

**GENERAL AGREEMENT
ON TARIFFS AND TRADE**

RESTRICTED
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4 October 1994
Special Distribution

(94-1996)

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 Health, Welfare and Sports
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): Vitamin preparations
5.	Title and number of pages of the notified document: Draft Amendment to Exempt Vitamin Preparations From the Food and Drugs Act (2 pages)
6.	Description of content: The exemption of vitamin preparations from the Food and Drugs Act has been in force in the Netherlands since 30 March 1994. This exemption regulation provides for the exemption from the ban to trade in vitamin preparations under certain conditions. One of these conditions is that the label on the external packaging shall specify the following: "een evenwichtige voeding bevat voldoende vitamines" (a balanced diet contains a sufficient intake of vitamins). However, regarding the vitamin folic acid, this appears to be incorrect. The obligation to use the above-mentioned specification can therefore not apply to a vitamin preparation whose main aim is to supply folic acid only. The draft has modified the present exemption regulation accordingly.
7.	Objective and rationale: In the Netherlands, approximately 300 children are born every year with a neural tube defect: a deficient development of the nervous system, leading to, among other things, spina bifida. Various research has shown that the intake of the vitamin preparation folic acid can reduce the risk of such disorder by 50 per cent. The extra daily quantity of folio acid required is 0.4 to 0.5 milligrammes and is ideally administered in the form of tablets.
8.	Relevant documents: Warenwetbesluit Bereiding en behandeling van levensmiddalen, Warenwetregeling Vrijstelling vitaminepreparaten.

9.	Proposed date of adoption and entry into force: 31 March 1995
10.	Final date for comments: 26 November 1994
11.	Texts available from: National enquiry point <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or address and telefax number of other body: