

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

TBT/Notif.90.260

14 September 1990

TARIFFS AND TRADE

Special Distribution

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

NOTIFICATION

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

1. Party to Agreement notifying: <u>UNITED KINGDOM</u>
2. Agency responsible: Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
3. Notified under Article 2.5.2 [X], 2.6.1 [], 7.3.2 [], 7.4.1 [], Other:
4. Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading): All food
5. Title: Tin in Food Regulations
6. Description of content: The draft Regulations prohibit the sale and importation of food containing tin at a level of more than 200 mg/kg. Food containing tin exceeding that limit may be treated as being unfit for human consumption and be liable for seizure and destruction.
7. Objective and rationale: The objective is to safeguard public health. The Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) has stated that the threshold for acute forms of gastric irritation appears to be about 200 mg/kg. in food. A small, but significant proportion of canned food continues to contain levels of tin above this. The UK Food Advisory Committee recommended that in view of this a statutory limit should be introduced.
8. Relevant documents: Draft Tin in Food Regulations
9. Proposed dates of adoption and entry into force: End of 1990
10. Final date for comments: 10 October 1990
11. Texts available from: National enquiry point [] or address of other body: Food Safety Division, Room 429E, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Ergon House, 17 Smith Square, <u>London, SW1P 3JR</u>