This document is one in a series which updates the information originally circulated in the MTN/3E/DOC/12 and Addenda series; more specifically, this document — based on a recent communication from Japan — reaffirms the validity of the comments by Japan circulated in MTN/3E/DOC/12/Add.8/Rev.1 in respect of non-tariff-measure notifications against Japan by Canada, Romania and Switzerland for certain products classifiable under CCCN headings 04.04, 18.06 and 20.07. The text of the earlier notifications and the comments by Japan are reproduced, mutatis mutandis, in this AG/DOC/ series document for convenience of reference. As regards notifications of 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.
Product: Cheese and curd (04.04)

(a) Description:
Packaging-and labelling regulations for cheese: packages must weigh at least 860 grams.

(b) Comments by other countries:
Romania - The packaging regulations for cheese require that every package shall weigh at least 860 grams; this restricts the market to the collective consumption segment (restaurants, canteens).

(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:
Imports of cheese (excluding natural cheese) are also subject to global quota (see AG/DOC/2/JPN/1, page 8). Imports of processed cheese are only permitted for the use by 'big consumers' (hotels, restaurants, catering services, etc.) and for this reason packages must be of a certain minimum size. The purpose of this measure is to distinguish this importation from other general importations.

September 1982
Product: Chocolate and other food preparations containing cocoa (18.06)

Country or group maintaining measures:

Japan

Countries indicating an interest:

Switzerland

(a) **Description:**

Marketing standards and packaging and labelling regulations for imports of chocolate (ex 18.06).

(b) **Comments by other countries:**

Switzerland - The regulations are complicated and strict. There is even a rule which lays down the maximum permitted percentage of empty space.

Indications have to be in Japanese (description of the product, ingredients, net weight, name and address of importer; this latter requirement is an obstacle to exporters).

Indication of the weight in ounces is forbidden.

(c) **Comments by country maintaining the measures:**

The FOOD SANITATION LAW requires, for all processed food, labelling of certain factors such as name of the product, importer's name and address.

In addition, for chocolate products, a fair competition rule on labelling has been established as an autonomous regulation by the industry itself with the approval of the Fair Trading Commission for the purpose of protecting consumers' interests in making their choice. This regulation requires labelling of the type of the product, the name and address of the manufacturer or importer, material etc. It also prohibits misleading representation such as superfluous packaging.

As to packaging, setting up a guideline for proper packaging (including the question of tolerated empty space) is under examination.

The requirement that importers (not exporters) should indicate the type of the product - material (no requirement for ingredients) - net weights - etc. in Japanese is a measure necessary to protect domestic consumers' interest and similar measures have also been adopted in many other countries.

It is prescribed that only metric measurements be used in any domestic trade. It might be noted that the Japanese traditional measurement system is also outlawed so as to achieve unification of the measurement system.

The above-mentioned regulations have their proper purpose and have been set up taking into account the practices of trade, the opinions of importers concerned and the international general standard for labelling recommended by FAO/WHO. They apply both to domestic and imported products. Therefore, these regulations should not be regarded as measures which unduly distort trade of chocolate products.
## Product:

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### Fruit juices (including grape must) and vegetable juices, whether or not containing added sugar or spirit. (20.07)

### (a) Description:

Packaging and labelling regulations

### (b) Comments by other countries:

**Romania** - The packaging regulations require packaging either in cans or in bottles closed with corks or screw caps. As a consequence, although Japanese importers have asked Romanian exporters for quotations, the latter have been unable to export their products because they are packaged in bottles with metal seals.

### (c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

Regardless of the type of top used, what is important is that the container must be properly sealed so as to guarantee the sanitary condition of the contents.

September 1982