

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/TBT/Notif.99.87
5 March 1999

(99-0897)

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>THE NETHERLANDS</u> If applicable, name of local government involved (Articles 3.2 and 7.2):
2.	Agency responsible: Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment Agency or authority designated to handle comments regarding the notification shall be indicated if different from above: National Enquiry Point – EC WTO-TBT 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): Hovercrafts (crafts which, based on their design, are intended to propel themselves on an air cushion, which is maintained between the craft and the carrying surface)
5.	Title, number of pages and language(s) of the notified document: Decree Amending the Hovercraft Decree under the Noise Abatement Act
6.	Description of content: The Hovercraft Decree under the Noise Abatement Act (hereinafter: the Decree) bans the use of certain hovercrafts. Hovercrafts falling under the scope of international rules or which are already subject to noise requirements are exempted from the Decree (see Article 2 of the Decree for these. The Decree (and the ban) mainly sees to the use of hovercrafts in non-professional inland or marine shipping. It is possible to obtain an exemption from the ban, provided that the noise levels are acceptable.
7.	Objective and rationale, including the nature of urgent problems where applicable: The ban covers the use of certain hovercrafts, especially those intended for recreational use. The noise level of these crafts is of an unacceptable level in most cases. The noise generated causes pollution and nuisance for both man and the environment (water areas). Furthermore, as there is little noise suppression on the water, the noise travels over long distances.
8.	Relevant documents: Hovercraft Decree under the Noise Pollution Act
9.	Proposed date of adoption: } Proposed date of entry into force: } 1 January 2000

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10.	Final date for comments: 26 April 1999
11.	Texts available from: National enquiry point [X] or address, e-mail and telefax number of the other body