

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

TBT/Notif.90.100

30 March 1990

Special Distribution

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

NOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.4.

1. Party to Agreement notifying: FINLAND

2. Agency responsible: Ministry of Social Affairs and Health

3. Notified under Article 2.5.2 [X], 2.6.1 [], 7.3.2 [], 7.4.1 []; other:

4. Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading):
Dangerous chemicals (substances and preparations)

5. Title: Chemicals Decree (available in Finnish and Swedish, 11 pages)

6. Description of content: Classification, labelling, packaging and notification of chemicals are regulated mainly in Finland by two Acts: Toxic Substances Act and Labour Protection Act. The detailed regulations on the basis of these two Acts have been harmonized. The new Chemicals Act (744/89) has been issued and it will enter into force on 1 September 1990. The Toxic Substances Act will be repealed on 1 September 1990. The Chemicals Decree will be given on the basis of Chemicals Act.

The new Chemicals Decree covers following main areas:

- classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals;
- notification of new substances;
- safety data sheets;
- prior approval of wood preservatives, fungicides for pulp and paper industry and slimicides;
- export notification of prohibited or severely restricted chemicals;
- GLP requirements;
- regulations concerning the sale of very toxic and toxic chemicals to the public;
- registering of chemicals.

On the basis of Chemicals Decree will be given more detailed regulation concerning:

- notification procedure of new substances;
- definitions of hazardous and dangerous chemicals and obligations for classification, labelling, packaging and compiling of MSDS;
- criteria for classification and labelling of dangerous chemicals (substances and preparations);

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6. (cont'd)

- form for MSDS and instructions for compiling the MSDS;
- requirements for very toxic and toxic chemicals intended for general public;
- requirements for export notification of prohibited and severely restricted chemicals.

Differences between the proposed Finnish Decree and directives of European Communities concerning classification, packaging and labelling dangerous substances and preparations

Warning label according to the Finnish Decree shall contain also the concentrations of hazardous substances. This requirement does not include in the Directive on dangerous preparations (88/379/EEC).

More detailed requirements on the expressions and necessity to present names and concentrations of hazardous components are going to be issued later on, by the decision of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health.

The main reason for the difference is, that there has been in Finland on force poison Decree and resolution of Council of State on identification and labelling system of hazardous substances and preparations, which already requires information also on the concentrations of hazardous substances in the label.

The requirements concerning Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) already included in the regulations in force. No essential changes have been proposed. The detailed regulations on MSDS are still missing in the directives of European Communities.

7. Objective and rationale: Safety

8. Relevant documents: The Decree will be published in the Statutes of Finland

9. Proposed date of adoption and entry into force:

Entry into force: 1 September 1990

10. Final date for comments: 22 June 1990

11. Texts available from: National enquiry point [X] or address of other body: