

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/TBT/Notif.99/582
26 November 1999

(99-5128)

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

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: Australia New Zealand Food Authority (ANZFA) Agency or authority designated to handle comments regarding the notification shall be indicated if different from above:
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): Food producing using gene technology
5. Title, number of pages and language(s) of the notified document: Information Paper - Proposed Labelling Provisions for GMF under Food Standard A18 - October 1999 (English, 6 pages).
6. Description of content: Division Two of this draft amended standard sets out labelling and other information requirements for foods, food additives and processing aids produced using gene technology. New Zealand previously made a notification under the TBT Agreement on 19 May 1999 (G/TBT/Notif.99.244), informing other Members of a proposal to extend existing labelling requirements for foods produced using gene technology. The current notification is to further inform Members that a draft amended standard to implement that proposal is now available for public comment. Standard A18 of the Australian Food Standards Code is recognised in New Zealand as a mandatory standard.
7. Objective and rationale, including the nature of urgent problems where applicable: The extension of existing labelling requirements for foods produced using gene technology has the principal 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 Members separately under the SPS Agreement.
8. Relevant documents: Information paper as detailed at 5) above, and ANZFA GMF UPDATE Document #8 (November 1999) which provides background information in addition to the current Standard A18.
9. Proposed date of adoption: Proposed date of entry into force: } Recommendation to Government anticipated early 2000. If approved, full implementation required by 12 months after gazettal.

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10. Final date for comments: Domestic comments close 15 December 1999. Comments from WTO Members will be accepted until 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
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Australia

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