

RESTRICTED

MTN/3E/DOC/9/Add.1

17 February 1975

Special Distribution

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

---

Multilateral Trade Negotiations

## GROUP 3(e) - BASIC DOCUMENTATION

Inventory of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Regulations Notified

Addendum

AUSTRALIA

#### GENERAL POLICY STATEMENT

Due initially to Australia's geographic isolation and subsequently to strict quarantine controls, Australia remains free of many of the serious diseases which occur in most other parts of the world.

Animals and products of animal origin may therefore be imported into Australia only in accordance with the provisions of the quarantine legislation. The importation of animals and animal products is either prohibited entirely, restricted to certain exporting countries, or made subject to certain conditions, according to the disease status of the exporting country and the degree of assessed quarantine risk associated with the animal or animal product concerned.

The purpose of the legislation is to prevent the entry to Australia of exotic diseases of animals. For instance, Australia is free of the following more serious diseases which occur in animals and other livestock;

Foot and Mouth Disease, Rinderpest, Newcastle Disease, Fowl Pest, Swine Fever, African Swine Fever, Melitensis, Trichinosis, Tularemia, Scrapie, Sheep Pox, Goat Pox, Fowl Typhoid, Blue Tongue, African Horse Sickness, Equine Encephalomyelitis, Sheep Scab and Teschen Disease, Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia, to mention but a few of the more common diseases.

A similar situation exists in relation to phytosanitary and quarantine requirements for plant matter of all types, Australia being free of innumerable diseases and pests affecting important agricultural crops such as wheat, rye, barley, oats, maize, sorghum, apples, pears, citrus, grapes, potatoes, onions, soybeans, linseed, cotton, etc.

Because of the marked differences in the levels of diseases or pests and measures of control in different countries, health and sanitary regulations are not susceptible to negotiation on a multilateral basis.

As has been the practice in the past, bilateral discussions between experts in these fields appeared to be the only practicable method of seeking agreement between individual countries on conditions for health and sanitary controls for particular products.

In regard to the comments by the EEC and the United States, recorded under item 01.01 but which refer to other items also, the following comments are made by Australia.

#### EEC

Suitable inspection procedure cannot apply to large volumes where there is an acknowledged significant plant quarantine risk.

The United States does not specify how to ensure plants and plant products are free of pests and disease by inspection. In fact where significant risk exists this is impossible. The Australian approach is to seek appropriate and applicable quarantine treatments which give virtually 100 per cent control. At no time has Australia declined to accept or use an acceptable treatment which has no adverse side effects. In fact Australia has an active programme for investigating plant quarantine treatments but there is a vast area still requiring attention.

Import Restrictions

Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Live horses, asses, mules and hinnies (01.01)	Australia	Canada EEC United States

---

(a) Description:

HS

Imports prohibited, except from Ireland, New Zealand and United Kingdom.

(b) Comments by other countries:

Canada: Blue tongue disease does not exist in Canada. Apparently the Australian measure is aimed at trans-shipments from the United States, which apparently has this disease. Canada should not be held responsible for diseases in other countries. (Applies also to 01.02, 01.03, 01.04, 01.05, 01.06 and 05.15.)

EEC: The reasons advanced for maintaining the Australian restrictions could be used by all countries. If Australia imports from countries which do not have certain animal and plant diseases it would seem that a suitable inspection procedure would permit imports from other countries where the products are proven to be free of the disease or pest. Total prohibition is too harsh a measure and effectively prevents a very wide range of agricultural products from being imported into Australia. (Applies also to 01.01, 01.02, 01.03, 01.04, 01.05, 01.06, 02.01, 02.02, 02.03, 02.04, 02.06, 04.03, 04.05, 06.01, 06.02, 07.01, 08.02, 08.05, 10.01, 10.02, 10.04, 10.05, 10.07, 12.01, 12.03, 12.06, 15.13, 20.01.)

United States: Since Australia admits certain agricultural products from countries which are free of specified plant or animal diseases, it should be able to administer an inspection system whereby individual items in all categories could be admitted if proven to be free of these same diseases. The type of special treatment accorded to wheat seed for sowing could be extended to other agricultural products. Also, it would be helpful if the particular diseases and pests were identified in official Government publications which could be made available to potential foreign suppliers.

(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

See general policy statement on health and sanitary regulations. Australia does not accept certificates from certain countries as to the alleged disease-free condition of agricultural products.

Blue tongue is a disease of ruminants, not equines. Equine encephalomyelitis is present in Canada and not in Australia.

Import Restrictions

Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Live animals of the bovine species (01.02)	Australia	Canada EEC United States

---

(a) Description:

HS

Imports prohibited, except from New Zealand. ---

(b) Comments by other countries:

Canada: See item 01.01.

(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

Australia is examining the feasibility of setting up a high security animal quarantine station. This will enable imports of cattle, sheep, goats and pigs to be undertaken from a considerable number of European countries including EEC and from North America in the initial stages.

Canada is part of North America and the insect-borne virus disease Blue Tongue is present in North America.

See general policy statement.

Import Restrictions

Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Live swine (01.03)	Australia	Canada EEC United States

---

(a) Description:

HS

Imports prohibited except from New Zealand. (Imports were to be permitted from Great Britain but, because of the detection of Swine Vesicular Disease in that country recently did not become operative)

(b) Comments by other countries:

Canada: See item 01.01.

(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

See general policy statement.

<u>Import Restrictions</u>		
Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Live sheep and goats (01.04)	Australia	Canada EEC United States

---

(a) Description:

HS

Imports prohibited.

(b) Comments by other countries:

Canada: See item 01.01.

(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

Under conditions of strict health certification live sheep and sheep semen may be imported from New Zealand.

See general policy statement.

Import Restrictions

Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Live poultry (01.05)	Australia	Canada EEC United States

---

(a) Description:

HS

Imports prohibited,

(b) Comments by other countries:

Canada: See item 01.01. See also United Kingdom - BTN 01.05. While there are no restrictions on movement inside Canada, regional certification could show freedom of Newcastle Disease for quite a number of years.

(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

See general policy statement.



Import Restrictions

Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Other live animals (01.06)	Australia	Canada EEC United States

---

(a) Description:

HS

Imports prohibited, except for rabbits from Ireland, New Zealand and United Kingdom.

(b) Comments by other countries:

Canada: See item 01.01.

(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

See general policy statement.

Import Restrictions

Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Meat and edible offals of the animals falling within headings 01.01-01.04, fresh, chilled or frozen (02.01)	Australia	EEC United States

---

(a) Description:

HS

Imports of fresh, chilled or frozen pigmeat or poultry prohibited from any source. Imports of other items prohibited, except from New Zealand.

(b) Comments by other countries:

(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

See general policy statement.

Import Restrictions

Product:	Country or group	Countries indicating
(BTN)	maintaining measures:	an interest:
Dead poultry ... and edible offals thereof, (except liver), fresh, chilled or frozen (02.02)	Australia	EEC United States

---

(a) Description:

HS

Imports prohibited.

(b) Comments by other countries:

(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

See general policy statement.

Import Restrictions

Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Poultry liver, fresh, chilled, frozen, salted or in brine (02.03)	Australia	EEC United States

---

(a) Description:

HS

Imports prohibited.

(b) Comments by other countries:

(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

See general policy statement.

Import Restrictions

Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Other meat and edible meat offals, fresh, chilled or frozen (02.04)	Australia	EEC United States

---

(a) Description:

HS

Imports prohibited, except from New Zealand.

(b) Comments by other countries:

(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

See general policy statement.

Import Restrictions

Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Meat and edible offals (except poultry liver), salted, in brine, dried or smoked (02.06)	Australia	EEC United States

---

(a) Description:

HS

Bacon, ham and other pigmeat and poultry meat, dried, smoked or salted:  
imports prohibited.

Meat and edible offals, n.e.s., dried, smoked or salted: imports prohibited,  
except from New Zealand.

(b) Comments by other countries:

(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

See general policy statement.

<u>Import Restrictions</u>		
Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Butter (04.03)	Australia	EEC United States

---

(a) Description:

HS

Entry permitted only from Canada, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Ireland and the United States of America.

(b) Comments by other countries:

United States: Note taken of Australian statement. Response will be made in writing to the secretariat.

(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

See general policy statement.

Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Eggs (04.05)	Australia	United States

---

(a) Description:

Health and sanitary measure

Imports prohibited.

(b) Comments by other countries:

(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:



<u>Import Restrictions</u>		
Product:	Country or group	Countries indicating
(BTN)	maintaining measures:	an interest:
Animal products n.e.s.; dead animals of Chapter 1 or 3, unfit for human consumption (05.15)	Australia	Canada EEC United States

---

(a) Description:

HS: Bovine semen - imports prohibited except from Canada, United Kingdom, Ireland and New Zealand.

(b) Comments by other countries:

Canada: See item 01.01. Although foot and mouth disease is known to exist in the United Kingdom, that country is permitted to and does export frozen semen to Australia. Foot and mouth disease is no less serious than blue tongue disease.

(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

See general policy statement.

<u>Import Restrictions</u>		
Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Bulbs, tubers, tuberous roots, corms, crowns and rhizomes, dormant, in growth or in flower (06.01)	Australia	EEC United States

---

(a) Description:

HS

Imports prohibited: of alfalfa and lucerne, avocado, banana, barley, cactus, chestnuts, citrus, coffee, gooseberry, hops, potato, rice, sorghum, tobacco and tomato plants.

(b) Comments by other countries:

(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

See general policy statement.

<u>Import Restrictions</u>		
Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Other live plants, including trees, shrubs, bushes, roots, cuttings and slips (06.02)	Australia	EEC United States

---

(a) Description:

HS

Imports prohibited: of stone fruit trees, nursery stock, rosaceous and others.

(b) Comments by other countries:

(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

See general policy statement.

<u>Import Restrictions</u>		
Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Vegetables, fresh or chilled (07.01)	Australia	EEC United States

---

(a) Description:

HS

Potatoes, fresh: can be imported only for research. Imports permitted under special authorization, usually from New Zealand.

Tomatoes, fresh: imports prohibited, except under special authorization.

Onions, fresh: must be certified free of onion smut, white rot and neck rot.

Broccoli, cauliflower, radishes and turnips, fresh: imports prohibited.

Lettuce, fresh: imports prohibited from countries where cabbage worms are known to exist.

Beans, fresh: imports prohibited.

(b) Comments by other countries(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

All of these restrictions are to exclude diseases and pests. There are no quarantine requirements for processed vegetables such as canned or quick frozen, except that dehydrated material needs to be free of common store pests.

See general policy statement.

Import Restrictions

Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Citrus fruit, fresh or dried (08.02)	Australia	EEC United States

---

(a) Description:

HS

Requires certification that shipments originate in a country free from citrus canker and that the fruit has been effectively fumigated.

(Imports of fresh fruit have been made from time to time under restricted quarantine conditions).

(b) Comments by other countries:

(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

See general policy statement.

<u>Import Restrictions</u>		
Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Nuts other than those falling within heading No. 08.01, fresh or dried, shelled or not (08.05)	Australia	EEC . . . . United States

---

(a) Description:

HS: Walnuts

Subject to permits issued by quarantine authorities and special regulations for Western Australia. Generally, entry is subject to quarantine treatment, such as fumigation.

(b) Comments by other countries:

(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

See general policy statement.

Import Restrictions

Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Apples, pears and quinces, fresh (08.06)	Australia	Canada EEC

---

(a) Description:

HS: Apples

Imports prohibited from countries suffering from fire blight.

(b) Comments by other countries:

Canada: The fire blight organism has not been found on high quality Canadian apples. Furthermore, we have developed a quarantine treatment for fruit that has already been accepted by other countries that are as technically sophisticated as Australia.

EEC: Since 1964 the EEC has been unable to export apples to Australia, whereas Australian exports have at times been considerable during the same period. Domestic apple prices are high in Australia.

(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

Restrictions on apples from Canada and the EEC would be imposed for no reasons other than phytosanitary.

See general policy statement.

The question of fire blight has been the subject of a special technical mission from Canada. Leading Plant Pathologists in Australia devised certain safeguards which the Canadian authorities have stated that they are unable to undertake.

Import Restrictions

Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Wheat and meslin (mixed wheat and rye) (10.01)	Australia	EEC United States

---

(a) Description:

HS

Importation is prohibited except in pursuance of a permit issued by the Director of Quarantine and in accordance with the conditions and restrictions specified in the Quarantine (Plants) Regulations.

(b) Comments by other countries:(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

See general policy statement.



Import Restrictions

Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Rye (10.02)	Australia	EEC United States

---

(a) Description:

HS: Rye, unmilled

Imports prohibited, except seed. for sowing (which requires a special permit).

Importation is prohibited except in pursuance of a permit issued by the Director of Quarantine and in accordance with the conditions and restrictions specified in the Quarantine (Plants) Regulations.

(b) Comments by other countries:

(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

See general policy statement.

<u>Import Restrictions</u>		
Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Oats (10.04)	Australia	EEC United States

---

(a) Description:

HS: Oats, unmilled

Importation is prohibited except in pursuance of a permit issued by the Director of Quarantine and in accordance with the conditions and restrictions specified in the Quarantine (Plants) Regulations.

(b) Comments by other countries:

(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

See general policy statement.

<u>Import Restrictions</u>		
Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Maize (10.05)	Australia	EEC United States

---

(a) Description:

HS: Maize, unmilled

Importation is prohibited except in pursuance of a permit issued by the Director of Quarantine and in accordance with the conditions and restrictions specified in the Quarantine (Plants) Regulations.

(b) Comments by other countries:

(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

See general policy statement.

Import Restrictions

Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Buckwheat, millet, canary seed and grain sorghum; other cereals (10.07)	Australia	EEC United States

---

(a) Description:

HS: Sorghums, broomcorn and others

Importation is prohibited except in pursuance of a permit issued by the Director of Quarantine and in accordance with the conditions and restrictions specified in the Quarantine (Plants) Regulations.

(b) Comments by other countries:

(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

See general policy statement.

<u>Import Restrictions</u>		
Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Oilseeds and oleaginous fruit, whole or broken (12.01)	Australia	United States

---

(a) Description:

HS: Peanuts, soyabeans, linseed and cottonseed

Import permit required.

(b) Comments by other countries:

United States: Domestic production of peanuts is increasing.

(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

The trend of domestic production is not considered relevant.

See general policy statement.

Import Restrictions

Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Seeds, fruit and spores, of a kind used for sowing (12.03)	Australia	EEC United States

---

(a) Description:

Seed specifically restricted under quarantine legislation: import is permitted only in small quantities under strict quarantine supervision. Other seed (not specifically restricted by quarantine legislation) is admitted subject to inspection and treatment if necessary.

(b) Comments by other countries:(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

See general policy statement.

Import Restrictions

Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Hop cones and lupulin (12.06)	Australia	EEC United States

---

(a) Description:

HS: Hop cones (permit required)

Must be certified as coming from a country where downy mildew is not known to exist.

(b) Comments by other countries:

(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

See general policy statement.

Import Restrictions

Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Margarine, imitation lard and other prepared edible fats (15.13)	Australia	EEC United States

---

(a) Description:

HS: Margarine

Margarine must be coloured pink.

(b) Comments by other countries:

United States: Raised the question as to why margarine should be coloured pink.

EEC: Would like information on what may be used to make the pink colour.

(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

The requirement that imported margarine be coloured pink complements domestic margarine production controls. A dye not permitted for foodstuffs produced locally would not be allowed in imported products.

See general policy statement.



Import Restrictions

Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Vegetables and fruit, prepared or preserved by vinegar or acetic acid, with or without sugar ... (20.01)	Australia	Canada EEC

---

(a) Description:

HS

Alum cannot be used in pickles.

(b) Comments by other countries:Canada: Alum is commonly used in Canada for treating pickles.(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

This is not a quarantine measure.

See general policy statement.

Import Restrictions

Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Oilcake and other residue (except dregs) resulting from the extraction of vegetable oils (23.04)	Australia	Pakistan

---

(a) Description:

HS: Cottonseed/rapeseed extraction meal

(b) Comments by other countries:

Pakistan: Imports of cottonseed/rapeseed extraction meal are prohibited on the ground that Pakistani goods are contaminated with insects/germs which can cause disease to their cattle. The Australian Government refuse to accept the Physio-sanitary certificate from the Department of Plant Protection, Government of Pakistan. Exports of these products from Pakistan to United Kingdom, West European and East European countries are not subject to such restriction.

(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

This prohibition is for animal, not plant, quarantine reasons.

See general policy statement.