

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>NETHERLANDS</u> If applicable, name of local government involved (Articles 3.2 and 7.2):
2.	Agency responsible: Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports Agency or authority designated to handle comments regarding the notification can be indicated if different from above: National enquiry point
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): The three drafts are closely related and cover vinegar, protein products, tinned potatoes, tinned vegetables, gravy, mayonnaise, salad cream and wine. The Amendments of Decrees which relate to other foods or drinks are of a merely editorial nature.
5.	Title, number of pages and language(s) of the notified document: Three drafts which are closely related:  (a) Draft Decree repealing nine Decrees: the General Designation Decree (Commodities Act), the General Decree (Commodities Act), the Vinegar Decree (Commodities Act), the Protein Products Decree (Commodities Act), the Tinned Potatoes Decree (Commodities Act), the Tinned Vegetables Decree (Commodities Act), the Gravy Decree (Commodities Act), the Mayonnaise and Salad Cream Decree (Commodities Act) and the Wine Decree (Commodities Act), as well as the related Amendments of 13 other Decrees;  (b) Draft Protein Products (Commodities Act) Decree;  (c) Draft Reserved Designations (Commodities Act) Decree.
6.	Description of content: The Dutch Government has decided to simplify its foodstuffs legislation to a large extent. This decision has been implemented by repealing nine Decrees amending 13 other Decrees. The Amendments of those 13 Decrees are of a merely editorial nature (draft 5a). Specifications Regarding Protein Products which are Necessary to Protect Public Health will be maintained in the draft Protein Products (Commodities Act) Decree (draft 5b). This draft does not, therefore, contain any new specifications. As the specifications in draft 5a have been repealed quite extensively, it has been suggested that the designation of certain products which are consumed quite widely and for which there is a well-defined expectation on the part of the customer, would no longer be protected. Consequently, the draft Reserved Designations (Commodities Act) Decree contains minimum rules for the optional use of the designations vinegar, mayonnaise and fruit wine. These designations are not compulsory but optional subject to certain minimum conditions (draft 5c).

7.	Objective and rationale: The three drafts have been compiled, taking due consideration of market fluctuations, deregulation and the quality of Dutch foodstuffs legislation. Once the three drafts have been laid down, Dutch foodstuffs legislation will be deregulated for the most part.
8.	Relevant documents:  General Designation Decree (Commodities Act), the General Decree (Commodities Act), the Vinegar Decree (Commodities Act), the Own Brands Decree (Commodities Act), the Tinned Potatoes Decree (Commodities Act), the Tinned Vegetables Decree (Commodities Act), the Mayonnaise and Salad Cream Decree (Commodities Act), and the Wine Decree (Commodities Act).
9.	Proposed date of adoption: 15 December 1997 Proposed date of entry into force: 1 January 1998
10.	Final date for comments: 15 November 1997
11.	Texts available from: National enquiry point [X] or address and telefax number of other body: