

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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SOUTH AFRICAN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

Additional Import Facilities for 1962

The South African authorities have submitted for the information of the CONTRACTING PARTIES a copy of the press statement made by the Minister of Economic Affairs of South Africa on 28 August 1962. The text of the statement is reproduced below.

In my announcement on 13 March 1962, on the granting of supplementary import quotas for the current year, I indicated that I would, in due course, consider a further general issue of permits for both Group A and Group B categories of consumer goods.

I have now reviewed the position in the light of prevailing circumstances, and have decided to authorize the immediate issue of additional import facilities for both categories of consumer goods as well as for textile piece-goods imported by merchants.

The supplementary import quotas for 1962 to be issued in respect of these three categories of goods will be as follows:

- (a) for Group A consumer goods an additional issue of 25 per cent will be granted, bringing the total issues for the current year up to 100 per cent of the average of an importer's imports of these goods during 1959 and 1960;
- (b) for Group B consumer goods an additional issue of 5 per cent, representing an increase of approximately 15 per cent on the issues already authorized for the current year, will be granted, bringing the total issues for the year up to 40 per cent of an importer's assessment basis; and
- (c) for textile piece-goods imported by merchants an additional issue of 10 per cent will be made, bringing the total issues for the year up to 85 per cent of the average of an importer's imports of textile piece-goods during 1959 and 1960.

I am convinced that, while there are at present no shortages in the country of any of these three categories of goods, the demand for them will increase progressively during the remainder of the year. The action I am now taking is, therefore, designed to ensure that there will be no shortages later in the year and that Christmas shoppers will, as in the past, have a reasonable selection of goods from which to make their purchases.

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In order to assist the smaller import businesses, I have given instructions that in all cases where the additional allocations now authorized will involve the issue of permits to a value of less than R500, permits for R500 should be issued.

Importers who wish to take advantage of these additional issues should immediately apply in writing to the Acting Director of Imports and Exports, Private Bag 192, Pretoria.