

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/TBT/N/NZL/9
22 May 2002

(02-2812)

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.6.

1. Member to Agreement notifying: <u>NEW ZEALAND</u> If applicable, name of local government involved (Articles 3.2 and 7.2):
2. Agency responsible: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) Name and address (including telephone and fax numbers, e-mail and web-site addresses, if available) of agency or authority designated to handle comments regarding the notification shall be indicated if different from above: Dr. Gerard Clover, MAF Biosecurity Authority, PO Box 2526, Wellington, New Zealand. Tel: +64 4 470 2743. Fax: +64 4 474 4257. E-mail: cloverg@maf.govt.nz
3. Notified under Article 2.9.2 [X], 2.10.1 [], 5.6.2 [], 5.7.1 [], other:
4. Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable): <i>Zea mays</i> (sweet corn, pop corn and maize) seeds for sowing.
5. Title, number of pages and language(s) of the notified document: Protocol for testing imports of <i>Zea mays</i> seed for sowing for the presence of genetically modified seeds (5 pages, in English).
6. Description of content: Proposed measures to prevent the unauthorised importation of genetically modified <i>Zea mays</i> (sweet corn, pop corn and maize) seed into New Zealand.
7. Objective and rationale, including the nature of urgent problems where applicable: The Biosecurity Act 1993 prohibits the importation of a new organism that has not been approved under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (HSNO). To date, genetically modified organisms, including <i>Zea mays</i> seeds, have not been approved for release into New Zealand. The proposed measures aim to ensure that genetically modified <i>Zea mays</i> seeds, that are not approved under the HSNO Act, are not released into New Zealand's environment through imports of conventional <i>Zea mays</i> seed. The proposed measure will replace that introduced on 1 August 2001 for sweet corn (<i>Zea mays</i>) seeds for sowing (G/TBT/N/NZL/2 refers). Upon adoption, the proposed measure will remain in force until such time as genetically modified <i>Zea mays</i> seed is approved for release under the HSNO Act.
8. Relevant documents: Protocol for testing imports of <i>Zea mays</i> seed for sowing for the presence of genetically modified seeds. Border Control for Genetically Modified (GM) Seeds MAF Discussion Paper No: 31.

9.	Proposed date of adoption: Proposed date of entry into force:	}	1 August 2002
10.	Final date for comments: 15 July 2002		
11.	Texts available from: National enquiry point [] or address, telephone and fax numbers, e-mail and web-site addresses, if available of the other body: Both the protocol and discussion paper are available from Dr. Gerard Clover, MAF Biosecurity Authority, PO Box 2526, Wellington, New Zealand. Tel: +64 4 470 2743. Fax: +64 4 474 4257. E-mail: cloverg@maf.govt.nz. The discussion paper is also available online at www.maf.govt.nz/gmseeds .		