

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/SPS/N/AUS/115

5 May 2000

(00-1846)

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

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| 1. | Member to Agreement notifying: <u>AUSTRALIA</u> If applicable, name of local government involved: |
| 2. | Agency responsible: Australia Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) |
| 3. | Products covered (provide tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO; ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable). Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable: Australia's importation policy relating to live pinnipeds |
| 4. | Title and number of pages of the notified document: Import risk analyses: Pinnipeds – Draft IRA Report (62 pages) |
| 5. | Description of content: The report proposes conditions for the importation of all pinniped species, including seals, sea lions, and walruses, from all countries into Australia. Phocine distemper virus is considered to be the disease of greatest quarantine concern, Australia's wild seal populations appear not to have been exposed to this agent, and therefore may be highly susceptible. As few of the diseases affecting pinnipeds are covered in the OIE International Animal Health Code (<i>Code</i>) AQIS has proposed requirements based on available knowledge of these diseases. |
| 6. | Objective and rationale: <input type="checkbox"/> food safety, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> animal health, <input type="checkbox"/> plant protection, <input type="checkbox"/> protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, <input type="checkbox"/> protect territory from other damage from pests |
| 7. | An international standard, guideline or recommendation does not exist <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> . If an international standard, guideline or recommendation exists, give the appropriate reference and briefly identify deviations: |
| 8. | Relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available: Available in English |
| 9. | Proposed date of adoption: 8 September 2000 |
| 10. | Proposed date of entry into force: 8 September 2000 |
| 11. | Final date for comments: 25 June 2000 Agency or authority designated to handle comments: <input type="checkbox"/> National notification authority, <input type="checkbox"/> National enquiry point, or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body: |
| 12. | Texts available from: <input type="checkbox"/> National notification authority, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National enquiry point or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body: |