

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/SPS/N/NLD/40

11 February 1999

(99-0533)

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

## NOTIFICATION

1.	<b>Member to Agreement notifying:</b> <u>THE NETHERLANDS</u> <b>If applicable, name of local government involved:</b>
2.	<b>Agency responsible:</b> Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports
3.	<b>Products covered (tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable):</b> Table salt, bread salt, salt substitutes and bread substitutes
4.	<b>Title and number of pages of the notified document:</b> Draft decree amending the Commodities Act Decree on the addition of micro-nutrients to foodstuffs
5.	<b>Description of content:</b> This draft decree extends the scope for adding iodine to foodstuffs. Apart from table salt for direct human consumption, which is used internationally as a carrier for iodine, iodine can now also be added to salt substitutes. The quantity of iodine in bread is increased, whilst iodine can continue to be added to bread substitutes.
6.	<b>Objective and rationale:</b> For a long time, the Dutch Government has adopted a policy aimed at the adequate provision of iodine with a view to preventing goitre. Since 1942, bread salt and, later, table salt have been used as carriers for iodine. The Food Council has established that the provision of iodine to young women especially, is not optimal in the Netherlands. This is why a study has been carried out as to how the intake of iodine by the Dutch population can be improved to reach optimum levels. In this respect, consideration should be given to the safe daily intake level for iodine of 1,000 microgrammes. It has transpired that the steepest increase in the average iodine intake and the steepest decline in the prevalence of intakes less than 100 microgrammes of iodine per day, whereby the safe level of intake is not exceeded, occurs when bread and bread substitutes with salt are enriched with 75 mg iodine and meat products with 25 mg iodine per kg of table salt. The current scope for adding iodine to foodstuffs must, therefore, be extended.
7.	<b>An international standard, guideline or recommendation does not exist [ X ].</b> <b>If an international standard, guideline or recommendation exists, whenever possible, identify deviations: -</b>
8.	<b>Relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available:</b> Article10, paragraph 1, of the Commodities Act decree on the preparation and treatment of foodstuffs, as well as the Commodities Act decree on the addition of micro-nutrients to foodstuffs.

<b>9.</b>	<b>Proposed date of adoption:</b> 31 March 1999
<b>10.</b>	<b>Proposed date of entry into force:</b> 31 March 1999
<b>11.</b>	<b>Final date for comments:</b> 30 March 1999 <b>Agency or authority designated to handle comments:</b> National Contact point – EC SPS Enquiry point
<b>12.</b>	<b>Texts available from:</b> National enquiry point [ X ] or address, telefax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body: