

**Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade**

**NOTIFICATION**

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

<b>1. Member to Agreement notifying:</b> <u>AUSTRALIA</u> <b>If applicable, name of local government involved (Articles 3.2 and 7.2):</b>
<b>2. Agency responsible:</b> Australia New Zealand Food Authority (ANZFA) <b>Agency or authority designated to handle comments regarding the notification shall be indicated if different from above:</b>
<b>3. Notified under Article 2.9.2 [X], 2.10.1 [ ], 5.6.2 [ ], 5.7.1 [ ], other:</b>
<b>4. Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable):</b> Food produced using gene technology
<b>5. Title, number of pages and language(s) of the notified document:</b> Information Paper - Proposed Labelling Provisions for GMF under Food Standard A18 - October 1999 (6 pages). The draft standard is in English.
<b>6. Description of content:</b> Division Two of this draft revised standard sets out labelling and other information requirements for foods, food additives and processing aids produced using gene technology.  Australia previously notified the Committee on 14 June 1999 (G/TBT/Notif.99.275) about the proposal to extend further the labelling requirements for foods produced using gene technology. The current notification also informs Members that the draft amended standard to implement the proposal is now available for public comment.
<b>7. Objective and rationale, including the nature of urgent problems where applicable:</b> Provision of consumer information. The extension of existing labelling requirements for foods produced using gene technology has the principle objective of providing consumer information. In addition, the draft amended standard contains health and safety requirements. The draft amended standard has, therefore, also been notified to the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.
<b>8. Relevant documents:</b> Information Paper as detailed at 5) above; and ANZFA GM FOOD UPDATE Document #8 (November 1999) which provides background information in addition to the current standard A18.
<b>9. Proposed date of adoption:</b> } <b>Proposed date of entry into force:</b> } Recommendation to Government anticipated early 2000. If approved, full implementation by 12 months after gazettal.

**10. Final date for comments:** Domestic comments close 15 December 1999. Comments from WTO Members accepted by 21 January 2000, however, advice of submission of comments would be appreciated prior to the domestic closing date.

**11. Texts available from: National enquiry point [ ] or address, e-mail and telefax number of the other body:**

Australia New Zealand Food Authority, quoting Proposed new GM Food Standard

Australia New Zealand Food Authority  
P.O. Box 7186  
Canberra Mail Centre Act 2610  
Australia

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This draft amended standard is identical to that notified by New Zealand. It has also been notified under the SPS Agreement.