



18 December 2014

(14-7335)

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

**NOTIFICATION**

1.	<b>Notifying Member:</b> AUSTRALIA <b>If applicable, name of local government involved:</b>
2.	<b>Agency responsible:</b> Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ)
3.	<b>Products covered (provide tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO; ICS numbers should be provided in addition, where applicable):</b> Raw apricot kernels either unhulled (with skin) or hulled (without skin).
4.	<b>Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All trading partners <input type="checkbox"/> Specific regions or countries:
5.	<b>Title of the notified document:</b> Proposal P1016 Hydrocyanic acid in Apricot Kernels & Other Foods <b>Language(s):</b> English <b>Number of pages:</b> 20 <a href="http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/proposals/Pages/proposalp1016hydrocy5438.aspx">http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/proposals/Pages/proposalp1016hydrocy5438.aspx</a>
6.	<b>Description of content:</b> This Proposal seeks to amend the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code for hydrocyanic acid in raw apricot kernels.  In order to manage the potential risks of consumption of raw apricot kernels, FSANZ has prepared a draft food regulatory measure to prohibit the sale of raw apricot kernels both unhulled (with skin) and hulled (without skin). This prohibition would also apply to any substance derived from raw apricot kernels (ground, milled, cracked, chopped) with an exemption for apricots containing raw apricot kernels, alcoholic beverages, oil, flavourings, stone fruit juices, marzipan, cakes, biscuits and confectionery.  Background:  There has been a number of poisoning incidences in both Australia and New Zealand following consumption of raw apricot kernels that contained high levels of hydrocyanic acid (HCN). This poses an ongoing risk for Australian and New Zealand consumers that need to be managed to avoid future poisoning incidences.  All proposals to change the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code, must be assessed in the context of the following objectives: (a) the protection of public health and safety; (b) the provision of adequate information relating to food to enable consumers to make informed choices; and (c) the prevention of misleading or deceptive conduct.
7.	<b>Objective and rationale:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> food safety, <input type="checkbox"/> animal health, <input type="checkbox"/> plant protection, <input type="checkbox"/> protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, <input type="checkbox"/> protect territory from other damage from pests.

8.	<p><b>Is there a relevant international standard? If so, identify the standard:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Codex Alimentarius Commission</b> (e.g. title or serial number of Codex standard or related text)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)</b> (e.g. Terrestrial or Aquatic Animal Health Code, chapter number)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>International Plant Protection Convention</b> (e.g. ISPM number)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>None</b></p> <p><b>Does this proposed regulation conform to the relevant international standard?</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><b>If no, describe, whenever possible, how and why it deviates from the international standard:</b></p>
9.	<p><b>Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available:</b>  Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (available in English).</p>
10.	<p><b>Proposed date of adoption (dd/mm/yy):</b> Anticipated May 2015.</p> <p><b>Proposed date of publication (dd/mm/yy):</b> Anticipated June 2015.</p>
11.	<p><b>Proposed date of entry into force:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Six months from date of publication, and/or (dd/mm/yy): Anticipated August 2015.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Trade facilitating measure</b></p>
12.	<p><b>Final date for comments:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Sixty days from the date of circulation of the notification and/or (dd/mm/yy): 20 February 2015</p> <p><b>Agency or authority designated to handle comments:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> National Notification Authority, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:</p> <p>Food Standards Australia New Zealand  PO Box 7186  Canberra BC ACT 2610  Australia  E-mail: standards.management@foodstandards.gov.au</p>
13.	<p><b>Text(s) available from:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> National Notification Authority, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:</p> <p>The Australian SPS Enquiry Point  GPO Box 858  Canberra ACT 2601  Australia  E-mail: sps.contact@agriculture.gov.au</p>