

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

TBT/Notif.92.240

17 August 1992

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>NETHERLANDS</u>
2. Agency responsible: Ministry for Housing, Regional Development and the Environment
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):
5. Title: Decree for a Small Chemical Waste Logo and Implementing Instructions
6. Description of content: Products which are disposed of in small quantities and constitute dangerous waste. The products covered are those used in households. The products may also be used by companies and the like. See Article 1 of the proposed implementing instructions for the definition of the products. The producer or importer of products which are used in households and fall into the category of small chemical waste as far as their disposal is concerned are required to affix a distinctive small chemical waste logo to the products or packaging. The implementing instructions describe the logo and the products to which it is to be affixed. As a result, the user of the product will know that he is expected to keep the product concerned separate from other household or industrial waste at the time of disposal and to have it collected by the small chemical waste disposal services. The drafts also give rules on how to produce the logo. The Minister for Housing, Regional Development and the Environment is also authorized to accept logos used by other countries for the same purpose as equivalent to the small chemical waste logo. Producers or importers who do not fulfil their obligations with regard to the affixing of the logo may have penal sanctions brought against them and be obliged to affix the logo on pain of penalties. The scope for this is provided in Article IV of the proposed Law on Waste and Article 18.9 of the future Law on the Protection of the Environment.

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7. Objective and rationale: For some years, attention in the Netherlands has focused on the small quantities of chemical waste that is disposed of by households. Steps have to be taken to prevent this waste from being incinerated or dumped together with other household waste. A system of separate collection and disposal was therefore set up for this category of waste. This extends the infrastructure of small chemical waste disposal centres which already exist in a number of communes. In this context, it is very important that people know what household products fall into the category of small chemical waste and must be separated from other household waste. It has been found that information alone does not suffice. The logo on the product or the packaging provides the user with direct information that he must separate the product from other waste and dispose of it separately.
8. Relevant documents: The decrees are based on Article 10.4 of the draft Law on Waste. This draft Law will be discussed in the second chamber in September 1992 and is expected to enter into force at the end of 1993. The decrees will also be able to enter into force at that time.
9. Proposed dates of adoption and entry into force: The end of 1993
10. Final date for comments: 30 September 1992
11. Texts available from: National enquiry point [X] or address of other body: