

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/SPS/N/NZL/413

Date of distribution

(##-####)

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original:

NOTIFICATION

1. Member to Agreement notifying: <u>NEW ZEALAND</u> If applicable, name of local government involved:
2. Agency responsible: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
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): Frozen, skinless, boneless fish fillets (or mince derived from fillets) of non-CITES listed spp. of catfish (<i>Pangasius</i> spp.) for human consumption from Vietnam
4. Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable: Vietnam
5. Title, language and number of pages of the notified document: Import health standard for processed tilapia and catfish for human consumption from specified countries. (English) – 7 pages.
6. Description of content: <p>The import health standard for specified processed freshwater fish for human consumption from specified countries currently only contains tilapia from the people's republic of China and Brazil. This standard has now been amended to include catfish from Vietnam. This amendment is based on the import risk analysis: frozen skinless and boneless fillet meat of <i>Pangasius spp</i> fish from Vietnam for human consumption. The import conditions are identical to the current conditions for processed tilapia from the People's Republic of China and Brazil.</p> <p>General sanitary measures were considered necessary:</p> <p>a) to ensure that the likelihood of clinically or subclinically diseased fish being harvested for processing is minimised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- both the farm of origin and the processing facility must be registered with the competent authority of the country in question; and- fish processed must be derived from broodstock resident in the exporting country; and- fish showing clinical signs of disease, septicaemia or skin ulceration must not be harvested for processing into this commodity; and- fish harvested must not be subject to emergency slaughter for disease reasons, regardless of whether or not they display clinical signs themselves. <p>b) to avoid contamination of the commodity with exotic foodborne pathogens:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- only potable water should be used during the processing of the fish into fillet meat <p>c) to ensure compliance with freezing and transport regime included in the commodity definition:</p> <p>to ensure that the inactivation of pathogenic and parasitic organisms, caused by the freezing</p>

<p>process, does occur it must be determined that the commodity was frozen and held at -18°C, or lower, for at least 7 days (168 hours) before a biosecurity clearance is issued.</p>
<p>7. Objective and rationale: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> food safety, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> animal health, <input 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</p>
<p>8. International standard, guideline or recommendation: <input type="checkbox"/> Codex Alimentarius Commission, <input type="checkbox"/> Office International des Epizooties, <input type="checkbox"/> International Plant Protection Convention, <input type="checkbox"/> None If an international standard, guideline or recommendation exists, give the appropriate reference and briefly identify deviations:</p>
<p>9. Relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available: Import risk analysis: frozen skinless and boneless fillet meat of <i>Pangasius spp</i> fish from Vietnam for human consumption. (English)</p>
<p>10. Proposed date of adoption: 31 January 2009</p>
<p>11. Proposed date of entry into force: 31 January 2009</p>
<p>12. Final date for comments: 12 December 2008</p>
<p>13. Texts available from: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National notification authority, <input type="checkbox"/> National enquiry point, or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body: Ms Sally Jennings, Coordinator, SPS New Zealand, PO Box 2526, Wellington, New Zealand. Tel: +64 4 894 0431; Fax: +64 4 894 0733; E-mail: sps@maf.govt.nz Website: www.maf.govt.nz/biosecurity/sps/transparency/notifications/index.htm</p>