

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/TBT/Notif.98.471

23 September 1998

(98-3670)

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>THE NETHERLANDS</u> If applicable, name of local government involved (Articles 3.2 and 7.2):
2.	Agency responsible: Commodity Board for Soft Drinks and Waters Agency or authority designated to handle comments regarding the notification shall be indicated if different from above: National enquiry point – EC WTO-TBT 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): Soft drinks and waters
5.	Title, number of pages and language(s) of the notified document: Exemption of PET Bottles from the Grey Channel 1998
6.	Description of content: The exemption from the Deposit Regulation is intended for single-use plastic bottles, made of PET (polyethylene terephthalate), with a maximum capacity of 0.5 litre. Exemption can only be obtained if the sale takes place in the so-called "grey sales channel", being petrol stations, sports and company canteens, kiosks, caravan sites and snack bars. The present Regulation follows on from the "exemption of trial PET bottles from the grey channel", which has been notified previously under G/TBT/Notif.97.234.
7.	Objective and rationale, including the nature of urgent problems where applicable: The Netherlands environmental policy does not allow the sale of soft drinks and waters in single-use, one-way plastic packaging because there is no efficient collection system for plastic packaging waste. Particularly in the so-called "grey channel", soft drinks and waters have suffered a competitive disadvantage compared to drinks sold by the competition. The tests with PET bottles (see Notification G/TBT/Notif.97.234.) have shown that the introduction of these bottles in the "grey channel" has hardly - if at all - caused an increase in the quantity of waste since the PET bottles with soft drinks or waters have replaced similar products in single-use, non-returnable packaging. For this reason, the trial is now transposed into a definitive regulation. In respect of the trial, the conditions underlying the exemption, have not changed a great deal. Applications are not necessary for exemptions: the Regulation provides for a generic exemption possibility, provided that the prescribed conditions are met.

8.	Relevant documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Deposit Regulation by the Soft Drinks and Waters Commodity Board;- Industrial Organization Act;- Exemption of trial PET bottles from the grey channel 1997
9.	Proposed date of adoption: 18 November 1998 Proposed date of entry into force: 1 January 1999
10.	Final date for comments: 15 November 1998
11.	Texts available from: National enquiry point [X] or address, e-mail and telefax number of the other body: