

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

TBT/Notif.90.277
25 September 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: <u>THE NETHERLANDS</u>
2. Agency responsible: Ministry for Welfare, Public Health and Culture, Directorate for Food and Product Safety
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): Foodstuffs, packaging materials for and articles used in the preparation/consumption of foodstuffs (HS 1-24)
5. Title: Decree on Irradiated Products (Pure Food Act)
6. Description of content: The Decree lays down general rules concerning the treatment by ionizing radiation of foodstuffs, packaging and packaging materials, and articles used in the preparation or consumption of foodstuffs, such as teats and infants' feeding bottles. The draft is fully in line with the most recent version of the draft EEC Directive on the Irradiation of Foodstuffs (Doc. 10953/89 of 19 December 1989). It lays down rules governing irradiation plant, administration, maximum dose levels in respect of a limited number of specific foodstuffs and the other products referred to above, radiation tolerances, requirements in respect of the irradiation of food and of raw materials used in food preparation and specific labelling requirements (which conform to the wording of the relevant commission proposal).
7. Objective and rationale: This Regulation is necessary, first as a means of protecting public health and secondly to ensure fair commercial practice and proper information about food products. The Netherlands does not yet have specific legislation on trade in goods that have been treated by ionizing radiation. In order to avoid abuse of this process, there is therefore an urgent need to bring in this legislation without waiting any longer for developments at community level, which appear uncertain at the present moment. If community-wide harmonization were to be achieved, however, there would probably then be little if any reason to implement this Decree.

8. Relevant documents: This Decree also amends the General Decree on Markings (Pure Food Act) (Staatsbald 1981, 621), as last amended by the Decree of 2 February 1990 (Staatsbald 101), so as to incorporate specific rules on the labelling of irradiated foodstuffs and foodstuffs containing irradiated ingredients. The effect of this measure is to combine all the general food labelling rules in a single decree.

9. Proposed dates of adoption and entry into force:

10. Final date for comments: 1 November 1990

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