

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/SPS/N/THA/108
19 December 2003

(03-6681)

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

NOTIFICATION OF EMERGENCY MEASURES

1. Member to Agreement notifying: <u>THAILAND</u> If applicable, name of local government involved:
2. Agency responsible: Department of Fisheries (DOF)
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): Common carp fish and koi fish (<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>)
4. Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable: Japan
5. Title, language and number of pages of the notified document: The DOF Notification on Temporary Prohibition of Imports of Carp Fish dated 18 November 2003 (one page, available in Thai)
6. Description of content: As there were reports in Japan of herpes virus infection in early October 2003 and widely spread over the areas since the middle of the month inflicting a huge loss of cultured carp farms where this highly contagious disease could possibly be transmitted to other close countries and the outbreak control in the areas is not well-established, the Department of Fisheries (DOF) is authorized to temporarily suspend the issuance of such import permits of carp fish from Japan effective from the notified date in order to prevent the disease entering the country. Import permits issued prior to this effective date will still be valid subject to 15 days quarantine of the imported fish and a sampling test by the DOF for koi herpes virus.
7. Objective and rationale: [] food safety, [X] animal health, [] plant protection, [] protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, [] protect territory from other damage from pests
8. Nature of the urgent problem(s) and reason for urgent action: This emergency measure is to protect the local fish industry from the harm caused by the disease virus which is highly contagious and the outbreak control in the areas is not effectively established. The koi herpes virus has been included in the disease monitoring programme in ornamental fish exporting farms since August 2002. There is still no report of the koi herpes virus in Thailand.
9. International standard, guideline or recommendation: [] Codex Alimentarius Commission, [] Office International des Epizooties, [] International Plant Protection Convention, [X] None If an international standard, guideline or recommendation exists, give the appropriate reference and briefly identify deviations:
10. Relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available:

11. Date of entry into force/period of application (as applicable): 18 November 2003
12. Agency or authority designated to handle comments: [X] National notification authority, [X] National enquiry point, or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body: National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards (ACFS) Division of Agriculture Commodity and Food Standards Policy 3 Ratchadamnern-Nok Road, Bangkok 10200 Thailand Tel: (662) 629 8970 Fax: (662) 629 8978 Website: www.acfs.go.th E-mail: sps@acfs.go.th
13. Texts available from: [X] National notification authority, [X] National enquiry point, or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body: National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards (ACFS) Division of Agriculture Commodity and Food Standards Policy 3 Ratchadamnern-Nok Road, Bangkok 10200 Thailand Tel: (662) 629 8970 Fax: (662) 629 8978 Website: www.acfs.go.th E-mail: sps@acfs.go.th