

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

NOTIFICATION

1.	Member to Agreement notifying: <u>SOUTH AFRICA</u> If applicable, name of local government involved:
2.	Agency responsible: Directorate of Animal Health & Directorate of Veterinary Public Health
3.	Products covered (tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable): Chilled and frozen beef (Bone-in)
4.	Title and number of pages of the notified document: Notification, Prohibition on Bone in beef imports from member states of the European Community (1 page)
5.	Description of content: In order to protect animal and public health in South Africa, the country intends to ban the importation of bone-in beef from member states of the European Community. This step is considered necessary as only boneless beef, devoid of obvious nervous tissue and lymphatics, is considered safe with regards to Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in countries where the disease occurs. The soft borders between European Union member countries, and free movement of live animals and animal products across member state borders make it difficult for member states to guarantee the origin of animals slaughtered within their territories. The BSE status of bone-in beef of European Community origin is further questioned in the light of the lack of formal surveillance systems in some member countries of the European Community (OIE International Animal Health Code Article 3.2.13.1). Bones from these carcasses could end up in South African meat and bone meal (Article 3.2.13.11).
6.	Objective and rationale: Protection of Human and Animal Health
7.	An international standard, guideline or recommendation does not exist []. If an international standard, guideline or recommendation exists, whenever possible, identify deviations:
8.	Relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available: None
9.	Proposed date of adoption: 18 April 1998

10.	Proposed date of entry into force: 18 April 1998
11.	Final date for comments: 4 April 1998 Agency or authority designated to handle comments: Directorate of Animal Health, Private Bag X138, Pretoria, 0001 South Africa; Fax: + + 27 (0)12 3298292
12.	Texts available from: National enquiry point [] or address, telefax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body: Directorate of Animal Health Private Bag X138 Pretoria 0001 South Africa Fax: + + 27 (0)12 3298292