

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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IMPORT RESTRICTIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF
SOUTH AFRICA

Addendum

The following communicated dated 9 January 1975 has been received from the Permanent Representative of South Africa.

I have the honour to refer to paragraph 9 of document C/M/81 of 1 November 1972 and enclose copies of a press statement of 4 December 1974, wherein the Minister of Economic Affairs announced further relaxations of South Africa's import control.

A Government Notice giving full details of the import relaxations will be published shortly and copies will be forwarded to you as soon as they are received.

PRESS STATEMENT ISSUED BY SENATOR THE HONOURABLE OWEN HORWOOD,
MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, ON IMPORT CONTROL

1. It has been decided in the light of economic conditions in South Africa and in accordance with the Republic's obligations under the GATT, to implement, with effect from 1 January 1975, the following relaxations of the Government's import control measures:

- (i) the transfer of 34 groups or classes of commodities which at present are subject to permit control, to the list of goods which may be imported without a permit (that is to say, the so-called permit-free list as set out in paragraph 1 of Government Notice R.2281 of 30 November 1973); and
- (ii) the transfer of 20 types of commodities which currently appear in paragraph 4 of the Government's import control measures and the importation of which is now strictly limited, to paragraph 2 of the import control measures, which implies that imports of these types of commodities will, in future, be permitted on a more liberal scale to meet the full reasonable requirements of importers.

2. I must emphasize that these relaxations of the Government's import control measures in no way detract from the undertaking which the Government has given to South African manufacturers that they would be adequately protected if they could present a well-founded case for such protection.

3. A Government Notice will appear in the Government Gazette soon giving full details of the relaxations which I am now announcing.

4. In view of the very recent announcement of additional permit allocations for the following classes and types of goods which are subject to import restrictions by means of the determination of periodic import quotas, as well as the fact that the second-round permit allocations for these classes and types of goods are to take place considerably earlier than usual next year, I have decided to grant to importers for their 1975 imports an advance allocation of 40 per cent of the total permits issued for these goods during 1974:

- (a) Consumer goods
- (b) Clothing
- (c) Confectionery
- (d) (i) All alcoholic beverages, including whisky, and
(ii) Whisky alone.

5. Further permit allocations for the above-mentioned types and classes of goods will be considered as soon as possible after the March 1975 Budget Statement of the Minister of Finance.

6. In conclusion, I wish to state that the advance allocation in respect of the aforementioned classes and types of goods on which I have now decided, will not be automatically issued to importers. Importers who wish to avail themselves of the advance allocation, should submit written applications to the Director of Imports and Exports, Private Bag X192, Pretoria.