

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

TBT/Notif.92.285

7 October 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>FINLAND</u>
2. Agency responsible: Ministry of 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): Batteries and accumulators containing certain hazardous substances
5. Title: Council of State Decision on Batteries and Accumulators Containing Certain Hazardous Substances (available in Finnish, 4 pages and English, 3 pages)
6. Description of content: The purpose of the proposed Council of State Decision is to reduce the release of mercury, cadmium and lead to the environment by prohibiting the sale of certain batteries and arranging the separate collection of environmentally hazardous batteries and accumulators. The proposed Decision defines the concepts battery and accumulator. Environmentally hazardous batteries and accumulators are those with a total content of more than 0.025-w per cent of mercury and cadmium or over 0.4 w-per cent of lead. Environmentally hazardous alkaline manganese and manganese dioxide batteries shall not be sold, with the exception of alkaline manganese button-cells and alkaline manganese batteries containing no more than 0.05 w-per cent of mercury and intended for use in exceptional conditions. Environmentally hazardous batteries and accumulators have to be easily removable from an appliance after use. The proposed Decision also contains provisions on the labelling of environmentally hazardous batteries and accumulators, their packaging, and appliances containing such batteries and accumulators; a separate collection and reception duty of environmentally hazardous batteries and accumulators; a duty to inform the buyer about the properties of such batteries and accumulators; and a duty to notify the amounts manufactured or imported. The Decision does not restrict manufacture and export of batteries, accumulators and appliances. The Decision is proposed to come into force on 31 December 1992. However the restrictions of appliances and the provisions on labelling shall be implemented by 31 December 1993.
7. Objective and rationale: Protection of health and environment

8. Relevant documents: Directive 91/157/EEC, legislation in EFTA countries
9. Proposed date of adoption and entry into force: Entry into force: 31 December 1992
10. Final date for comments: 27 November 1992
11. Texts available from: National enquiry point [X] or address of other body: