

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/TBT/Notif.98.591

14 December 1998

(98-5042)

## 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>UNITED STATES</u> If applicable, name of local government involved (Articles 3.2 and 7.2):
2.	Agency responsible: Federal Trade Commission (31) Agency or authority designated 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): Household Appliances and Other Products (HS Chapter 85)
5.	Title, number of pages and language(s) of the notified document: Rule Concerning Disclosures Regarding Energy Consumption and Water Use of Certain Home Appliances and Other Products Required Under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act ("Appliance Labeling Rule") (10 pages, English)
6.	Description of content: The Commission proposes granting manufacturers of residential appliances covered by its Appliance Labeling Rule ("the Rule") a conditional exemption from the Rule's prohibition against the inclusion of non-required information on the Energy Guide labels required by the Rule. The exemption would permit appliance manufacturers to place the logo of the Department of Energy's and Environmental Protection Agency's joint "Energy Star" Program on required Energy Guides on certain appliances under specific conditions. The Commission seeks comment on its proposal to grant this conditional exemption. The Commission also proposes a non-substantive amendment to the Rule to include "Federal Trade Commission" on all Energy Guide labels so consumers and others will be clear as to the identity of the agency with the authority to enforce the Rule.
7.	Objective and rationale, Including the nature of urgent problems where applicable: Consumer Information
8.	Relevant documents: : 63 FR 64921, 24 November 1998; 16 CFR Part 305. Will appear in the Federal Register when adopted.
9.	Proposed date of adoption: To be determined Proposed date of entry into force:
10.	Final date for comments: 8 January 1999
11.	Texts available from: National enquiry point [X] or address, e-mail and telefax number of the other body: <a href="http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/index.html">http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/index.html</a>