

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/SPS/N/NZL/67
14 September 2000

(00-3601)

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

1.	Member to Agreement notifying: <u>NEW ZEALAND</u> If applicable, name of local government involved:
2.	Agency responsible: Australia New Zealand Food Authority (ANZFA)
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). Food derived from insect and potato leaf roll virus-protected potato lines Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable: All countries
4.	Title and number of pages of the notified document: Draft Risk Analysis Report: Application A383 - Food derived from insect and potato leaf roll virus-protected potato lines RBMT21-129, RBMT21-350, and RBMT22-82 (75 pages)
5.	<p>Description of content: The draft report describes the scientific assessments undertaken and recommends addition to the list of approved foods in Standard A18. The report results from an application by Monsanto Australia Ltd for the approval of food derived from three insect and potato leaf roll virus-protected potato lines produced using gene technology to be listed in Standard A18 – <i>Food Produced Using Gene Technology</i> of the <i>Food Standards Code</i>.</p> <p>The three lines of Russet Burbank potatoes have been genetically modified to provide protection against a range of insects, including the Colorado potato beetle (CPB), as well as against potato leafroll virus (PLRV). The genetically modified potatoes are known commercially as New Leaf® Plus potatoes. The New Leaf® Plus potatoes are protected against CPB and PLRV through the transfer of two genes — the <i>cry3Aa</i> gene from the soil bacterium <i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i> subspecies <i>tenebrionis</i> (<i>B.t.t.</i>) and the <i>PLRVrep</i> gene from PLRV.</p> <p>New Leaf® Plus potatoes are not grown in Australia or New Zealand and are currently not permitted to be imported into Australia and New Zealand as fresh produce. Rather, the principle food products derived from these potato varieties are likely to be imported processed food commodities such as processed potato crisps, pre-cooked French fries, potato flour and potato starch.</p> <p>New Zealand previously made a notification under the SPS Agreement on 19 February 1997 (G/SPS/N/NZL/9), informing other Members of a proposal to establish a standard requiring a pre-market safety assessment of foods derived from gene technology on a case-by-case basis. New Zealand notified (G/SPS/N/NZL/52) on 26 November 1999 the availability for public comment the draft amended standard, which regulates the sale of foods and food ingredients, other than additives and processing aids, which are produced using gene technology. Standard A18 – Food produced using gene technology, has been adopted in New Zealand as a mandatory standard under section 112 of the New Zealand Food Act 1981 as amended.</p>

6.	Objective and rationale: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> food safety, <input type="checkbox"/> animal health, <input type="checkbox"/> plant protection, <input type="checkbox"/> protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, <input type="checkbox"/> protect territory from other damage from pests
7.	An international standard, guideline or recommendation does not exist <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> . 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: Australian <i>Food Standards Code</i> ; New Zealand <i>Food Regulations 1984</i> (both in English)
9.	Proposed date of adoption: Recommendation to Government anticipated late 2000; adoption to follow, pending Government approval.
10.	Proposed date of entry into force: Not known, expected in early to mid 2002 (pending adoption in late 2000).
11.	Final date for comments: 30 October 2000 Agency or authority designated to handle comments: <input type="checkbox"/> National notification authority, <input type="checkbox"/> National enquiry point, or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body: Australia New Zealand Food Authority, PO Box 7186, Canberra Mail Centre ACT 2610, Australia; Fax: +61 2 6271 2278; E-mail: info@anzfa.gov.au
12.	Texts available from: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National notification authority, <input type="checkbox"/> National enquiry point or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body: Australia New Zealand Food Authority <u>quoting Application A383</u> . Australia New Zealand Food Authority, PO Box 7186, Canberra Mail Centre ACT 2610, Australia; Fax: +61 2 6271 2278; E-mail: info@anzfa.gov.au This document has also been notified by Australia.