

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

NOTIFICATION

1.	Member to Agreement notifying: <u>CANADA</u> If applicable, name of local government involved:
2.	Agency responsible: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
3.	Products covered (tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable): Biotechnology
4.	Title and number of pages of the notified document: Proposed Amendments to the Feeds Regulations, Fertilizers Regulations, Health of Animals Regulations and Seeds Regulations (pages 2357-2388)
5.	Description of content: The new techniques of biotechnology, in particular genetic engineering, are being used to develop new agricultural and food products of benefit to both the Canadian public and other stakeholders in the agriculture and agri-food sector. These amendments have been developed to clarify that the <i>Feeds Act</i> , <i>Fertilizers Act</i> , <i>Health of Animals Act</i> and <i>Seeds Act</i> contain the authority to allow Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to conduct environmental assessments prior to field releases (or trials) of products under these Acts. These amendments will also clarify for stakeholders in the agriculture and agri-food sector and the public that field releases meet appropriate standards for environmental and human safety and are considered equivalent to standards under the <i>Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA)</i> . The amendments to the <i>Seeds Regulations</i> provide regulation of both confined and unconfined releases (releases on an unrestricted basis with no conditions of confinement) into the environment of all plants with novel traits, including forest trees. The amendments to the <i>Feeds Regulations</i> will apply to all novel feeds (feeds that are not listed in regulatory schedules IV or V of the <i>Feeds Regulations</i> or are not substantially equivalent to feeds used presently in Canada) intended for livestock that are released outside of contained facilities.

The amendments to the *Fertilizers Regulations* will apply to all unregistered and novel supplements (substances that improve the physical condition of the soil or aid plant growth or crop yields), whether they are products of biotechnology or are chemical in origin.

The amendments to the *Health of Animals Regulations* will permit field releases of veterinary biologics outside of laboratory containment facilities or confinement, after an environmental assessment has been conducted.

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 6. | Objective and rationale: Protection of plant, animal and human health |
| 7. | <p>An international standard, guideline or recommendation does not exist [<input type="checkbox"/>].</p> <p>If an international standard, guideline or recommendation exists, whenever possible, identify deviations: consistent with international standards</p> |
| 8. | <p>Relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available: Canada Gazette Part I, 17 August 1996</p> |
| 9. | <p>Proposed date of adoption: Not stated.</p> |
| 10. | <p>Proposed date of entry into force: Not stated.</p> |
| 11. | <p>Final date for comments: 16 October 1996</p> <p>Agency or authority designated to handle comments: National enquiry Point</p> |
| 12. | <p>Texts available from: National enquiry point [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] or address, telefax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body:</p> |