

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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CONTRACTING PARTIES
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CONSULAR FORMALITIES

Addendum

PORTUGAL

The following report on progress toward abolition of consular formalities has been received from the Government of Portugal.

1. Under Decree-Law No. 47010, dated 16 May 1966, the Portuguese Government abolished the consular invoices ("declarações de carga") that were formerly required to be issued by the consular authorities. These consular invoices were generally required for all goods of a value in excess of 500 Portuguese escudos (equivalent to US\$17.25).

2. Since the entry into force of the above-mentioned Decree-Law the commercial invoice, without any consular visa, is accepted in place of the "consular invoice" which has been abolished.

A consular visa on the commercial invoice is nevertheless required solely in the case of goods which have undergone industrial processing in the country of consignment (as distinct from the country of origin of the goods) or which have passed in transit through free ports, free zones or customs warehouses.

3. The consular certificate of origin continues to be required by the Portuguese legislation. The practical scope of this legal requirement is, however, very limited because many exceptions are provided, in particular in the case of direct import by rail, sea, air or by post and even in certain cases of indirect import. In addition, where the consular certificate of origin is required, a period of ninety days, as from the date of presentation of the goods to the customs, is provided for handing over the certificate to the Portuguese authorities. The amount of the fees charged has been reduced.

4. Having regard to the foregoing, the national authorities consider that substantial progress has been made by the Portuguese legislation in the direction of the recommendations made by the CONTRACTING PARTIES on this subject.

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