

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/TBT/N/ARG/127
20 August 2003

(03-4344)

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

Original: Spanish

NOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.6.

1.	Member to Agreement notifying: <u>ARGENTINA</u> If applicable, name of local government involved (Articles 3.2 and 7.2):
2.	Agency responsible: Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food (SAGPyA) Name and address (including telephone and fax numbers and E-mail and Web site addresses, if available) of agency or authority designated to handle comments regarding the notification shall be indicated if different from above: <i>Idem</i> National enquiry point.
3.	Notified under Article 2.9.2 [X], 2.10.1 [], 5.6.2 [], 5.7.1 [], other:
4.	Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable): Genetically modified plant organisms (GMPOs)
5.	Title, number of pages and language(s) of the notified document: Release of Genetically Modified Plant Organisms (GMPOs) into the Environment (31 pages, in Spanish).
6.	Description of content: Application for Authorization to Release Genetically Modified Plant Organisms into the Environment. "... Authorization for the commercial release of a GMPO is granted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food on the basis of three (3) independent reports drawn up by advisory bodies under its jurisdiction. These reports are as follows: (a) <u>Determination that the extensive release of the GMPO will not have a significantly different environmental impact from that of the equivalent non-genetically modified (GM) organism</u> , produced by the National Advisory Committee for Agricultural Biotechnology (CONABIA); the relevant standard is that set out in this document; (b) <u>Determination of the suitability of GMPO-derived food for human and animal consumption</u> , produced by the Technical Advisory Committee on the Use of Genetically Modified Organisms under the National Agriculture and Food Quality and Health Service (SENASA); the relevant standard in this instance is SENASA Resolution No. 412/2002 of 10 May 2002; (c) <u>Determination that the release would not have an undesirable impact on Argentine international trade</u> , produced by the National Office of Agri-Food Markets, also under the SAGPyA. CONABIA assesses all applications to release GMPOs into the environment and advises the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food on the advisability or otherwise of authorizing such releases. These assessments have TWO (2) phases:

6.	Description of content: (cont'd) (1) assessments of experimental releases, the purpose of which is to determine that there is no significant probability of adverse environmental effects - first assessment phase , and (2) assessments of extensive releases, the purpose of which is to determine that such GMPO releases will not have a significantly different environmental impact from those of the equivalent non-genetically modified (GM) organisms - second assessment phase... ".
7.	Objective and rationale, including the nature of urgent problems where applicable: Update the existing legislation.
8.	Relevant documents: Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food (SAGPyA) Resolution No. 39/2003.
9.	Proposed date of adoption: 17 July 2003 (Official Journal) Proposed date of entry into force: 10 January 2004
10.	Final date for comments: Not indicated
11.	Texts available from: National enquiry point [X] or address, telephone and fax numbers and E-mail and Web site addresses, if available, of the other body: Focal Point of the Argentine Republic National Directorate of Domestic Trade (DNCI) Avda. J. A. Roca 651, 4 th floor, Sector 2 (C1067ABB) Buenos Aires Tel.: (54 11) 4349-4067 Fax: (54 11) 4349-4072 E-mail: focalotc@mecon.gov.ar