



8 December 2015

(15-6478)

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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: Agriculture and Food Agency (AFA) Council of Agriculture 8, Kuang-Hua Road Chung-Hsing New Village Nantou, 54044 Taiwan Tel: (886-49) 2332-380 ext 2429 Fax: (886-49) 234-1092 E-mail: hsiuhui@mail.afa.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 [X], 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): Organic agricultural products. Agriculture (ICS: 65)
5. Title, number of pages and language(s) of the notified document: Draft of the Organic Agriculture Act (9 pages, in Chinese)
6. Description of content: To maintain the ecological balance, enhance the quality of organic agricultural products, improve the public health and protect consumer rights, the AFA intends to promulgate "The Organic Agriculture Act" (hereinafter "the Act"). The Act will come into effect one year after adopted by Taiwan Legislative Yuan, and the AFA will propose implementing measures based on the Act. Organic agriculture is an important part of the sustainable circulation system of the nature and also the key production method for providing safe source of food. For this reason many countries in the world deem organic agriculture as a national green industry policy and provide support and management through legislation. Currently the management of Taiwan's organic agriculture relies on the provisions related to production of agricultural products and the certification management regulations. Although Taiwan stipulates explicit regulations governing the requirements for organic production process, certification management, and the penalties for organic agricultural product inspections, Taiwan is also facing challenges for changes in the environment of domestic agricultural production, rigorous requirements for quality from organic consumers, and discretions over the product trade regulations for international organic equivalence. The Act is drafted with 41 articles to promote the sustainable development of Taiwan's organic agriculture and improve the quality of organic agricultural products, in order to maintain national health, take consideration of the interest and rights of producers and

	consumers, and achieve the objectives in organic ecology of environment, farmers' organic production, and the organic live of consumers.
7.	Objective and rationale, including the nature of urgent problems where applicable: Protection of the environment; Prevention of deceptive practices and consumer protection
8.	Relevant documents: –
9.	Proposed date of adoption: To be determined Proposed date of entry into force: One year after the legislative adoption and announcement
10.	Final date for comments: 60 days from notification
11.	Texts available from: National enquiry point [X] or address, telephone and fax numbers and email and website addresses, if available, of other body: TPKM – WTO/TBT Enquiry Point Bureau of Standards, Metrology and Inspection Ministry of Economic Affairs No.4, Sec. 1, Jinan Rd. Zhongzheng Dist., Taipei City 100, Taiwan Tel: (886-2) 33435191 Fax: (886-2) 23431804 E-mail: tbtenq@bsmi.gov.tw http://www.afa.gov.tw/organicAgriculture.aspx?CatID=809 https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2015/TBT/CHT/15_4844_00_x.pdf