

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

TBT/Notif.90.260  
14 September 1990

## TARIFFS AND TRADE

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: <u>UNITED KINGDOM</u>
2. Agency responsible: Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
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): All food
5. Title: Tin in Food Regulations
6. Description of content: The draft Regulations prohibit the sale and importation of food containing tin at a level of more than 200 mg/kg. Food containing tin exceeding that limit may be treated as being unfit for human consumption and be liable for seizure and destruction.
7. Objective and rationale: The objective is to safeguard public health. The Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) has stated that the threshold for acute forms of gastric irritation appears to be about 200 mg/kg. in food. A small, but significant proportion of canned food continues to contain levels of tin above this. The UK Food Advisory Committee recommended that in view of this a statutory limit should be introduced.
8. Relevant documents: Draft Tin in Food Regulations
9. Proposed dates of adoption and entry into force: End of 1990
10. Final date for comments: 10 October 1990
11. Texts available from: National enquiry point [] or address of other body:  Food Safety Division, Room 429E, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Ergon House, 17 Smith Square, <u>London</u> , SW1P 3JR