

23 April 2024

NOTICE TO RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS

Dear Sir/Ma'am:

This refers to the draft regulations distributed through the World Trade Organization – Technical Barriers to Trade (WTO-TBT) website (www.epingalert.org) from 06 to 12 April 2024.

Relative thereto, we respectfully invite stakeholders to comment on the seven (7) notified draft technical regulations from five (5) WTO Members:

Document Symbol	Notifying Member	Relevant Dates	Products Covered	Summary
G/TBT/N/B/EL/48	Belgium	<p>Date of Distribution: 09 April 2024</p> <p>Deadline for Comments: 07 June 2024</p>	E-cigarettes	<p>This draft Royal Decree amends the Royal Decree of 28 October 2016 on the manufacture and placing on the market of electronic cigarettes. The planned amendments concern composition and labelling. With regard to composition, Article 4 has been amended to introduce a ban on placing on the market electronic cigarettes that are completely disposable. The full justification for this measure was explained in a notification report to the EU Commission in accordance with the procedure set out in Article 24, 3 of Directive 2014/40/EU of 3 April 2014 on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States concerning the manufacture, presentation and sale of tobacco products and related products. In addition, the ban on placing disposable e-cigarettes on the Belgian market is in line with the 2022-2028 Interfederal Strategy for a Tobacco-Free Generation. This strategy is primarily aimed at reducing the prevalence of smoking and countering the widespread popularity of tobacco and similar products among young people and young adults. With regard to labelling (Article 5), a number of changes have been made to rectify certain errors. It has also been added that the leaflet must include information on quitting smoking, in accordance with sheet 6.5 of the Interfederal Strategy 2022-2028 for a smoke-free generation, dated 14/12/2022.</p>

BUREAU OF PHILIPPINE STANDARDS

Membership:

- International Organization for Standardization (ISO)
- International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)
- World Trade Organization (WTO) Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)
 - National Enquiry Point (NEP)
 - National Notification Authority (NNA)

G/TBT/N/C HE/285	Switzerland	Date of Distribution: 12 April 2024 Deadline for Comments: 10 June 2024	Labelling of animal products that are produced using pain-causing procedures without analgesia	<p>The proposal provides for mandatory labelling of animal products that are produced using pain-causing procedures without analgesia. The guiding principles of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) in the area of animal welfare are used as a benchmark for the labelling requirement. Furthermore, a labelling obligation is provided for plant products that originate from a country in which the use of plant protection products listed in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (hereinafter Rotterdam Convention; SR 0.916.21) is not prohibited.</p> <p>In addition, for the labelling of wine and the indication of origin of food ingredients, Swiss law will be adapted to that of the EU in order to reduce barriers to trade. With regard to wine, a list of ingredients and a nutrition declaration will in future be mandatory for all wines, sparkling wines and semi-sparkling wines. This information can also be provided electronically. With regard to the labelling of the origin of quantitatively important ingredients, the requirement will apply in future irrespective of the presentation of the product, but instead of the country of origin also a larger geographical area can be indicated.</p>
G/TBT/N/G BR/82	United Kingdom	Date of Distribution: 10 April 2024 Deadline for Comments: 08 June 2024	Single-use electronic cigarettes	<p>These regulations will introduce a ban on the sale and supply of single-use electronic cigarettes in England. These regulations define single-use electronic cigarettes as devices that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are not rechargeable, not refillable or are neither rechargeable nor refillable, and • vaporise substances for the purpose of inhalation through a mouthpiece. <p>The restriction will not apply to single-use electronic cigarettes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are refillable by means of a refill container, or tank or single-use cartridge, and • are any of the above and rechargeable. <p>Breach of these prohibitions will be an offence under the regulations. The regulations provide for fixed monetary</p>

				penalties, compliance notices and stop notices as well as noncompliance penalties. Criminal sanctions will also be provided for where an enforcement undertaking has not been complied with.
G/TBT/N/G BR/83	United Kingdom	Date of Distribution: 12 April 2024 Deadline for Comments: 10 June 2024	Organisms produced through precision breeding technologies	The notified regulations bring into force parts of the Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Act 2023 to establish a regulatory framework for organisms produced through precision breeding technologies, like gene editing, where the genetic changes could have arisen through traditional breeding. This comprises of two notification processes for the deliberate release and marketing of Precision Bred Organisms (PBOs) and an authorisation process for the food and feed derived from PBOs. The draft regulations establish reduced information requirements and a tiered approach for authorising PBOs. They also establish the requirement for public registers and enforcement provisions, comparatively less burdensome than currently under GMO legislation. We are notifying other elements of these measures under the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.
G/TBT/N/K EN/1601	Kenya	Date of Distribution: 11 April 2024 Deadline for Comments: 09 June 2024	Seed for brassica vegetable crops	This Kenya standard prescribes the requirements for certification of seeds for Brassica vegetable crops that are locally produced or imported.
G/TBT/N/K EN/1602	Kenya	Date of Distribution: 11 April 2024 Deadline for Comments: 09 June 2024	Seed	This Kenya Standard lists terminologies as used in seed industry and provides their definition in relation to methods of production, processing and assessment of seed quality for planting purposes.
G/TBT/N/N ZL/132	New Zealand	Date of Distribution: 12 April 2024 Deadline for Comments: 09 May 2024	Veterinary medicines, pesticides, animal feeds, fertilisers and other 'agricultural compounds' used for	Clause 4(1) of the Regulatory Systems (Primary Industries) Amendment Bill (the Bill) adds inhibitor substances to the central definition of 'agricultural compound' in the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act 1997 (ACVM Act), thereby subjecting inhibitors to the requirements of the ACVM Act.

			specific purposes in the management of plants and animals	<p>The ACVM regulates veterinary medicines, pesticides, animal feeds, fertilisers and other 'agricultural compounds' used for specific purposes in the management of plants and animals. The key requirements under the ACVM Act that are relevant under this notification are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorisation requirements for importation of inhibitors • Conformity assessment procedures, including to assess the product's formula, the efficacy of its claims and what residues it leaves in food and for the health of plants and animals • Labelling requirements, including approval of labels in relation to the claims made • If registration is granted, appropriate conditions will be placed on the registration to manage certain risks <p>This proposed measure replaces the 'interim measure' that New Zealand notified on 18 August 2022 (G/TBT/N/NZL/114), however the associated policy intent remains unchanged. On commencement of the Bill, clauses 16 and 17 revoke the interim measure.</p>
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To access the notification form, right click the document symbol to open the hyperlink. Should you have any queries on this matter or request for full text of draft regulation in English, please do not hesitate to email us at BPS@dti.gov.ph copy bps.smd@dti.gov.ph.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

NEIL P. CATAJAY
Director