

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

LIC/12
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Special Distribution

Committee on Import Licensing

PART I OF WORK PROGRAMME

Note by the Chairman

At its eleventh meeting in October 1984, the Committee on Import Licensing adopted procedures regarding the first stage of its work programme concerning "simplification" of the agreement (LIC/M/11, paragraph 34). At its thirteenth meeting in June 1985, the Committee agreed to hold informal consultations on this matter.

Draft recommendations on the application of Articles 1.4, 1.6, 3(c), 3(d), 3(e) and 3(g) of the Agreement were discussed in the fifteenth, sixteenth, and seventeenth meetings of the Committee as well as in a number of informal consultations. At the eighteenth meeting, held on 19 May 1987, the following recommendations were adopted by the Committee. Comments made by delegations at the time of the adoption of the recommendations are contained in LIC/M/18.

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Recommendations for the Application of Articles 1.4,
1.6, 3(c), 3(d), 3(e) and 3(g)

The Committee recommends that Parties should observe the time periods set out below in applying the provisions of Article 1.4 in relation to 3(e), 3(c) and 3(d), and the provisions of Articles 1.6 and 3(g) of the Agreement:

- Ad Article 1.4 and 3(e) (i) The rules and all information concerning procedures for the submission of applications referred to in Articles 1.4 and the lists of products subject to the licensing requirement, as well as any changes in either the rules or the lists of products should, where there is a specific opening date for the submission of applications, normally be published at least 21 days prior to that date. Information on shares in a quota currently allocated, by quantity or value, among supplying countries, referred to in Article 3(d), should be published within the same time period. Where situations arise which make it necessary to provide for an early opening date of quotas, the information referred to in Articles 1.4 and 3(e) should be published no later than 7 days after the announcement of the quota or other measure involving an import licensing requirement;
- Ad Article 3(d)
- Ad Article 3(e)
- Ad Article 1.4 and Article 3(c) (ii) The elements of information referred to in Article 3(c) should also be published in such a manner as to enable governments and traders to become acquainted with them;
- Ad Article 1.6 (iii) Where there is a closing date for the submission of licensing applications, applicants should be allowed at least 21 days for making such submissions. However, this provision should not be interpreted as derogating from Article 3(a), particularly in cases where insufficient amounts of applications have been received within the 21 days;
- Ad Article 3(g) (iv) The period for processing applications should normally not be longer than 21 days if applications are considered as and when received, i.e. on a first-come first-served basis, and normally no longer than 60 days if all applications are considered simultaneously;
- Ad Article 1.6 (v) In cases where it is strictly indispensable that more than one administrative body is to be approached in connection with an application, applicants should not need to approach more than two administrative bodies.