

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/SPS/N/NZL/173

22 May 2002

(02-2816)

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

1.	Member to Agreement notifying: <u>NEW ZEALAND</u> If applicable, name of local government involved:
2.	Agency responsible: Australia New Zealand Food Authority (ANZFA)
3.	Products covered (provide tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO; ICS numbers should be provided in addition, where applicable): Foods derived from cotton lines containing event 15985.
4.	Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable: All countries
5.	Title, language and number of pages of the notified document: Draft Assessment Report for Application A436 – Insect-Protected Cotton Line 15985 (78 pages).
6.	<p>Description of content: ANZFA has received an application to amend the <i>Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code</i> to approve the use of food products derived from Insect-Protected Cotton Line 15985. The application seeks approval under Standard A18/1.5.2 – Food Produced Using Gene Technology, for foods derived from cotton lines containing event 15985. The presence of this event in cotton confers protection against insect attack and such lines are known commercially as Bollgard II® cotton. The report describes the scientific assessment of this application.</p> <p>Foods produced using gene technology are required to undergo a pre-market assessment of their safety, to ensure that they are as safe as their conventional counterparts.</p> <p>All applications to change the <i>Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code</i>, must be assessed in the context of the following objectives: (a) the protection of public health and safety; (b) the provision of adequate information relating to food to enable consumers to make informed choices; and (c) the prevention of misleading or deceptive conduct.</p> <p>If application A388 is approved the <i>Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code</i> will be amended to permit foods derived from Insect-Protected Cotton Line 15985, known commercially as Bollgard II® cotton.</p>
7.	Objective and rationale: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> food safety, <input type="checkbox"/> animal health, <input type="checkbox"/> plant protection, <input type="checkbox"/> protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, <input type="checkbox"/> protect territory from other damage from pests
8.	<p>International standard, guideline or recommendation:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Codex Alimentarius Commission, <input type="checkbox"/> Office International des Epizooties, <input type="checkbox"/> International Plant Protection Convention, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p>If an international standard, guideline or recommendation exists, give the appropriate reference and briefly identify deviations:</p>

9.	Relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available: New Zealand <i>Food Regulations 1984</i> , Australian <i>Food Standards Code</i> (both in English), Standard 1.5.2.
10.	Proposed date of adoption: Recommendation to Government anticipated to be made late 2002, adoption to follow pending Government approval.
11.	Proposed date of entry into force: Date of entry after Government approval.
12.	Final date for comments: 20 July 2002 Agency or authority designated to handle comments: <input type="checkbox"/> National notification authority, <input type="checkbox"/> National enquiry point, or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body: Australia New Zealand Food Authority, PO Box 7186, Canberra Mail Centre ACT 2610, Australia; Fax: +61 2 6271 2278; E-mail: info@anzfa.gov.au
13.	Texts available from: <input type="checkbox"/> National notification authority, <input type="checkbox"/> National enquiry point, or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body: Mr. Keawe Woodmore, Coordinator, SPS New Zealand, PO Box 2526, 101-103 The Terrace, Wellington, New Zealand. Tel: +64 4 474 4226; Fax: +64 4 470 2730; E-mail: sps@maf.govt.nz Website: www.maf.govt.nz/biosecurity/sps/transparency/notifications/index.htm This document has also been notified by Australia.