

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/SPS/N/NZL/52
26 November 1999

(99-5120)

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

1.	Member to Agreement notifying: <u>NEW ZEALAND</u> If applicable, name of local government involved:
2.	Agency responsible: Australia New Zealand Food Authority (ANZFA)
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). Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable: Food produced using gene technology
4.	Title and number of pages of the notified document: Information paper – Proposed Labelling Provisions for GMF under Food Standard A18 – October 1999 (6 pages)
5.	<p>Description of content: This draft amended standard regulates the sale of foods and food ingredients, other than additives and processing aids, which are produced using gene technology.</p> <p>New Zealand previously made a notification under the SPS Agreement on 19 February 1997 (G/SPS/N/NZL/9), informing other Members of a proposal to establish a standard requiring a pre-market safety assessment of foods derived from gene technology on a case-by-case basis. The current notification is to further inform Members that a draft amendment to that standard is now available for public comment.</p> <p>Standard A18 of the Australian Food Standards Code is recognized in New Zealand as a mandatory standard.</p>
6.	<p>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</p> <p>In addition, the draft amended standard has an additional objective of providing consumer information. The draft amended standard has, therefore, also been notified to Members separately under the TBT Agreement.</p>
7.	<p>An international standard, guideline or recommendation does not exist <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>.</p> <p>If an international standard, guideline or recommendation exists, give the appropriate reference and briefly identify deviations:</p>
8.	<p>Relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available: Information Paper as detailed at 4 above; and ANZFA GM FOOD UPDATE Document #8 (November 1999) which provides background information in addition to the current Standard A18 (both in English).</p>
9.	<p>Proposed date of adoption: Recommendation to Government anticipated early 2000.</p>

10.	Proposed date of entry into force: If recommendation to Government approved, full implementation required by 12 months after gazettal.
11.	<p>Final date for comments: Domestic comments close 15 December 1999. Comments from WTO Members accepted until 21 January 2000. However, advice of submission of comments would be appreciated prior to the domestic closing date.</p> <p>Agency or authority designated to handle comments: <input type="checkbox"/> National notification authority, <input type="checkbox"/> National enquiry point, or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body: Australia New Zealand Food Authority, quoting <i>Proposed new GMF Standard</i>.</p> <p>Australia New Zealand Food Authority, PO Box 7186, Canberra Mail Centre ACT 2610, Australia; Fax: +61 2 627 12278; E-mail: slo@anzfa.gov.au</p>
12.	<p>Texts available from: <input type="checkbox"/> National notification authority, <input type="checkbox"/> National enquiry point or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body: Australia New Zealand Food Authority, quoting <i>Proposed new GMF Standard</i>.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Australia New Zealand Food Authority PO Box 7186 Canberra Mail Centre ACT 2610 Australia Fax: +61 2 62712278 E-mail: slo@anzfa.gov.au</p> <p>This draft amended standard is identical to that notified by New Zealand. It has also been notified under the TBT Agreement.</p>