

**GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE**

RESTRICTED
TBT/Notif.93.248
16 July 1993
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 of Welfare, Health and Cultural Affairs
3.	Notified under Article 2.5.2 [], 2.6.1 [X], 7.3.2 [], 7.4.1 [], other:
4.	Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading):
5.	Title and number of pages of the notified document: Commodity Act Regulation on Novel Foods (9 pages)
6.	Description of content: Novel foods. The regulation prohibits the trade in novel foods (e.g. genetically modified products), unless an exemption regarding the same has been obtained. Such prohibition is necessary to protect public health. It is recommended that only novel foods which have been tested as regards their safety be allowed onto the market. This is a temporary measure which will be withdrawn as soon as the EC regulation on "novel foods" has been laid down by the Council. The regulation defines the "novel foods" concept in a way similar to that contained in the existing proposal of the Commission.
7.	Objective and rationale: This regulation has been drawn up further to the advice issued by the Health Council which deems prior approval (testing health aspects) to be necessary before a novel food is introduced onto the market. The regulation is backed by the Dutch consumers' organizations, food industry and trade.
8.	Relevant documents: Basic Act: Commodity Act (Staatsblad (8th) 1988, 360)
9.	Proposed date of adoption and entry into force: 16 July 1993
10.	Final date for comments: Not applicable
11.	Texts available from: National enquiry point [X] or address of other body: