not received a risk classification from the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) to request classification by APHIS. The other way is for APHIS to concur with the classification given to a country by the OIE.

If the OIE has recognized a country as either BSE negligible risk or BSE controlled risk, APHIS will seek information to support our concurrence with the OIE classification. This information may be publicly available information, or APHIS may request that countries supply the same information given to the OIE. APHIS will announce in the **Federal Register**, subject to public comment, its intent to concur with an OIE classification.

In accordance with that process, we published a notice [1] in the **Federal Register** on January 23, 2017 (82 FR 7786, Docket No. APHIS–2016–0092), in which we announced our intent to concur with the OIE risk designations for seven regions. The OIE recognizes these regions as being of negligible risk for BSE. We solicited comments on the notice for 60 days ending on March 24, 2017. We received one comment by that date, from a private citizen.

The commenter expressed concern that there is no process for verifying whether ruminant-to-ruminant feed bans are effectively enforced.

As part of its risk assessment process, the OIE considers the likelihood that the BSE agent either could be introduced into or spread within a country through contaminated commodities, including animal feed and feed ingredients. They consider both the production of processed animal proteins from domestic livestock, and the use of imported processed animal proteins, animal feed, and feed ingredients when assessing that risk. APHIS reviews similar information before concurring with the OIE designation.

Once recognized as either negligible or controlled risk for BSE by the OIE, a country must submit data on surveillance results and feed controls for the previous 12 months annually to maintain that status. If a country fails to provide that data in a timely manner, or the data shows changes that increase the risk of BSE introduction or spread, the country's risk designation may be changed. In the event that a country's risk status is demoted by the OIE, APHIS would also change its risk designation for the country.

Within the United States, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is the Federal agency responsible for regulating animal feed. The FDA has established regulations in 21 CFR part 589 that prohibit mammalian protein in ruminant feed (which includes a ruminant-to-ruminant feed ban) and the use of tissues that have the highest risk for carrying the BSE agent in all animal feed. These high risk cattle materials, known as specified risk materials (SRM), include the brains and spinal cords from cattle 30 months of age and older.

To assess and monitor for compliance with the feed ban, the FDA established the ruminant feed ban inspection program and guidance to assist both the FDA and State investigators. Feed mill and rendering plant inspections conducted since 1998 indicate a very high level of compliance with the feed ban. Summaries of inspections can be viewed on the FDA Web site at *https://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/GuidanceComplianceEnforcement/ComplianceEnforcement/BovineSpongiformEncephalopathy/ucm114507.htm.* The FDA also established a feed testing program in 2001. The FDA's highest priority for sample selection is given to finished products intended for ruminants, and feed ingredients that may reasonably be expected to be later used in ruminant feed.

The commenter also expressed concern that products from cattle slaughtered at 36 months of age pose a health risk to consumers.

The commenter is correct that certain bovine products and live cattle from specific countries with a higher risk of BSE release may carry BSE infectivity and therefore present a health risk to consumers if no measures are taken to mitigate that risk. For this reason, the OIE also describes specific requirements for certain commodities originating from regions of controlled and undetermined risk.

APHIS regulations require implementation of and compliance with very similar requirements for both live bovines and bovine commodities in a region before we concur with the OIE's BSE risk designation. These requirements mitigate the risk of exposure to a negligible level. Therefore, countries with either controlled or undetermined risk statuses must demonstrate that they have the authority to conduct oversight of the compliance with such requirements.

Therefore, in accordance with the regulations in § 92.5, we are announcing our decision to concur with the OIE risk classifications of the following countries:

- Regions of negligible risk for BSE: Costa Rica, Germany, Lithuania, Mexico, Namibia, Romania, and Spain.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1622 and 8301–8317; 21 U.S.C. 136 and 136a; 31 U.S.C. 9701; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.4.

Done in Washington, DC, this 2nd day of August 2017.

Michael C. Gregoire,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2017–16674 Filed 8–7–17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

[1] To view the notice and the comment we received, go to *http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2016-0092.*

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS–2016–0035]

Notice of Availability of Treatment Evaluation Document for Aircraft Treatments for Certain Hitchhiking Pests

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for comments.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that we have determined that it is necessary to immediately add to the Plant Protection and Quarantine Treatment Manual two new chemical treatments for targeting regulated pests in the cargo holds of aircraft. We have prepared a treatment evaluation document that describes the new treatment schedules and explains why we have determined that they are effective at neutralizing certain target pests. We are making the treatment evaluation document available to the public for review and comment.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before October 10, 2017.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by either of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to *http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2016-0035.*
- *Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:* Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS–2016–0035, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A–03.8, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737–1238.

Supporting documents and any comments we receive on this docket may be viewed at *http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2016-0035* or in our reading room, which is located in Room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence

Avenue SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 799–7039 before coming.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. George Balady, Senior Regulatory Policy Specialist, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 133, Riverdale, MD 20737–1231; (301) 851–2240.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The regulations in 7 CFR chapter III are intended, among other things, to prevent the introduction or dissemination of plant pests and noxious weeds into or within the United States. Under the regulations, certain plants, fruits, vegetables, and other articles must be treated before they may be moved into the United States or interstate. The phytosanitary treatments regulations contained in part 305 of 7 CFR chapter III (referred to below as the regulations) set out standards for treatments required in parts 301, 318, and 319 of 7 CFR chapter III for fruits, vegetables, and other articles.

In § 305.2, paragraph (b) states that approved treatment schedules are set out in the Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) Treatment Manual.[1] Section 305.3 sets out the processes for adding, revising, or removing treatment schedules in the PPQ Treatment Manual. In that section, paragraph (b) sets out the process for adding, revising, or removing treatment schedules when there is an immediate need to make a change. The circumstances in which an immediate need exists are described in § 305.3(b)(1). They are:

- PPQ has determined that an approved treatment schedule is ineffective at neutralizing the targeted plant pest(s).
- PPQ has determined that, in order to neutralize the targeted plant pest(s), the treatment schedule must be administered using a different process than was previously used.
- PPQ has determined that a new treatment schedule is effective, based on efficacy data, and that ongoing trade in a commodity or commodities may be adversely impacted unless the new treatment schedule is approved for use.
- The use of a treatment schedule is no longer authorized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or by any other Federal entity.

In accordance with § 305.3(b)(1), we are providing notice that we have determined that it is necessary to add two new treatments to the PPQ Treatment Manual: T409–a, a surface spray with deltamethrin 4.75 percent active ingredient to mitigate the risk of Khapra beetle on aircraft; and T409–b–3, an aerosol spray with '1-Shot' treatment containing 2 percent d-phenothrin and 2 percent permethrin to mitigate the risk of Japanese beetle and other hitchhiking pests, except Khapra beetle, on aircraft.

To accommodate the addition of treatment T409–b–3, we have redesignated treatment schedule T409–b as T409–b–1.

The reasons for these additions to the treatment manual are described in detail in the treatment evaluation document (TED) we have prepared to support this action. The TED may be viewed on the *Regulations.gov* Web site or in our reading room (see **ADDRESSES** above for instructions for accessing *Regulations.gov* and information on the location and hours of the reading room). You may also request paper copies of the TED by calling or writing to the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Please refer to the subject of the TED when requesting copies.

After reviewing the comments we receive, we will announce our decision regarding the new treatment schedules described in the TED in a subsequent notice. If we do not receive any comments, or the comments we receive do not change our determination that the proposed changes are effective, we will affirm these changes to the PPQ Treatment Manual and make available a new version of the PPQ Treatment Manual reflecting these changes. If we receive comments that cause us to determine that additional changes need to be made to one or more of the treatment schedules discussed above, we will make available a new version of the PPQ Treatment Manual that reflects the changes.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 7701–7772 and 7781–7786; 21 U.S.C. 136 and 136a; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.3.

Done in Washington, DC, this 2nd day of August 2017.

Michael C. Gregoire,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2017–16676 Filed 8–7–17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–10–P

[1] The Treatment Manual is available at *http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/manuals/index.shtml* or by contacting the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine, Manuals Unit, 92 Thomas Johnson Drive, Suite 200, Frederick, MD 21702.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS–2016–0038]

Notice of Availability of an Evaluation of the Classical Swine Fever Status of Mexico

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that we are proposing to recognize Mexico as free of classical swine fever, subject to conditions in the regulations governing the importation of live swine, pork, and pork products from certain regions into the United States. We are proposing this action based on a risk evaluation that we have prepared in connection with this action and that we are making available to the public for review and comment.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before October 10, 2017.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by either of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to *http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2016-0038.*
- *Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:* Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS–2016–0038, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A–03.8, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737–1238.

Supporting documents and any comments we receive on this docket may be viewed at *http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2016-0038* or in our reading room, which is located in Room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 799–7039 before coming.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Chip Wells, Senior Staff Veterinarian, Regionalization Evaluation Services, National Import Export Services, VS, APHIS, USDA, 4700 River Road, Unit 38, Riverdale, MD 20737–1231; *Chip.J.Wells@aphis.usda.gov;* (301) 851–3317.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulates the importation of animals and animal products into the United States