

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

NOTIFICATION

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

1.	Member to Agreement notifying: <u>NETHERLANDS</u> If applicable, name of local government involved (Articles 3.2 and 7.2):
2.	Agency responsible: Ministry for Domestic Affairs Agency or authority designated to handle comments regarding the notification can be indicated if different from above: 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): Equipment for the personalization of Dutch travel documents (passport printer and a printer ribbon, optical reading equipment, laminator, passport pen)
5.	Title, number of pages and language(s) of the notified document: Draft Regulation of the Secretary of State for Domestic Affairs Relating to the Provision of Emergency Documents as well as the Introduction of Emergency Extensions by the Royal Marechaussee (1995 Royal Marechaussee Regulation Governing the Preparation of Passports); including:  - Appendix 1: Document concerning printer specifications (RDB97/U613-RD);  - Appendix 2: circular concerning printers to those authorities issuing passports (RDB97/U614-RD).
6.	Description of content: Pursuant to Article 2.3 and Article 59 of the Passport Act, rules may be established for the preparation of travel documents. Three rules have been drafted for this purpose (*PUN, PUB and PUKMAR) dependent upon the body issuing the document. These documents bear a strong resemblance to one another and are notified simultaneously. The Royal Marechaussee Regulation Governing the Preparation of Passports (PUKMAR) relates to emergency documents issued by the Marechaussee. According to the Dutch Government, the PUN probably contains technical regulations within the meaning of the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (Marrakesh, 15 April 1994). An indicative summary of the remaining technical regulations is stated below:  - The document printer must satisfy the specifications as prescribed by the Minister for Domestic Affairs (Article 22.2 PUKMAR). The specifications relate to the print result and are described in draft document RDB97/U613RD (Appendix 1). The procedure for allowing other printers is laid down in draft Circular RDB97/U614-RD (Appendix 2).

6.	<p>Description of content (cont'd):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The machine-readable strip is scanned via optical reading equipment and is approved for this purpose by the Minister for Domestic Affairs (Article 23.3 PUKMAR).</li> <li>- The travel document is laminated (Article 22.4 PUKMAR).</li> <li>- If data must be incorporated in the travel document and a printing facility is unavailable then all the data is entered using a passport pen which must be ordered by an institution appointed by the Minister for Domestic Affairs (Article 22.2 and 56 PUKMAR).</li> <li>- Document printer ribbons may be ordered by an institution appointed by the Minister for Domestic Affairs (Article 56 PUKMAR).</li> </ul>
7.	<p>Objective and rationale: If PUKMAR contains quantitative import restrictions or measures of similar effect then these are justified for the protection of public safety and national security. The PUKMAR regulations are necessary in order to guarantee that travel documents are valid in terms of content, are uniformly prepared from a technical point of view and are protected to the highest degree against forgery or falsification. Furthermore, the machine-readable strip which is applied to the documents must be compatible with optical reading equipment at all border controls throughout the world. This means that equipment used for the personalization of travel documents must satisfy given specifications which are in line with those specifications relating to the document itself. Failure to comply with these requirements may jeopardise acceptance of these documents, either as travel or identity documents, both in this country and abroad.</p>
8.	<p>Relevant documents: Article 2.3 and 59 of the Passport Act relate to the evaluation of PUKMAR.</p>
9.	<p>Proposed date of adoption: 20 November 1997 Proposed date of entry into force: 21 November 1997</p>
10.	<p>Final date for comments: 19 November 1997</p> <p>The Netherlands will proceed to implement the proposed measure after 45 days if no comments or requests for extension of the time-limit have been received from other Members within that time.</p>
11.	<p>Texts available from: National enquiry point [X] or address and telefax number of other body:</p>