

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/SPS/N/AUS/168

4 August 2004

(04-3331)

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: Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) |
| 3. | Products covered (provide tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO; ICS numbers should be provided in addition, where applicable): Foods in general. |
| 4. | Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable: All Countries. Imported (as well as domestically produced) foods sold in Australia. |
| 5. | Title, language and number of pages of the notified document: Assessment Reports for Maximum Residue Limits Application A538 (26 pages in English). |
| 6. | Description of content: This Application seeks to amend the <i>Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code</i> (the Code) to align maximum residue limits (MRLs) for benzocaine in abalone and finfish and so that they are consistent with other national regulations relating to the safe and effective use of agricultural and veterinary chemicals. In administrative terms and consistent with international practice, MRLs assist in regulating the use of agricultural and veterinary chemical products. MRLs indicate whether agricultural and veterinary chemical products have been used in accordance with the registered conditions of use. MRLs in the Code also act to protect public health and public safety by ensuring that chemical residues are no higher than necessary, and act as international trading standards. The MRLs prescribed in the Code constitute a mandatory requirement applying to all food products of a particular class, whether produced domestically or imported. Food products with a residue that exceeds the relevant MRL set out in the Code cannot legally be supplied or sold in Australia. This Application contains variations to MRLs, which are not addressed in the Codex Alimentarius Commission standard. These MRLs may also relate to chemicals used in the production of heavily traded agricultural commodities, which may indirectly affect trade of derivative food products between WTO Members. |
| 7. | 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 |
| 8. | International standard, guideline or recommendation: <input type="checkbox"/> Codex Alimentarius Commission, <input type="checkbox"/> World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), <input type="checkbox"/> International Plant Protection Convention, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None If an international standard, guideline or recommendation exists, give the appropriate reference and briefly identify deviations: |

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| 9. | Relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available: <i>Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code</i> (Available in English). |
| 10. | Proposed date of adoption: Notification to Government anticipated late 2004 with adoption (gazettal) to follow, pending Government consideration. |
| 11. | Proposed date of entry into force: Date of Gazettal pending Government consideration (see 10. above). |
| 12. | <p>Final date for comments: 1 October 2004</p> <p>Agency or authority designated to handle comments: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National notification authority, <input type="checkbox"/> National enquiry point, or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body:</p> <p>Food Standards Australia New Zealand PO Box 7186 Canberra BC ACT 2610 Australia Fax: + 61 2 6271 2278 E-mail: info@foodstandards.gov.au</p> |
| 13. | <p>Texts available from: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National notification authority, <input type="checkbox"/> National enquiry point, or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body: Documents are available from the Food Standards Australia New Zealand website: www.foodstandards.gov.au/standardsdevelopment.</p> <p>Copies are also available from: The Australian SPS Notification Point GPO Box 858 CANBERRA ACT 2601 AUSTRALIA Fax: +61 2 6272 3678 Email: sps.contact@affa.gov.au</p> |