AGRICULTURE DOCUMENTATION
INVENTORY OF NON-TARIFF MEASURES
Marketing Standards and Packaging- and Labelling
Regulations for Products in CCCN Chapters 1-24

Notified by:
ARGENTINA

I. Introductory Note by the Secretariat:

1. The present document updates document MTN/3E/DOC/12/Add.1 of 30 April 1975, relating to Argentina, which contained a notification and comments by Switzerland, stating, inter alia, that in Argentina all imported products must bear the importers name and that, as a general rule, regulations in regard to packing, its stamping and the languages to be employed were unduly strict and constituted an obstacle to trade.

2. Argentina in its comments then observed that products would have to be marked in one way or another and that they did not consider the regulations to be a barrier to trade.

3. In response to GATT/AIR/1781 the Delegation of Argentina has now supplied additional information and comments of relevance in the consideration of measures covered in the AG/DOC/7- series. The additional information and comments are set out on page 2.

This document is one in a series which updates the information originally circulated in the MTN/3E/DOC/12 and Addenda series. For non-tariff measures (NTM) other than those covered by this document please refer to document AG/DOC/1 which provides an overview of the way in which NTM information is organized within the AG/DOC/- series.
II. Notification by Argentina

With reference to document MTN/3E/DOC/12/Add.1, regarding marketing standards and packing- and labelling regulations in respect of agricultural products, Argentina wishes to state the following:

LABELLING

1. In order to be approved by the Minister of Public Health and the Environment, imported foodstuffs must bear an additional label on each retail unit indicating: (A) name of importer; (B) business address; (C) country of origin; (D) net content; (E) (F) numbers in the respective National Foodstuffs Register (RNE) and (RNPA). It should be underlined that in respect of foodstuffs processed by the domestic industry, the data required are similar to those in respect of imported goods; in addition, it is not compulsory for these data to be indicated on the original packaging of imported goods; they may be indicated on an additional label affixed to the packaging.

2. Imported products of animal origin. Under Resolution No. 154/81 of the National Animal Health Service, relating to pigmeat and pigmeat products, an indication is required to the effect that the meat comes from animals free of any infectious or contagious disease or parasites. For dead poultry and eggs for consumption an indication is required as to whether they are fresh or frozen. It should be noted that the above-mentioned Resolution has simplified all the requirements to be met by imported products of this kind.

3. Imported products of vegetable origin. The provisions on labelling for these products are set forth in Article 36 of Law No. 4086 of 1902 and subsequent implementing regulations. There have been no recent amendments.

PACKAGING

1. Standardization. Under Resolution No. 2113/80 the Department of State for Trade established general rules for the packaging of various foodstuffs which correspond to the rules in force in other State agencies, thus eliminating any possible obstacles to competition between imported and domestic products because of content-standardization problems.

2. As regards imported products of animal origin, the requirements are those in effect for domestic production, as set forth in Implementing Decree no. 4238 for the Federal Meat Law.

3. As regards imported products of vegetable origin, the relevant legislation is Law No. 4084 and its implementing provisions, prohibiting the bulk import of fruit, except bananas. The fruit must be packed in the country of origin and the packaging must be new and of the standard type adopted in the fruit exporting countries.

As regards the sanitary and foodstuffs aspects, admission of foodstuffs, whether of animal or vegetable origin, is subject to the provisions of the Argentina Foodstuffs Code, Decree No. 4238 for livestock products and derived products, and Law No. 4048 for the import of vegetables.