

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

NOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.6.

1.	Member to Agreement notifying: <u>NETHERLANDS</u> If applicable, name of local government involved (Articles 3.2 and 7.2):
2.	Agency responsible: Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries Agency or authority designated to handle comments regarding the notification shall be indicated if different from above: National Enquiry Point
3.	Notified under Article 2.9.2 [X], 2.10.1 [], 5.6.2 [], 5.7.1 [], other:
4.	Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable): Milk powder
5.	Title, number of pages and language(s) of the notified document: Agricultural Quality Regulation on Milk Powder
6.	Description of content: The Agricultural Quality Regulation on Milk Powder contains conditions under which producers (from the Netherlands, from EC-Member States and third countries) may utilise a brand name established by this Regulation for milk powder described in this Regulation. The conditions for use of the brand name pertain to the raw materials used and the quality thereof. There are also restrictions on the use of additives. Lastly, a few requirements are to be met by the final product and the packaging thereof.
7.	Objective and rationale, including the nature of urgent problems where applicable: Based on the Agricultural Quality Act, an extensive system was set up in 1982 (so prior to the notification obligation) regarding the quality of milk powder. The key aim of this system was to promote the sale of milk powder by prescribing a compulsory quality level of milk powder which applies to all Dutch producers. The Dutch government has decided to considerably simplify this system, partly because a system as described above no longer fits in with the current views on the sharing of responsibility between the government and industry. It is, however, not desirable to abolish this quality system for milk powder completely. In order to provide for a quality system under public law which ties in more with current views on the sharing of responsibility between the

<p>government and industry, the present Regulation has been drawn up. The main differences compared to the previous Regulation are that the quality system is completely optional, whilst the previous Regulation was compulsory. Also, the quality system for milk powder is limited to milk powder intended for export to third countries. Another difference is that the proposed Regulation contains only one quality system with one milk powder quality level, whilst the previous Regulation contained various quality levels. Also, the proposed Regulation contains fewer quality requirements regarding milk powder.</p>	
8.	Relevant documents: (a) Agricultural Quality Act (b) Agricultural Quality Decree on Dairy Products
9.	Proposed date of adoption: 13 March 1998 Proposed date of entry into force: 16 March 1998
10.	Final date for comments: 12 March 1998
11.	Texts available from: National enquiry point [X] or address, e-mail and telefax number of other body: