

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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NEW ZEALAND IMPORT CONTROL

1955 Import Licensing Policy

The following press statement, issued on 30 July 1954, has been forwarded by the New Zealand Government for the information of contracting parties.

The 1955 Import Licensing Schedule was released last night (29 July 1954) by the Minister in Charge of Import Licensing, Hon. J.T. Watts, who also announced the 1955 import policy for goods from North America and other scheduled countries. A number of relatively minor items have been exempted from import licensing on non-scheduled countries but a considerable increase has been made in the list of world exemption items. A separate announcement will be made later regarding 1955 motor vehicle imports.

"I am happy to announce," said the Minister, "yet another step forward in the policy of liberalizing trade which the Government has adopted during recent years. Because of the greatly improved position of the sterling area in relation to trade with dollar countries it has been decided to increase substantially the list of world exemption items (for which no import licences are required for goods from any sources) and to adopt a more liberal attitude towards applications for licences to import essential plant and equipment and industrial raw materials from Canada and the United States of America. There will now be over 90 items for which no licences will be required for imports from any source. Among the more important of those items will be crawler tractors, spare parts for all tractors, spare parts for motor vehicles, artificers' tools, sewing and knitting machines, adding and computing machines, a large range of surgical and dental appliances and materials and flying machines. In addition to those goods it has been decided to abolish licensing altogether for canned fish immediately, and for dried prunes from 1 February 1955. Limited licences will be granted for imports of paperhangings and linoleum from North America."