

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/SPS/N/CHE/4
19 December 1996

(96-5364)

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

NOTIFICATION

1.	Member to Agreement notifying: <u>SWITZERLAND</u> If applicable, name of local government involved:
2.	Agency responsible: Swiss Federal Veterinary Office, CH-3097 Liebefeld-Berne
3.	Products covered (tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable): 0102, 0104
4.	Title and number of pages of the notified document: (a) Conditions for the import of bovines (4 pages, available in German and French) (b) Conditions for the import of ovines and caprines (4 pages, available in German and French)
5.	Description of content: Amendment to the import conditions issued on 3 October 1988 (bovines) and 20 January 1989 (ovines and caprines), adding the provision that the animals must originate from a country where the feeding of ruminants with mammalian proteins (except milk and milk derivatives) is legally prohibited. The animals must be born at least 18 months after such a feed ban was introduced.
6.	Objective and rationale: Prevention of BSE / Protection of human health and safety. Switzerland has introduced a legal ban to feed meat meal, bone meal etc. to ruminants already in 1990. When exporting live animals, Switzerland guarantees that the animals are born at least 18 months after the introduction of the feed ban. The proposed amendment aims at ensuring that animals imported from abroad have the same status regarding a possible exposure to BSE as Swiss animals.
7.	An international standard, guideline or recommendation does not exist [X]. If an international standard, guideline or recommendation exists, whenever possible, identify deviations: The proposed amendment is in compliance with recommendation contained in Article 3.2.13.4 of the International Animal Health Code which focuses on the import of cattle from countries with a low incidence of BSE. It is, however, applied on all countries, as there is no internationally agreed standard to define a country as "free from BSE", because the minimum requirements for an effective surveillance are not defined yet. There exists no corresponding standard for sheep and goats so far.

8.	Relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available: Legal basis: Ordinance on the import, transit and export of animals and animal products of 20 April 1988
9.	Proposed date of adoption: Not stated.
10.	Proposed date of entry into force: 01.01.1997
11.	Final date for comments: 20.12.1996 Agency or authority designated to handle comments:
12.	Texts available from: National enquiry point [] or address, telefax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body: Swiss Federal Veterinary Office Schwarzenburgstrasse 161 CH-3097 Liebefeld-Berne Switzerland Tel: + 41-31-323 85 17 Fax: + 41-31-323 85 22