

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/TBT/N/ARG/134
29 August 2003

(03-4529)

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

Original: Spanish

NOTIFICATION

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

1.	Member to Agreement notifying: <u>ARGENTINA</u> If applicable, name of local government involved (Articles 3.2 and 7.2):
2.	Agency responsible: Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food (SAGPA) Name and address (including telephone and fax numbers, e-mail and web-site addresses, if available) of agency or authority designated to handle comments regarding the notification shall be indicated if different from above: <i>Idem</i> 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): Genetically modified animal organisms (GMAOs)
5.	Title, number of pages and language(s) of the notified document: Release of Genetically Modified Animal Organisms (GMAOs) into the Environment (15 pages, in Spanish)
6.	Description of content: Requirements and application forms for authorization management in respect of projects involving experimentation on genetically modified animal organisms and/or their release into the environment. " ...Authorizations for projects involving experimentation on genetically modified animal organisms and/or their release into the environment shall be granted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food (SAGPA) ... " " ...The information contained in the application shall be used solely for the purpose of assessing the advisability of granting authorizations for projects involving experimentation on GMAOs of agricultural interest and/or their release into the environment. Experimentation on GMAOs and/or their release into the environment without the necessary licence issued by the competent authority are expressly forbidden ... " " ... Every application for the authorization of projects involving experimentation on GMAOs and/or their release into the environment, in which the applicant seeks to carry out activities involving the use of genetically modified material, such as infection with pathogens, infestation with parasites, or sampling of material, must be accompanied by the corresponding protocol setting out all the data used by the professional in charge of the operation.

6.	<p>Description of content: (cont'd)</p> <p>Imports of material(s) for experiments must comply with the animal health and quarantine regulations in force.</p> <p>The genetically modified animal organism and/or products thereof, including reproductive material, shall be subject to animal health regulations established by the competent authority to prevent direct threats to human and/or animal health or general effects on the environment ... "</p> <p>" ... The applicant shall be responsible at all times for maintaining the conditions of biosecurity and risk management specified in the authorization to supplement projects involving experimentation on GMAOs and/or their release into the environment. This responsibility shall obtain during the conduct of the experiment and the period following its conclusion, as prescribed by CONABIA (National Advisory Committee on Agricultural Biotechnology) ... "</p> <p>" ... CONABIA shall receive immediate oral notification, and written notification within TWENTY-FOUR (24) hours, in the following cases: accidental release of a genetically modified animal organism and/or products thereof; if the characteristics of a genetically modified animal organism or associated host organism turn out to be different to those expected, or if any abnormal situation arises (excessive mortality, illness or unforeseen effect on other organisms) ... "</p> <p>" ... If a GMAO should escape, the applicant shall inform the technical coordination office of CONABIA immediately and execute the contingency plan provided for in the application ... "</p> <p>" ... If the applicant wishes any of the information required in the application to remain confidential, this should be indicated by the letters ICE (<i>Información Confidencial Eliminada</i> – Confidential Information Omitted), inscribed on the face of the application and at the relevant points in the body of the text ... "</p> <p>" ... The authorization management process shall be validly completed when the proper conduct of the authorized projects has been verified and a favourable assessment has been made of the required reports ..."</p>
7.	<p>Objective and rationale, including the nature of urgent problems where applicable: Protection of health and the environment</p>
8.	<p>Relevant documents: SAGPA Resolution No. 57/2003</p>
9.	<p>Proposed date of adoption: 24 July 2003 (Official Journal)</p> <p>Proposed date of entry into force: 25 July 2003</p>
10.	<p>Final date for comments: Not indicated</p>

- 11. Texts available from: National enquiry point [X] or address, telephone and fax numbers, e-mail and web-site addresses, if available of the other body:**

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