

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/SPS/N/AUS/130

25 July 2001

(01-3690)

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). Soy sauces (Tariff number: 2103 10 00 14) and oyster sauces or products containing soy sauce or oyster sauce as an ingredient (Tariff number: 2103 90 00 18) Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable: World wide
4.	Title and number of pages of the notified document: Australian Government Press Release of 22 June 2001 ("ANZFA issues warning on consumption of soy sauce") available at www.anzfa.gov.au .
5.	Description of content: On 22 June 2001 the Australia New Zealand Authority (ANZFA) announced, as an emergency provision, that all soy and oyster sauce based products exported to Australia will be held at the border by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service and tested for 3-monochloropropane-1,2-diol (3-MCPD). Products that exceed a limit of 0.02 mg/kg for 3-MCPD will be refused entry to the Australian market. The action is in response to the recent withdrawal of a range of soy- and oyster-based products from the United Kingdom after surveys showed unacceptable levels of the chloropropanols 3-MCPD and 1,3-chloropropanol (1,3-DCP). ANZFA is undertaking a survey to test for both 3-MCPD and 1,3-DCP in soy and oyster sauce products on sale in Australia. ANZFA is also proposing to amend the Food Standards Code to set an upper limit for chloropropanols in soy and oyster sauces in Australia.
6.	Objective and rationale: [X] food safety, [] animal health, [] plant protection, [] protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, [] protect territory from other damage from pests
7.	Nature of the urgent problem(s): Potential presence of carcinogens 3-MCPD and 1,3-DCP in soy and oyster sauce products sold in Australia.
8.	An international standard, guideline or recommendation does not exist []. If an international standard, guideline or recommendation exists, give its appropriate reference and briefly identify deviations: Measure is consistent with the European Commission's legal maximum limit of 0.02mg/kg for 3-MCPD (established in March 2001 and due to come into force in April 2002).

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): 22 June 2001
11.	Texts available from/and agency or authority designated to handle comments: [] National notification authority, [X] National enquiry point or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body: