

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

TARIFFS AND TRADE

TBT/Spec/22
15 June 1990

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

Original: English

COMMENTS OF AUSTRIA ON THE NOTIFICATION BY SWEDEN
ON IMPREGNATED WOOD (TBT/NOTIF.90.85)

The following communication, dated 6 June 1990, has been received from the delegation of Austria.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you the copy of a letter addressed to the Permanent Mission of Sweden, with the request to circulate the Austrian comments to signatories of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(signed)
Richard Hochörtler
Deputy Permanent
Representative

Mr. Arthur Dunkel
Director-General
GATT
Geneva

Geneva, 6 June 1990

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

With reference to notification TBT/Notif.90.85 my authorities have instructed me to transmit to you the following comments:

It is to be noted that wood protective agents in Austria may undergo a voluntary examination by a respective commission. An approval in the form of a certificate of recognition will be given only if documents issued by authorized Austrian institutes can be submitted confirming the effectiveness and absence of any health hazard. The health test of wood protective agents also includes environmental parameters.

Restrictions of the type and scope of application based on toxicological examinations are not as restrictive as are the relevant Swedish provisions. A topical list of products tested and admitted by the examination commission for wood protective agents is contained in the Austrian Register for Wood Protective Agents (18th edition 1990).

In addition we would mention that a precise definition of the term "constituting a danger to the environment" has as yet not been laid down in the Chemical Act (F.L.G. No. 208 of 1989 05 11) and an anticipation of the respective regulations would appear inadequate.

A copy of this letter has been sent to the Director-General of GATT.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(signed)
Richard Hochörtler
Deputy Permanent
Representative

H.E. Mr. Lars E.R. Anell
Ambassador
Permanent Mission of Sweden
9-11, rue de Varembé
Geneva

TARIFFS AND TRADE

Special Distribution

Committee on Technical Barriers to TradeNOTIFICATION

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

1. Party to Agreement notifying: <u>SWEDEN</u>
2. Agency responsible: The National Chemicals Inspectorate
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): Impregnated wood
5. Title: Draft Regulation on Impregnated Wood (3 pages)
6. Description of content: The regulation will apply to wood and other wood materials that have been treated with wood preservatives. It contains requirements concerning fixation, limitations of the field of use, information at the time of transfer and labelling.
7. Objective and rationale: Protection of human safety and health and of the environment
8. Relevant documents: The Act and Ordinance on Chemical Products (SFS 1985:426 and SFS 1985:835)
9. Proposed dates of adoption and entry into force: Adoption: To be determined later Entry into force: 1 January 1991
10. Final date for comments: 18 May 1990
11. Texts available from: National enquiry point [X] or address of other body: