NOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.4.

1. Party to Agreement notifying: FINLAND

2. Agency responsible: National Board of Trade and Consumer Affairs

3. Notified under Article 2.5.2 [x], 2.6.1 [], 7.3.2 [], 7.4.1 [], Other:

4. Products covered (HS where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading):

   Foodstuffs

5. Title: Decision of the National Board of Trade and Consumer Affairs on the Amendment of the Decision on Food Additives (available in Finnish and in Swedish, 26 pages)

6. Description of content: The Decision of the National Board of Trade and Consumer Affairs on Food Additives specifies the food additives that are permitted to be used in foodstuffs and prescribes the manner in which their use shall be declared on retail packings.

   In the proposed amendment certain regulations concerning food additives have been harmonized so as to comply, in some cases, with corresponding regulations valid in other Nordic countries (e.g. in respect of beverages and confectionery) and in some cases with the Codex standards (e.g. in respect of foodstuffs made of or containing fish, cheese, cereals or vinegar). In the proposed amendment propellants and packing gases are also counted among food additives. Their use and declaration are governed by specific regulations. Altogether eleven new food additives have been accepted for use in foodstuffs (crosscarmellose, L-cysteine hydrochloride, propylene glycol, triethyl citrate, nitrogen, oxygen, carbon dioxide, butane, isobutane, propane and dinitrogen monoxide). The foodstuffs, in which the accepted additives can be used, are specified in an Annex to the Decision. The use of erythorbic acid and its sodium salt as a food additive will no longer be permitted.

   Salt (sodium chloride) is regarded as a food additive in Finland. In the revised decision it is referred to as a product of common salt. It covers products containing sodium chloride and used in the same manner as common salt. In products of common salt part of the salt's sodium has been replaced by other salts or substances. The substances replacing sodium in products of common salt are regarded as food additives.
6. Description of content (cont'd):

Undelayed entry into force of the Decision is justified because the Decision provides a means of harmonizing the laws and regulations at Nordic level as well as with the Codex Alimentarius standards; thus reducing barriers to trade. The Decision diminishes importers' and manufacturers' need to apply for exemptions regarding additives from the National Board of Trade and Consumer Affairs. The tightened regulations in the Decision pertain primarily to domestic industry.

7. Objective and rationale: Health protection

8. Relevant documents: The Decision will be published in the Statutes of Finland


10. Final date for comments:

11. Texts available from: National enquiry point [x] or address of other body: