

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/SPS/N/CAN/55

14 July 1999

(99-2909)

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English/
French

NOTIFICATION

1.	Member to Agreement notifying: <u>CANADA</u> If applicable, name of local government involved:
2.	Agency responsible: Department of Health
3.	Products covered (provide tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO; ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable). Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable: Biotechnology substances
4.	Title and number of pages of the notified document: Proposed Environmental Assessment Regulations (Department of Health) (pages 2000-2012)
5.	<p>Description of content: It is proposed that regulations entitled Environmental Assessment Regulations, be added to the Food and Drugs Act (the Act). These regulations will provide for the environmental assessment of new substances from biotechnology that are foods, drugs or cosmetics.</p> <p>The proposed regulations will provide for both health and environmental assessments to be carried out by Health Canada for products of biotechnology, regulated under this Act. These regulations will apply to foods, drugs and cosmetics that are microorganisms, cultured cells or transgenic animals, or products derived from microorganisms, cultured cells, transgenic animals or plants.</p> <p>The proposed regulations will provide a flexible regulatory framework for this rapidly evolving technology while protecting the health and safety of Canadians. They also fulfill the Government's commitment to develop environmental assessment regulations under the Act to provide a single window for product review. The environmental assessment requirements outlined in these regulations complement the notification and human health assessments in the Food and Drug Regulations and the Cosmetic Regulations.</p> <p>Health Canada will be working in close cooperation with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) for all environmental assessments of products from transgenic animals and plants. In such instances, it is proposed that CFIA will carry out the environmental assessment of the animal or the plant, while at the same time, Health Canada will assess the products, thus eliminating duplication.</p>
6.	Objective and rationale: [X] food safety, [X] animal health, [X] plant protection, [] protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, [] protect territory from other damage from pests

7.	An international standard, guideline or recommendation does not exist [X]. If an international standard, guideline or recommendation exists, give the appropriate reference and briefly identify deviations:
8.	Relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available: Canada Gazette, Part I, 3 July 1999 (Available in English and French)
9.	Proposed date of adoption: Not stated.
10.	Proposed date of entry into force: Not stated.
11.	Final date for comments: 17 August 1999 Agency or authority designated to handle comments: [] National notification authority, [X] National enquiry point, or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body:
12.	Texts available from: [] National notification authority, [X] National enquiry point or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body: