

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

G/SPS/N/CAN/9

16 April 1996

(96-1382)

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

NOTIFICATION

1.	Member to Agreement notifying: <u>CANADA</u> If applicable, name of local government involved:
2.	Agency responsible: Health Canada
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): Cocoa and chocolate products
4.	Title and number of pages of the notified document: Proposed Amendment to the Food and Drug Regulations (Schedule No. 719) (pages 976-986)
5.	<p>Description of content: Note: Items (a), (b) and (c) below have been notified under the TBT Agreement</p> <p>Division 4 of the Food and Drugs Regulations includes a number of standards of identity and composition for a variety of cocoa and chocolate products. Since the promulgation of the current standards, the industry has undergone evolutionary changes in the domestic and international marketplaces. Amendments to the Regulations are, therefore, proposed, which will reflect current industry practices and provide flexibility to the industry with respect to the development of new products.</p> <p>The proposed amendments would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) revise the standards for cocoa butter, cocoa nibs and chocolate, to enhance quality parameters;(b) establish new compositional standards for white chocolate, and bittersweet chocolate, semi-sweet chocolate and dark chocolate, thereby providing an enhanced level of assurance regarding the composition and consistency of such products;(c) modify the following standards to more clearly distinguish differences in product composition:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- cocoa liquor, cocoa mass, unsweetened chocolate, bitter chocolate, and chocolate liquor,- sweet chocolate,- milk chocolate,- cocoa and cocoa powder, and- low fat cocoa powder;

- (d) enhance the opportunity for innovation and provide greater flexibility to manufacturers by permitting the addition of a broader range of milk and sweetening ingredients to cocoa and chocolate products; and by permitting the use of additional pH adjusting agents in cocoa products, and emulsifying agents in chocolate products.

With respect to the pH adjusting agents and emulsifying agents, these food additives are currently approved for use in a wide variety of products, so that the current proposal represents an extension of use. These proposed extensions of use have been evaluated from the standpoint of health and safety and are considered acceptable.

6. Objective and rationale: Protection of human 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: Canada Gazette, Part I, 30 March 1996

9. Proposed date of adoption and entry into force: Not stated

10. Final date for comments: 14 June 1996

11. Texts available from: National enquiry point [X] or address and telefax number of other body: