



15 December 2017

(17-6979)

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

**NOTIFICATION**

<b>1. Notifying Member:</b> <u>AUSTRALIA</u> <b>If applicable, name of local government involved:</b>
<b>2. Agency responsible:</b> Department of Health
<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> Organisms that have been modified through the use of certain new technologies (genetically modified organisms (GMO))
<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> Updating Gene Technology Regulation in Australia - Regulation Impact Statement for consultation. <b>Language(s):</b> English. <b>Number of pages:</b> 52
<b>6. Description of content:</b> The document outlines proposed changes to the Gene Technology Regulations 2001 which will clarify the classification of organisms that have been modified through the use of certain new technologies (two site directed nuclease techniques, oligo-directed mutagenesis and some RNA interference techniques). These changes will clarify which organisms will be required to be regulated as genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in Australia. They will also identify some organisms which will not require regulation as GMOs in Australia.  The document also contains information on other proposed changes to the Regulations which are not relevant to the international community.
<b>7. Objective and rationale:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> food safety, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> animal health, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> plant protection, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> protect territory from other damage from pests.
<b>8. Is there a relevant international standard? If so, identify the standard:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Codex Alimentarius Commission (e.g. title or serial number of Codex standard or related text): <input type="checkbox"/> World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) (e.g. Terrestrial or Aquatic Animal Health Code, chapter number): <input type="checkbox"/> International Plant Protection Convention (e.g. ISPM number): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None <b>Does this proposed regulation conform to the relevant international standard?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <b>If no, describe, whenever possible, how and why it deviates from the international standard:</b>

<p><b>9.</b></p>	<p><b>Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consultation Quick Guide</li> <li>- Gene Technology Amendment (2017 Measures No. 1) Regulations 2017</li> <li>- Gene Technology Regulations 2001 (Future Law Compilation)</li> </ul> <p>(available in English)</p>
<p><b>10.</b></p>	<p><b>Proposed date of adoption (dd/mm/yy):</b> To be decided.</p> <p><b>Proposed date of publication (dd/mm/yy):</b> To be decided.</p>
<p><b>11.</b></p>	<p><b>Proposed date of entry into force: [ ] Six months from date of publication, and/or (dd/mm/yy):</b> To be decided.</p> <p><b>[X] Trade facilitating measure</b> The proposed reforms will allow for the authority to recognise foreign country equivalence, exempting all imports from border intervention except where there is evidence of non-compliance or a food safety risk.</p>
<p><b>12.</b></p>	<p><b>Final date for comments: [ ] Sixty days from the date of circulation of the notification and/or (dd/mm/yy):</b> 21 February 2018</p> <p><b>Agency or authority designated to handle comments: [ ] National Notification Authority, [X] National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:</b></p> <p>The Australian SPS Notification Point  GPO Box 858  Canberra ACT 2601  Australia  E-mail: sps.contact@agriculture.gov.au</p>
<p><b>13.</b></p>	<p><b>Text(s) available from: [ ] National Notification Authority, [X] National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.ogtr.gov.au/internet/ogtr/publishing.nsf/Content/reviewregulations-1">http://www.ogtr.gov.au/internet/ogtr/publishing.nsf/Content/reviewregulations-1</a></p>