



31 May 2017

(17-2912)

Page: 1/2

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

**NOTIFICATION**

<b>1. Notifying Member:</b> AUSTRALIA <b>If applicable, name of local government involved:</b>
<b>2. Agency responsible:</b> Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources
<b>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):</b> Coconut, seafood (bivalve molluscs, cooked crustacea, finfish), cheese, meat, spices, seaweed, peanuts and pistachios and their products, sesame seeds and sesame seed products, specified plants and fungi.
<b>4. Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All trading partners <input type="checkbox"/> Specific regions or countries:
<b>5. Title of the notified document:</b> Proposals for Changes to the Inspection and Analysis of Imported Foods – May 2017. <b>Language(s):</b> English. <b>Number of pages:</b> 22
<b>6. Description of content:</b> Australia has prepared science-based risk statements on the risks associated with certain imported foods and these are published on the <a href="#">Food Standards Australia New Zealand website</a> .  In response to these risk statements, Australia is proposing legislative changes that would result in changes to the inspection and analysis of some imported foods.  Specific detail on the changes to the inspection and analysis of foods is available at <a href="http://www.agriculture.gov.au/import/goods/food/notices/ifn-09-17">www.agriculture.gov.au/import/goods/food/notices/ifn-09-17</a> .  The proposed changes include the following: Bivalve molluscs and foods containing bivalve molluscs (bivalve mollusc products) would require negotiated government certification to be imported into Australia. Bivalve mollusc products would be classified as a risk food so they could be inspected and analysed for biotoxins and microorganisms; Foods containing cooked prawns that are ready-to-eat would be classified as a risk food so they could be inspected and analysed for <i>Vibrio Cholerae</i> ; Dried coconut and cooked crustaceans (other than cooked prawns) would be reclassified so that they are no longer risk foods and therefore subject to a lower rate of inspection and analysis Foods; specified in <a href="#">Schedule 23</a> of the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (prohibited plants and fungi) would be classified as risk food so these could be more efficiently targetted for inspection. Other legislative changes are also proposed to align the imported food legislation with the food that is considered to pose a medium or high risk to public health as described in risk statements published by FSANZ. These proposed changes would relate to finfish, seaweed, cheese, meat, spices, sesame seeds and sesame seed products and foods containing peanuts or pistachios. Subject to consideration of issues raised on the proposed changes, it would be expected that these changes would take effect in September or October 2017.

7.	<b>Objective and rationale:</b> <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.
8.	<p><b>Is there a relevant international standard? If so, identify the standard:</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Codex Alimentarius Commission (e.g. title or serial number of Codex standard or related text):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Code of practice for fish and fishery products CAC/RCP 52-2003,</li> <li>- Code of Hygienic Production of Milk and Milk Products CAC/RCP 57-2004,</li> <li>- Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> in Foods CAC/GL 61-2007,</li> <li>- Codex Standard for Live and Raw Bivalve Molluscs CODEX STAN 292-2008.</li> </ul> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) (e.g. Terrestrial or Aquatic Animal Health Code, chapter number):</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>International Plant Protection Convention (e.g. ISPM number):</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>None</b></p> <p><b>Does this proposed regulation conform to the relevant international standard?</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><b>If no, describe, whenever possible, how and why it deviates from the international standard:</b> Seaweed is currently inspected and analysed for iodine and must contain no more than 1000 mg/kg of iodine on a dry weight basis. As part of the proposed legislative changes and changes to the inspection and analysis of seaweed, this limit would not change but the legislation would be amended to clarify the particular kinds of seaweed to which this limit applies (seaweed of the Phaeophyceae class).</p>
9.	<b>Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available:</b> Not applicable.
10.	<p><b>Proposed date of adoption (dd/mm/yy):</b> August or September 2017</p> <p><b>Proposed date of publication (dd/mm/yy):</b> May 2017</p>
11.	<p><b>Proposed date of entry into force:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Six months from date of publication, and/or (dd/mm/yy): September/October 2017 with certification of bivalve molluscs and bivalve mollusc products 12 months later.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Trade facilitating measure</b></p>
12.	<p><b>Final date for comments:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Sixty days from the date of circulation of the notification and/or (dd/mm/yy): 31 July 2017 (5 pm Australian Eastern Standard Time)</p> <p><b>Agency or authority designated to handle comments:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Notification Authority, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:</p> <p>The Australian SPS Notification Point GPO Box 858 Canberra ACT 2601 Australia Fax: +(61 2) 6272 3678 E-mail: sps.contact@agriculture.gov.au</p>
13.	<p><b>Text(s) available from:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Notification Authority, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:</p> <p>Specific detail is available at: <a href="http://www.agriculture.gov.au/import/goods/food/notices/ifn-09-17">http://www.agriculture.gov.au/import/goods/food/notices/ifn-09-17</a>.</p>