

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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Limited Distribution

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## Export of Domestically Prohibited Goods

### NOTIFICATION FROM AUSTRALIA

The following is a notification received from Australia in response to the request in GATT/AIR/2087 that contracting parties make available any relevant information which would enable the secretariat to prepare basic documentation designed to facilitate discussion of the question of exports of domestically prohibited goods.

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Under the present provisions of the Trade Practices Act, the power exists to set consumer product safety standards and to ban unsafe consumer goods. These provisions apply solely to products offered for sale on the domestic market. However, it is currently intended to amend the Trade Practices Act 1974 later this year to:

- i. prohibit the export of unsafe goods, the supply of which has been banned in Australia, except with the written consent of the responsible Minister; and
- ii. require an exporter of goods to a voluntary or mandatory recall directive in Australia to notify and warn overseas importers about this directive.

Attached for Contracting Parties information is a list of goods currently banned for sale in Australia.

Attachment

The following goods have been declared unsafe under s.62(2D) of the Trade Practices Act and are subject to current 18 month prohibition on supply:

- . 'Wonder Water Creatures', 'Wonder Growing Pets', 'Magic Eggs' and other similar plastic toys or novelties which have two dimensions less than 45mm and which expand considerably in volume when immersed in liquid (expires 14.12.85);
- . 'Mad dog lighter', 'Mad dog pen' and similar goods which when used spray a foam containing flammable gas; ban includes the refill cans for these goods (expires 24.1.86);
- . Jewellery, toys and novelties which contain the seeds of Strychnos nux-vomica (expires 1.4.86);
- . 'Autotrend Sun Filter' and similar goods which do not comply with Australian Design Rule No 11 for internal sun visors in motor vehicles (expires 2.10.86);
- . Seat belt accessories which are designed to induce and maintain slack in retractor seat belts in motor vehicles (expires 2.10.86);
- . Glucomannan in the form of tablets (expires 13.11.86);
- . Toy stunt plane and launcher sets known as 'Mr T', 'Superman', 'Captain America', 'Incredible Hulk', 'Batman' (expires 17.12.86);
- . Cosmetics containing more than 250 parts per million of lead (except lead acetate for use in hair treatment) (expires 20.12.86);
- . 'Sjoffels' water shoes and similar products which when used in water are unstable or which cannot easily be removed from the feet (expires 6.2.87).

In addition, regulations have been made under s.62(2) of the Trade Practices Act which prohibit the supply of the following on a permanent basis:

- . Apparel, yarns and textile fabrics treated with TRIS flame retardant;
- . Candles designed to relight spontaneously when extinguished;
- . Balloon blowing kits which contain acetone, polyvinyl acetate, ethyl acetate and/or benzene.

NOTE:

Glucomannan, in the form of tablets, is the only product listed above which is produced in Australia.