

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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Special Distribution

Multilateral Trade Negotiations

GROUP 3(e) - BASIC DOCUMENTATION

Inventory of Various Non-Tariff Barriers
Marketing Standards and Packaging and Labelling Regulations

JAPAN

Corrigendum

Alcoholic beverages (BTN Chapter 22) and food products (General): new sheets attached.

Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Alcoholic beverages (BTN Chapter 22)	Japan	EEC

(a) Description:

Labelling of alcoholic beverages for tax purposes.

(Note: The present notification reproduces Item 329 in the Inventory of Non-Tariff Measures - MTN/3B/3, Part 3).

(b) Comments by other countries:

"According to the EEC under the present regulations for taxation of alcoholic beverages, three different labels must be used for imported products; two of these give indications on the tax paid. Only one label is required for domestic products."

(c) Comments by countries maintaining the measures:

"Japan has replied that all alcoholic beverages sold in Japan are legally bound to bear a label or labels¹ which indicate the name and address of their producer or importer and the description such as kind, classification and contents of the beverage."

¹The number of labels is at the discretion of producers or importers. In practice, importers generally seem to prefer to divide necessary indications into two labels, while domestic producers put them in one label. In case of imported alcoholic beverages it is also necessary to attach a stamp which certifies the payment of liquor tax. This procedure is designed to prevent the evasion of taxes through such means as smuggling. As to the domestic alcoholic beverages, it is not required to attach a stamp of tax payment because taxation is possible at the moment of shipment from the factory. Therefore, the difference of treatment of domestic and foreign products accrues simply from the inevitable taxation technique and not from any intention to control imports. In essence, it is not required on imported alcoholic beverages to attach three labels, nor to attach two labels of tax payment.

Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Food products (General)	Japan	EEC

(a) Description:

Labelling of food products.

(Note: The present notification reproduces Item 330 in the Inventory of Non-Tariff Measures - MTN/3B/3, Part 3).

(b) Comments by other countries:

"Difficulties result from the strict application of regulations concerning the listing of ingredients for foodstuffs bearing descriptive denominations that are usually accepted, e.g. cream crackers, water biscuits, etc."

(c) Comments by countries maintaining the measures:

"Japan has replied that a large measure of countries including members of EEC have a mandatory status or regulation either for the protection of health or for the prevention of deceptive marketing under which certain products, notably food stuffs, are required to carry some manifestations as to the ingredients of the major components. Japanese measures are nothing more in their purpose and nature and very similar in their methods, to those taken by these countries. It is Japan's understanding that non-tariff measures concerning food products fall under the competence of the Agriculture Committee. From these two reasons it does not seem proper to include the notification in question in the inventory concerning industrial products."