

**GENERAL AGREEMENT  
ON TARIFFS AND TRADE**

**RESTRICTED**  
**TBT/Notif.94.11**  
19 January 1994  
Special Distribution

(94-0088)

**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>NETHERLANDS</u>
2.	Agency responsible: Ministry of Transport and Public Works
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. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable): -
5.	Title and number of pages of the notified document: Dentist Surgeries Discharging Order Draft (15 pages)
6.	Description of content: Amalgam separators. The order contains regulations concerning the discharging from dentist surgeries into the sewage system of amalgam, photographic liquids and disinfectants present in waste water which are emitted into surface water. It is intended that by applying these regulations, emissions of amalgam, photographic liquids and disinfectants from dentist surgeries will be reduced. For this reason, the use of installations is prescribed which meet certain requirements. To reduce amalgam emissions, the installation of one or more amalgam separators is prescribed. An amalgam separator must remove at least 95 per cent of the amalgam present in the water at a maximum flow rate of waste water containing amalgam indicated by a supplier thereof. The removal yield is to be recorded in a test certificate, issued or ratified by the Institut für Bautechnik in Berlin or the Statens Provningsanstalt in Stockholmsheten (Sweden). Equipment available on the Dutch market is mainly of Swedish and German origin. Because of the restricted volume on the Dutch market, the testing methods developed in Sweden and Germany are applied to assess the admissibility on the market.

7. **Objective and rationale:** The number of connections for discharging into the sewage system from dentist surgeries is approximately 6,000. The third national policy document on water management indicates the wish to reduce emissions of heavy metals, including mercury from dentist surgeries. Government policy was tightened at the Rhine Ministerial Conference of 3 November 1989 and the North Sea Ministerial Conference on 6 and 7 March 1990.

In the letter of 22 November 1990, the Minister for Transport and Public works notified the Chairman of the Lower Chamber of her intention to draw up general rules for the present discharging category, based on the Act governing the pollution of surface waters.

8. **Relevant documents:**

1. Pollution of Surface Waters Act (staatsblad 1992, 628).
2. Dentists' covenant of 23 February 1991.
3. CUWVO report "the issue of Waste Water in dental care" of February 1990.

9. **Proposed date of adoption and entry into force:** 30 June 1994

10. **Final date for comments:** 31 January 1994

11. **Texts available from:** National enquiry point [X] or address and telefax number of other body: