

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

NOTIFICATION

1.	<b>Member to Agreement notifying:</b> <u>SWITZERLAND</u> <b>If applicable, name of local government involved:</b>
2.	<b>Agency responsible:</b> Swiss Federal Veterinary Office, CH-3097 Liebefeld-Berne
3.	<b>Products covered (tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable):</b> Meat products except those of Chapter 02
4.	<b>Title and number of pages of the notified document:</b> Conditions for the import of meat and meat products of the equine, bovine, caprine and porcine species (4 pages, available in German and French)
5.	<b>Description of content:</b> Amendment to the import conditions issued on 29 July 1993, adding the provision that meat products, except products falling under Chapter 02 of the Customs Tariff must originate from a country where the use of specified bovine offals for human food has been prohibited (SBOs: brain, spinal cord, eyes, thymus, spleen intestines, visible lymphatic and nervous tissues, and lymph nodes of bovines older than 6 months). In the case of countries which do not implement such a SBO ban, the Swiss Federal Veterinary Office may grant permits for specified products from specified producers under certain conditions. Applications have to be routed through the central veterinary authority of the country concerned, and the central veterinary authority must guarantee that the product is processed and the production supervised in a way as to exclude the presence of SBOs in the final product.
6.	<b>Objective and rationale:</b> Protection of human health and safety in the context of BSE. Switzerland has introduced a legal ban to use SBOs in the human (and animal) food chain already in 1990. When exporting meat products, Switzerland is able to guarantee that any product exported does not contain SBOs. The proposed amendment aims at ensuring that meat products imported from abroad have the same status regarding a possible health risk to humans as meat products originating from within the country.

7.	<p><b>An international standard, guideline or recommendation does not exist [ X ].</b>  <b>If an international standard, guideline or recommendation exists, whenever possible, identify deviations:</b>          The proposed amendment is in compliance with recommendation contained in Article 3.2.13.6 of the International Animal Health Code which focuses on the import of meat and meat products from countries with a low incidence of BSE. It is, however, applied on all countries, as there is no internationally agreed standard to define a country as "free from BSE", because the minimum requirements for an effective surveillance are not defined yet.</p>
8.	<p><b>Relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available:</b> Legal basis: Ordinance on the import, transit and export of animals and animal products of 20 April 1988</p>
9.	<p><b>Proposed date of adoption:</b> Not stated.</p>
10.	<p><b>Proposed date of entry into force:</b> 01.01.1997</p>
11.	<p><b>Final date for comments:</b> 20.12.1996</p> <p><b>Agency or authority designated to handle comments:</b></p>
12.	<p><b>Texts available from: National enquiry point [ ] or address, telefax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body:</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Swiss Federal Veterinary Office          Schwarzenburgstrasse 161          CH-3097 Liebefeld-Berne          Switzerland          Tel: + 41-31-323 85 17          Fax: + 41-31-323 85 22</p>