

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/SPS/N/AUS/145
20 June 2003

(03-3317)

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

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): Processed Foods
4.	Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable: All countries supplying food to Australia, as well as domestically produced foods sold in Australia.
5.	Title, language and number of pages of the notified document: Draft Assessment Report for Application A484 – Yieldgard® Insect-protected Corn containing Event MON863 (64 pages, available in English).
6.	Description of content: FSANZ has received an application to amend Standard 1.5.2 – Food Produced using Gene Technology in the <i>Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code</i> to approve the use of food products derived from corn which has been genetically modified to confer protection against the corn rootworm, a significant pest of corn crops in certain regions of the United States and Canada. Protection is conferred by expression in the plant of a bacterially derived protein toxin (a <i>Bt</i> -toxin) that is specific for beetle larvae. MON863 corn also contains a new gene encoding resistance to the antibiotic neomycin and related aminoglycoside antibiotics. MON863 corn has been developed for cultivation in the United States and Canada only, but food derived from this corn could enter the market in Australia and New Zealand via imported products, once it is grown on a commercial scale.
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 Foods produced using gene technology are required to undergo a pre-market assessment of their safety, to ensure that they are as safe as their conventional counterparts. All applications to change the <i>Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code</i> , must be assessed in the context of the following objectives: (a) the protection of public health and safety; (b) the provision of adequate information relating to food to enable consumers to make informed choices; and (c) the prevention of misleading or deceptive conduct.

<p>8. International standard, guideline or recommendation: <input type="checkbox"/> Codex Alimentarius Commission, <input type="checkbox"/> Office International des Epizooties, <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:</p>
<p>9. Relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available: <i>Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code</i> (English)</p>
<p>10. Proposed date of adoption: Notification to Government anticipated October 2003 with adoption (gazettal) to follow, pending Government consideration.</p>
<p>11. Proposed date of entry into force: Date of Gazettal pending Government consideration (see point 10 above).</p>
<p>12. Final date for comments: 25 August 2003 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: 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>
<p>13. 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. 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>