

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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CONSULAR FORMALITIES

Addendum

ARGENTINA

The following report has been received in response to the secretariat's enquiry to the countries still maintaining consular formalities regularly.

The only formality required for the export of goods to Argentina is the legalization of invoices in a Consulate of Argentina in the exporting country.

This formality is carried out within twenty-four hours in normal cases, and it may be carried out by post. In urgent cases the party concerned can go to the Consulate and have the invoice legalized forthwith.

If the simple formalities described above are compared with those previously existing, the present system clearly offers advantages and has made it possible to reduce to a minimum the formalities that an exporter must carry out in order to send his products to Argentina.

By way of example, we may recall that the present formality no longer requires any action by the Consulate on the following documents:

1. visa on the crew muster-roll;
2. visa on declarations by ship's captains;
3. presentation of Consular invoice;
4. purchase of the form for the Consular invoice;
5. visa on the Consular invoice;
6. presentation of certificate of origin;
7. visa on certificate of origin;
8. intervention by the Chamber of Commerce of the place concerned;
9. visa on ship's manifest;
10. visa on bills of lading.

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The experience of Argentine Consulates shows that the fact of reducing a complex system of Consular formalities to the simple and rapid legalization of commercial invoices which is now applied does not, in practice, cause any delay in normal consignments of merchandise exported to Argentina.

The Argentine Government is satisfied with the new system and holds the view that it cannot in any way be considered as hindering or impeding normal commercial transactions.

