WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/SPS/GEN/57
23 February 1998
(98-0663)

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
Original: English

DRAFT EC REGULATION - AFLATOXIN CONTROL

Submission by Thailand

The following communication was received from Thailand on 16 February 1998, identifying questions which Thailand intends to raise at the meeting of 12-13 March 1998.

Comments on G/SPS/N/EEC/51

1. As stated in the notification, the setting of maximum levels for Aflatoxin B1 and total aflatoxin is due to the concern of public health. It must be noted that the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants (CCFAC) has not yet agreed upon the maximum levels of Aflatoxin nor the testing methodology in various products. Therefore, it is appropriate for Members to set up their standards after the conclusion of the CCFAC. The next meeting of CCFAC is scheduled in the Netherlands, 9-13 March 1998. Thailand would like to seek the reaction of the European Communities to the above statement.

2. Aflatoxin M1 is a metabolic product of Aflatoxin B1 and is present in the milk and milk products of animals which have consumed contaminated feed. If our understanding is correct, the level of aflatoxin in raw materials for use in feedingstuffs must be controlled not to exceed the maximum level in order to meet the acceptance level of Aflatoxin M1.

- Could the European Commission please explain how to control and to sample the raw materials? Are there any differences in controlling and sampling between products intended for direct human consumption and products for animal feed?

- Could the European Commission also indicate the types of raw material for use in animal feed?

- Will the European Commission plan to assist or transfer technology to exporting developing countries to control aflatoxin before their products are exported to the European Communities?

3. The European Commission has mentioned various products normally contaminated with aflatoxin, namely groundnuts, nuts, dried fruit, cereals and so on.

- Could the European Commission kindly indicate the types of importing cereal in which are commonly found aflatoxin beyond the maximum levels?
