

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/SPS/N/AUS/125

29 January 2001

(01-0444)

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

NOTIFICATION OF EMERGENCY MEASURES

1.	Member to Agreement notifying: <u>AUSTRALIA</u> If applicable, name of local government involved:
2.	Agency responsible: Australia New Zealand Food Authority (ANZFA)
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). Suspension on importation into Australia of all beef and beef-based products. Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable: 30 countries - Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Croatia, Denmark, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Finland, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom.
4.	Title and number of pages of the notified document: Australian Government Press Release of 5 January 2001 ('Australia to extend suspension on imported beef products to other European countries') available at www.anzfa.gov.au .
5.	Description of content: On 5 January 2001 the Australian Federal Government announced, as an emergency measure, that all beef and beef-based products from 30 countries have been temporarily suspended from importation and withdrawn from sale in Australia pending scientific risk assessment of the exposure of the BSE agent to humans through consumption of beef products sourced from the specified countries. The temporary suspension and withdrawal came into effect on Monday 8 January as an interim measure under Australia's <i>Imported Food Control Act</i> , and is in response to the increasing number of BSE cases in European countries other than the United Kingdom. Certification procedures and a new national food standard are being developed alongside a comprehensive risk assessment process. These temporary import restrictions exclude the following: (i) gelatine (ii) fats and tallow (iii) milk and dairy products (iv) collagen made from skin and hides and (v) artificial beef flavours and associated products.
6.	Objective and rationale: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> food safety, <input 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.	Nature of the urgent problem(s): Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) – related measure
8.	An international standard, guideline or recommendation does not exist <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> . If an international standard, guideline or recommendation exists, give its appropriate reference and briefly identify deviations:

9.	Relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available: Section 3 (a) (ii) of the <i>Imported Food Control Act 1992</i> (Available in English at www.aqis.gov.au/docs/cleb/ifcatoc.htm)
10.	Date of entry into force/period of application (as applicable): 8 January 2001
11.	Texts available from/and agency or authority designated to handle comments: [X] National notification authority, [] National enquiry point or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body: Information is available from the Australia New Zealand Food Authority website (www.anzfa.gov.au). Also available from: Information Officer Australia New Zealand Food Authority PO Box 7186 Canberra Mail Centre ACT 2610 Australia Fax: (+61) 2 62712278 E-mail: info@anzfa.gov.au