

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/SPS/N/NZL/152

8 August 2001

(01-3946)

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

NOTIFICATION OF EMERGENCY MEASURES

1.	Member to Agreement notifying: <u>NEW ZEALAND</u> If applicable, name of local government involved:
2.	Agency responsible: Ministry of Health
3.	Products covered (provide tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO; ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable). Products: Soy sauce, flavoured soy sauce, and sauce mixtures with a soy sauce base. Tariff Item No. 2103.10.00. Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable: All countries.
4.	Title and number of pages of the notified document: The New Zealand (Emergency) Food Standard (No.2) 2001 (1 page, available in English)
5.	<p>Description of content: The New Zealand (Emergency) Food Standard (No.2) 2001 was issued by the Director-General of Health on 24 July 2001. This has the effect of temporarily amending the New Zealand (Mandatory) Food Standard 1997, by adding soy sauce, flavoured soy sauce, and sauce mixtures with a soy sauce base as prescribed foods (high-risk foods). The 'condition' to be monitored for is chloropropanols. It is the potential presence of these of these chemical contaminants that makes soy sauces high-risk foods.</p> <p>The New Zealand (Emergency) Food Standard (No.2) 2001 was notified in the Gazette on 24 July 2001 and came into effect on that day. It will remain in force for a maximum period of six months or until a permanent amendment to the New Zealand (Mandatory) Food Standard is introduced (whichever is earlier).</p> <p>The Ministry of Health has set the maximum permitted limit of 3-MCPD in soy sauce, flavoured soy sauce, and sauce mixtures with a soy sauce base at 1.0mg/kg as an interim measure. This will remain in force until a risk assessment and review of the most appropriate level is complete, and then a permanent level will be applied.</p>
6.	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
7.	Nature of the urgent problem(s): Potential presence of carcinogenic chloropropanols in soy sauce, flavoured soy sauce, and sauce mixtures with a soy sauce base sold in New Zealand

8.	<p>An international standard, guideline or recommendation does not exist [X].</p> <p>If an international standard, guideline or recommendation exists, give its appropriate reference and briefly identify deviations: The interim maximum permitted limit is consistent with Canadian Food Inspection Agency's guideline limit of 1 mg/kg. It is greater than the European Commission's proposed legal maximum limit of 0.02 mg/kg (due to come into force in April 2002).</p>
9.	<p>Relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available: The New Zealand (Emergency) Food Standard (No.2) 2001 and the Ministry of Health's Standard Management Rules (available in English).</p>
10.	<p>Date of entry into force/period of application (as applicable): Imported surveillance will commence on 1 August 2001.</p>
11.	<p>Texts available from/and agency or authority designated to handle comments:</p> <p>[X] National notification authority, [] National enquiry point or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body:</p> <p>Mr Keawe Woodmore Coordinator New Zealand SPS Notification Authority PO Box 2526, 101-103 The Terrace Wellington, New Zealand Tel: +64 4 474 4226 Fad: +64 4 470 2730. E-mail: sps@maf.govt.nz Webside at: http://www.maf.govt.nz/biosecurity/sps/transparency/notifications/index.htm</p>