

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

NOTIFICATION

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

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| 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 of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries 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): Dairy products |
| 5. | Title, number of pages and language(s) of the notified document: Agricultural Quality Decree on Dairy Products |
| 6. | Description of content: Article 13 rules that some four types of cheese may only be prepared by those affiliated to a control body appointed in this Decree. Article 14 stipulates that for other cheeses no names may be used which are similar to the type names indicated in Article 12. The above rules apply pursuant to Article 15 only to producers of the four cheese types described on Dutch territory. |
| 7. | <p>Objective and rationale, including the nature of urgent problems where applicable: One of the aims of the Agricultural Quality Act is to offer the possibility of laying down rules regarding the quality of products in order to promote the sale of these products. Given the Netherlands' vested interest in the export of some three types of cheese, the draft Decree contains a system whereby all these cheeses manufactured in the Netherlands meet certain quality requirements. In this way, a high level of consistency and quality is guaranteed. In the Netherlands, farm cheese has a distinct meaning to the consumer, namely a cheese made of unprocessed milk on a dairy farm. This origin and method of preparation, however, are not visible to the consumer. This is why an affiliation obligation exists for farm cheese too.</p> <p>In order to avoid unjustified trade restrictions, Article 15 provides for products from other member States or third countries. Based on this Article, it is guaranteed that products from other member States or third countries to which this Decree pertains, will not experience any hindrances during their import into the Netherlands.</p> |

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| 8. | Relevant documents: Agricultural Quality Act |
| 9. | Proposed date of adoption: } Proposed date of entry into force: } 1 July 1998 |
| 10. | Final date for comments: 20 February 1998 |
| 11. | Texts available from: National enquiry point [X] or address, e-mail and telefax number of other body: |