



5 December 2018

(18-7689)

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

1.	<b>Notifying Member:</b> AUSTRALIA <b>If applicable, name of local government involved:</b>
2.	<b>Agency responsible:</b> Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources
3.	<b>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> bivalve molluscs and bivalve mollusc products
4.	<b>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:
5.	<b>Title of the notified document:</b> Proposed changes to food safety import requirements for bivalve molluscs - December 2018. <b>Language(s):</b> English. <b>Number of pages:</b> 29
6.	<p><b>Description of content:</b> In 2017, Australia released a consultation paper, <i>Proposals for changes to the inspection and analysis of imported food - May 2017</i>. The changes were also notified internationally via a WTO/SPS notification (G/SPS/N/AUS/424). One of the proposed changes was to restrict the importation of bivalves and bivalve mollusc products, unless covered by a foreign government certificate.</p> <p>In response to the comments received on the May 2017 consultation paper, this second consultation paper provides more detail on the scope of products required to have government certification, the certification requirements, hazards required to be managed and details of border verification testing.</p> <p>Australia has prepared science-based risk statements on the hazards associated with bivalve molluscs and bivalve mollusc products and these are published on the <a href="#">Food Standards Australia New Zealand website</a>.</p> <p>The risk advice emphasises the importance of these hazards being mitigated by harvesting bivalve molluscs from approved areas and ensuring producers follow a verified sanitation program. Certification will enable Australia to have assurance that through-chain production controls are in place to manage the hazards associated with the growing, harvesting and production of bivalve molluscs and bivalve mollusc products. This will align the regulation of imported bivalves with domestic bivalve mollusc requirements in Australia.</p> <p>Subject to consideration of issues raised on the proposed changes, it would be expected that these changes would take effect from mid 2020.</p>
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>  – Codex Standard for Live and Raw Bivalve Molluscs CODEX STAN 292-2008</p> <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>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><b>If no, describe, whenever possible, how and why it deviates from the international standard:</b></p>
9.	<p><b>Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available:</b></p>
10.	<p><b>Proposed date of adoption (dd/mm/yy):</b> mid 2020</p> <p><b>Proposed date of publication (dd/mm/yy):</b> 4 December 2018</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): mid 2020</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Trade facilitating measure</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): 8 February 2019</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 Authority  GPO Box 858  Canberra ACT 2601  Australia  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="https://haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/bivalve-molluscs">https://haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/bivalve-molluscs</a>.</p>