

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/TBT/N/CAN/25
21 December 2001

(01-6460)

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

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

1.	Member to Agreement notifying: <u>CANADA</u> If applicable, name of local government involved (Articles 3.2 and 7.2):
2.	Agency responsible: Department of Health 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: Canadian Enquiry Point, 200-270 Albert Street, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1P 6N7 Tel.: +1 613 238 3222, ext. 491, Fax.: +1 613 569 7808, E-mail: info@scc.ca
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): Natural Health Products
5.	Title, number of pages and language(s) of the notified document: Natural Health Products Regulations (pages 4912-4971; English and French).
6.	Description of content: Recent surveys have shown that more than one-half of Canadian consumers regularly take vitamins and minerals, herbal products, homeopathic preparations, and the like products that have come to be known as natural health products. In Canada, the regulatory treatment of these products has been at issue for years. They have been inconsistently regulated as food or drugs. As a result, significant confusion exists in the market-place as consumers are faced with a substance labelled as a food (without health claims or full product use information) sitting next to the same substance labelled as a drug (with health claims and adequate directions for use). Another consequence of the inconsistent regulatory treatment has been that consumers have asked for assurances of quality, recognizing that processes are needed to ensure that what is on the label is in the bottle. The purpose of this proposed amendment is to adopt the <i>Natural Health Products Regulations</i> (the Regulations) under the authority of the <i>Food and Drugs Act</i> (the Act). The Regulations contain requirements for the manufacture, packaging, labelling, storage, importation, distribution and sale of natural health products.
7.	Objective and rationale, including the nature of urgent problems where applicable: Protection of human health.
8.	Relevant documents: Canada Gazette, Part I, 22 December 2001

9.	Proposed date of adoption: Proposed date of entry into force:	} Not stated
10.	Final date for comments: 23 March 2002	
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: The electronic version of the Canada Gazette, Part I can be downloaded at: http://canada.gc.ca/gazette/part1/pdf/g1-13551.pdf	