

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>FRANCE</u> If applicable, name of local government involved (Articles 3.2 and 7.2):
2.	Agency responsible:  Ministry of Employment and Solidarity Directorate-General of Health 8, avenue de Ségur 75350 Paris 07 SP  Agency or authority designed to handle comments regarding the notification shall be indicated if different from above:
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): Personal stereos
5.	Title, number of pages and language(s) of the notified document: Order Implementing Article L.44.5 of the Code of Public Health Relating to Personal Stereos
6.	Description of content: In implementation of Article L.44.5 of the Code of Public Health, the draft Order is intended to protect the hearing of users of personal stereos by limiting the maximum level of sound pressure and by informing them of the risks incurred.
7.	Objective and rationale, including the nature of urgent problems where applicable: Article 1 defines a personal stereo. The next two Articles explain that a personal stereo is composed of a number of interchangeable components, to which maximum sound pressure applies, and that it is necessary to inform users regarding the compatibility of these components, particularly of the fact that the average life of a headset is much shorter than that of the central unit. As the law cannot be applied without a precise definition of the criteria used to calculate the maximum level of sound pressure, these are set out in the fourth Article and explained in detail in the technical Annex.

7. Objective and rationale, including the nature of urgent problems where applicable (cont'd):

In the absence of specific standards for personal stereos, the Annex refers to the standards that are the most relevant to personal stereos and it is based on the most recent work on test equipment, signals, packaging, measuring apparatus and determination of the level. The fifth Article defines the information to be given to users regarding hearing risks. Simple control measures are defined in the sixth Article. The seventh Article allows sufficient time for implementation so that the manufacture and marketing of personal stereos can meet the criteria laid down in the Order. By limiting the sound level and providing information on the hearing risks, the health of users of personal stereos will thus be better protected.

8. Relevant documents:

- Law No. 96-452 of 28 May 1996 containing a number of health, social and statutory measures;
- draft decree on penalties for violating the regulations on personal stereos.

9.      Proposed date of adoption:  
         Proposed date of entry into force: }

First half of 1998

10.     Final date for comments: 25 January 1998

11. Texts available from: National enquiry point [X] or address, e-mail and telefax number of other body: (CINORTECH)

Mme Vaquier (AFNOR) - Tour Europe, 92049 Paris La Défense