

NOTIFICATION

Addendum

The following communication, dated 11 October 2001, has been received from New Zealand.

Measure to provide ongoing management of the human health risks associated with imported food products potentially containing the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) agent

This addendum is to notify WTO members that New Zealand will implement a food safety measure requiring all countries exporting bovine meat products to New Zealand to be categorised according to their BSE risk status. Certification commensurate with a country's categorisation by New Zealand must accompany all exports to New Zealand of bovine meat products.

This measure has been taken in order to manage the human health risks associated with the consumption of bovine meat products potentially containing the BSE agent.

The Ministry of Health currently prohibits all bovine products from countries considered to be a BSE risk. This prohibition is enforced under the New Zealand (Mandatory) Food Standard 1997 (refer G/SPS/N/NZL/77, G/SPS/N/NZL/77/ Add.1 and G/SPS/N/NZL/77/Add.2) until the new provision are implemented in 14 January 2001.

New Zealand's proposed new import measure is closely based on the relevant international standard. International and domestic interest in this issue is high. The timetable for consultation and implementation is as follows:

Friday 7 December 2001

End of 60-day consultation period.

8 December – 14 January 2001

Analysis of submissions. Amendments to the assessment and categorisation process, including changes to assessment information requirements, will be entered on to the Ministry of Health web site.¹ A copy of the final measure will be sent to all submitters.

14 January 2002

Implementation of the new measure applying to imports of bovine meat products for human consumption. The current temporary measures will no longer apply. From this date, all imports of bovine meat products in food for human consumption, other than those covered by the transition provisions below, must be accompanied by the required certification from a country that has been categorised under this measure.

After the date of implementation, all foods likely to contain bovine meat products will be stopped at the border and assessed for any bovine or bovine-derived meat products. Foods with any bovine or bovine-derived meat product content will only be allowed entry if:

either:

- 1 products are from countries that have been categorised by New Zealand *and* are accompanied by the certification required under the new import measure;

or:

- 2 an application for categorisation meeting all the information requirements on pages 9-22 has been lodged with and accepted by the New Zealand Ministry of Health prior to the date of implementation but categorisation has not been finalised. In that case, bovine meat products from that country will continue to be subject to any import restrictions that were in place prior to the implementation date², until the application has been processed. (For example: a category has been assigned and certification arrangements negotiated, or the application has been declined and no category has been assigned.);

or:

- 3 they fall within the categories of products that are excluded from the import measure.

The notified document can be obtained from the Mr. Keawe Woodmore, Coordinator, New Zealand SPS Notification Authority, PO Box 2526, Wellington, New Zealand. Tel: +64 4 474 4226; Fax: +64 4 470 2730; E-mail: sps@maf.govt.nz or alternatively it is also available on the internet at:

website: <http://www.maf.govt.nz/biosecurity/sps/transparency/notifications/index.htm>

² Countries subject to import restrictions for bovine meat products prior to the implementation of this measure are: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Finland, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Oman, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands, and The United Kingdom.