

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/TBT/N/TPKM/130
21 December 2012

(12-7043)

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.6

1.	Notifying Member: <u>THE SEPARATE CUSTOMS TERRITORY OF TAIWAN, PENGHU KINMEN AND MATSU</u> If applicable, name of local government involved (Article 3.2 and 7.2):
2.	Agency responsible: Environmental Protection Administration, No.83, Zhonghua Rd. Sec. 1, Zhongzheng District Taipei City 10042, Taiwan Telephone: (886 2) 2311-7722 Fax: (886 2) 2381-0562 E-mail: sllien@epa.gov.tw Name and address (including telephone and fax numbers, email and website addresses, if available) of agency or authority designated to handle comments regarding the notification shall be indicated if different from above:
3.	Notified under Article 2.9.2 [X], 2.10.1 [], 5.6.2 [], 5.7.1 [], other:
4.	Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable): Existing chemical substances that are listed on the existing chemical inventory by the Environmental Protection Administration and new chemical substances which are not listed on the existing chemical inventory.
5.	Title, number of pages and language(s) of the notified document: Draft amendment of the Toxic Chemical Substances Control Act (TCSCA) (15 pages in Chinese, English translation available).
6.	Description of content: Under the current Toxic Chemicals Substances Control Act (TCSCA), chemicals are managed by relevant competent authorities according to their uses and applications. However, the competent authority has yet to establish any regulatory scheme to include chemical substance registration for further toxic screening and control. The development of existing chemical inventory is essential as a basis to toxic chemical substance screening and new chemical substances management. Under the current toxic substance screening process, the EPA is fully responsible for collecting a list of chemical substances that are identified as harmful to human health or the environment by competent authorities around the world as an initial pool of collection list for further evaluation. However, the toxic screening process is considered costly, and the efficiency requires great improvement to ensure the protection of human health and the environment. Furthermore, directly adopting toxic substances from other countries for toxic screening process might cause waste in administrative resources due to the lack of prioritization upfront. In this amendment, the

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	competent authority plans to adopt the core principles of registration scheme implemented internationally to require industries to submit information of manufactured or imported chemicals to reflect the chemicals in use on the market and for further toxic chemical management evaluation.
7.	Objective and rationale, including the nature of urgent problems where applicable: To strengthen management of toxic chemicals and to enhance the protection of the environment and human health.
8.	Relevant documents: N/A
9.	Proposed date of adoption: 31 March 2013 Proposed date of entry into force: 31 March 2014
10.	Final date for comments: 60 days from date of notification
11.	Text available from: National enquiry point [X], or address, telephone and fax numbers, e-mail and web-site addresses, if available of the other body: WTO/TBT Enquiry Point The Bureau of Standards, Metrology and Inspection Ministry of Economic Affairs 4 Chinan Road, Section 1, Taipei, 100, Taiwan Telephone: (886-2) 2343-1801 Fax: (886-2) 3343-1804 E-mail: tbtenq@bsmi.gov.tw http://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2012/tbt/CHT/12_4800_00_e.pdf http://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2012/tbt/CHT/12_4800_00_x.pdf