

**Agreement on Preshipment Inspection
Independent Entity**

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT ENTITY TO THE
COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS

The Agreement on Preshipment Inspection provides for the establishment of an Independent Entity for the administration of the independent review procedures as set out in Article 4 of the Agreement. The Independent Entity (IE) was established by Decision of the General Council of 13 December 1995 (WT/L/125/Rev.1). Paragraph I.C of the Structures and Functions of the Independent Entity (Annex II of WT/L/125/Rev.1) provides that,

"the IE will report to the Council for Trade in Goods at least once a year but more frequently if necessary."

The report below is presented in accordance with the above requirement.

1. The Decision of the General Council of 13 December 1995 (WT/L/125/Rev.1) approved the Agreement between the WTO, the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), and the International Federation of Inspection Agencies (IFIA) establishing the Independent Entity foreseen in Article 4(a) of the Agreement on Preshipment Inspection. Annex I of the Decision contains the terms of the Agreement between the WTO, the ICC, and the IFIA; Annex II contains the Structure and Functions of the Independent Entity; and Annex III contains the Rules of Procedure for the Operation of Independent Reviews.
2. Following the Decision of the General Council, the administrative and procedural requirements necessary to commence operations of the IE were put in place in April 1996. Specifically, the List of Experts for Independent Reviews had been finalized and distributed in document G/PSI/IE/1, and the information and application forms had been translated and distributed globally to the affiliates and contacts of ICC and IFIA. Following this confirmation, WTO Members were notified that as of 1 May 1996, the IE would be prepared to receive applications requesting independent reviews (G/PSI/IE/2).
3. During the reporting period, the IE has received no requests for an independent review.