

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/SPS/N/NZ /513
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(##-####)

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original:

NOTIFICATION

1.	Notifying Member: <u>NEW ZEALAND</u> If applicable, name of local government involved:
2.	Agency responsible: Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ)
3.	Products covered (provide tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO; ICS numbers should be provided in addition, where applicable): Raw apricot kernels either unhulled (with skin) or hulled (without skin).
4.	Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> all trading partners
5.	Title, language and number of pages of the notified document: Proposal P1016 – Hydrocyanic acid in Apricot Kernels & Other Foods (20 pages in English)
6.	Description of content: This Proposal seeks to amend the <i>Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code</i> for hydrocyanic acid in raw apricot kernels. In order to manage the potential risks of consumption of raw apricot kernels, FSANZ has prepared a draft food regulatory measure to prohibit the sale of raw apricot kernels both unhulled (with skin) and hulled (without skin). This prohibition would also apply to any substance derived from raw apricot kernels (ground, milled, cracked, chopped) with an exemption for apricots containing raw apricot kernels, alcoholic beverages, oil, flavourings, stone fruit juices, marzipan, cakes, biscuits and confectionery.
7.	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 There has been a number of poisoning incidences in both Australia and New Zealand following consumption of raw apricot kernels that contained high levels of hydrocyanic acid (HCN). This poses an ongoing risk for Australian and New Zealand consumers that needs to be managed to avoid future poisoning incidences. All proposals to change the <i>Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code</i> , must be assessed in the context of the following objectives: (a) the protection of public health and safety; (b) the provision of adequate information relating to food to enable consumers to make informed choices; and (c) the prevention of misleading or deceptive conduct.

8.	<p>Is there a relevant international standard? If so, identify the standard:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Codex Alimentarius Commission</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> International Plant Protection Convention</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p>Does this proposed regulation conform to the relevant international standard? Not applicable</p> <p>If no, describe, whenever possible, how and why it deviates from the international standard:</p>
9.	<p>Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available: <i>Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code</i> (English)</p>
10.	<p>Proposed date of adoption: FSANZ Board approval anticipated mid-May 2015.</p> <p>Proposed date of publication: Notification to Government anticipated early June 2015 with gazettal and registration of legislative instrument to follow, in mid-August 2015, pending Government consideration.</p>
11.	<p>Proposed date of entry into force: Date of Gazettal and registration of legislative instrument pending Government consideration (see 10. above).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Trade facilitating measure</p>
12.	<p>Final date for comments: 20 February 2015</p> <p>Agency or authority designated to handle comments: <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:</p> <p>Food Standards Australia New Zealand PO Box 7186 Canberra BC ACT 2610 Australia E-mail: standards.management@foodstandards.gov.au</p> <p>Assessment summary available (in English) from FSANZ's website at http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/proposals/Pages/proposalp1016hydrocy5438.aspx</p>
13.	<p>Texts available from: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Notification Authority, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Enquiry Point, or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body: Documents are available from the Food Standards Australia New Zealand website: http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/proposals/Pages/proposalp1016hydrocy5438.aspx</p> <p>Mrs Sally Jennings, Coordinator, SPS New Zealand, PO Box 2526, Wellington, New Zealand. Tel: +64 4 894 0431; Fax: +64 4 894 0733; E-mail: sps@mpi.govt.nz</p> <p>Website: http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/sps/transparency/notifications/index.htm</p>