 October 2023. Copies of the Paper and Paper-Based Packaging Promotion, Research, and Information Order may be obtained from: Referendum Agent, Market Development Division, Specialty Crops Program (SCP), AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 1406–S, Stop 0244, Washington, DC 20250–0244, telephone: +1 (202) 720–8085 or contact Marlene Betts at +1 (202) 494–6633 or via electronic mail: [Marlene.Betts@usda.gov](mailto:Marlene.Betts@usda.gov). |
| **7.** | **Objective and rationale, including the nature of urgent problems where applicable:** Harmonization; Cost saving and productivity enhancement |
| **8.** | **Relevant documents:**  88 Federal Register (FR) 48141, 26 July 2023; Title 7 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 1222:  <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2023-07-26/html/2023-15826.htm>  <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2023-07-26/pdf/2023-15826.pdf> |
| **9.** | **Proposed date of adoption:** To be determined  **Proposed date of entry into force:** To be determined |
| **10.** | **Final date for comments:** 20 October 2023 |
| **11.** | **Texts available from: National enquiry point [****]** **or address, telephone and fax numbers and email and website addresses, if available, of other body:**  <https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2023/TBT/USA/23_11308_00_e.pdf> |