

**GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE**

RESTRICTED
TBT/Notif.93.338
27 September 1993
Special Distribution

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

NOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.4.

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| 1. | Party to Agreement notifying: <u>NETHERLANDS</u> |
| 2. | Agency responsible: Ministry of Welfare, Health and Cultural Affairs |
| 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): 29.36 |
| 5. | Title and number of pages of the notified document: Draft Exemption Regulation for Vitamin Preparations (7 pages) |
| 6. | Description of content: Vitamin preparations as food supplements. The purpose of the draft regulation for vitamin preparations is to make it possible to trade vitamin preparations as food supplements. In view of their damaging nature, vitamins A and D are subject to maximum dosage levels. As to the other vitamin types, general provisions have been drawn up which ban the presence of vitamins in quantities which may harm public health. By means of the prescribed information, the consumer is also made aware of the composition of the preparation and its place in the total daily intake of food. |
| 7. | Objective and rationale: In accordance with Article 10 of the Commodity Act Governing the Preparation and Treatment of Foodstuffs, the presence of vitamins in foodstuffs, other than those already present by nature in terms of type and quantity, shall be prohibited. Based on this, it is currently not permitted to trade vitamin preparations as foodstuffs in the Netherlands. Formally vitamin preparations shall only be traded as medicine. This situation is seen as being too restrictive and does not reflect reality. Based on the exemption regulation governing vitamin preparations, exemptions are made from this ban under certain conditions. From a public health point of view, a certain level of regulation is vital. The present regulation has been drawn up with this in mind. In accordance with this regulation, action can be taken against preparations which may damage public health on the one hand, and proper information for the customer is guaranteed on the other. |
| 8. | Relevant documents: Commodity Act. Commodity Act Governing the Preparation and Treatment of Foodstuffs. |

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| 9. | Proposed date of adoption and entry into force: 10 December 1993 |
| 10. | Final date for comments: 9 December 1993 |
| 11. | Texts available from: National enquiry point [X] or address of other body: |