

**GENERAL AGREEMENT ON  
TARIFFS AND TRADE**

**RESTRICTED**

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**REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE ON IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES**

**CAMEROON**

**Addendum**

The following notification has been received from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cameroon in response to the Questionnaire on Import Licensing Procedures annexed to L/5640/Rev.8.

**QUESTIONNAIRE ON IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES**

**Outline, purposes and coverage of the import authorization, declaration and licensing system**

1. and 2. The current General Trade Schedule (GTS)<sup>1</sup> comprises four categories of import products.

(a) Uncontrolled products which are not subject to any import restrictions or the prior obtention of technical visas. These are all the products not included in Appendices I-C, II and III of the GTS.

(b) Products which, for special reasons, especially considerations of safety, health and environmental protection, are subject to the technical control and approval of some ministries (Appendix II).

The importation of these two categories of products is subject to the formality of import declaration through the bank of domiciliation for approved importers and of authorization and licensing for non-approved importers.

(c) Products which are subject to quantitative restrictions, including products subject to "perequation", which require prior import authorization by the Minister responsible for trade (Annex I-C). The perequation tax applies to groats and cornmeal (gritz), oils, refined sugar, rice and fats (soap, glycerine, margarine).

<sup>1</sup>General Trade Schedule for 1989-1991 in English and French is available for reference in the secretariat (Office no. 3013).

Once the decision authorizing importation of a product subject to prior authorization or to perequation has been issued, the corresponding draft licences, together with the original copy of the Minister's decision, must be submitted for approval to the nearest office of the Ministry responsible for trade.

(d) Products whose admission and distribution are prohibited across the national territory because of the health and environmental hazards they constitute (Appendix III).

3. The system applies to goods originating in and coming from all countries with which Cameroon trades.

4. In the case of products in Appendix I-C, the system is intended to restrict the quantity of imports, i.e. the import authorization is granted taking into account the level of local production and the need for a regular market supply.

For other products, the licence or declaration is issued for purposes of import statistics, inspection and control.

5. The legal basis for the licensing system is as follows:

- Law No. 90/031 of 10 August 1990 governing trading activity in Cameroon;
- Decision No. 232/MINDIC/CAB/IG2 of 29 June 1990 establishing the General Trade Schedule;
- all supplementary Ministerial decisions.

The General Trade Schedule setting forth the current licensing system is established by government decision, through the Minister responsible for trade, in accordance with the Law governing trading activity. Consequently, the Government may abolish the system without legislative approval.

#### Procedures

6. I. The import procedure for products subject to quantitative restrictions is described in the GTS, which is widely circulated among economic operators, both abroad through Cameroon's diplomatic missions and internally through Consular offices and the services of the Ministry responsible for trade. Only the list of products whose importation is subject to quantitative restrictions is published in the GTS. Quotas are established according to information concerning local production and the quantities requested by importers, regardless of the exporting country. Governments, export promotion bodies or trade representatives are informed of the products subject to the quota system under the GTS and of the amounts of quotas granted, at the time of submission by the importer of a copy of the import licence issued to him.

II. The size of the quota is not fixed in advance. It depends on the level of local production of similar products and the amounts requested by the importer.

III. The licence constitutes an intention to import which is expressed in the light of market needs. Licences are granted primarily to professional importers, but any other person whose principal activity is not trade may also be a beneficiary. The presumption is that signed licences give rise to actual import transactions. Any failure to use a licence should be brought to the attention of the administrative services. Unused allocations are not taken into account in the setting of subsequent quotas. The names of importers to whom licences have been allocated are communicated to governments or export promotion bodies of exporting countries upon request.

IV. The period of time allowed remains open as long as market needs continue to exist.

V. Minimum time: less than an hour  
Maximum time: a few days.

VI. There is no minimum length of time between the granting of licences and the date of opening of the period of importation.

VII. A single administrative organ handles licence applications, with the exception of licences concerning products subject to prior technical approval by the Ministries mentioned in Annex II.

VIII. Licences are allocated on the basis of criteria such as:

- volume of past imports;
- financial soundness of the applicant;
- good character of the applicant.

A maximum amount is allocated per applicant on the basis of the above information and market needs. New importers may also receive licences. The method of examination of applications depends on the urgency of the needs.

IX. Licences of this kind are necessary for statistical purposes, and they are delivered immediately.

X. The information may come from the importers engaged in the transaction or from the exporting country itself.

XI. Yes, these are goods in transit generally destined for Cameroon's landlocked neighbours.

7. (a) The licence application must be submitted prior to shipment of the goods. Licences may be obtained within a shorter time-period or for goods that arrive at the frontier without a licence.

- (b) Yes.  
(c) No.

(d) Bank domiciliation takes place prior to consideration of licence applications. The bodies concerned are the banks. The importer applies to one or possibly two administrative bodies for the import of products in Annex II.

8. The grounds for rejection, other than failure to meet the ordinary criteria, are:

- non-approval to engage in import trade;
- non-submission of an import authorization;
- import of prohibited products;
- non-payment of the inspection and control tax;
- false declarations.

The reasons for any refusal are given to the applicant. Refusal does not require appeal to a particular body. If the persons concerned meet the required conditions, they are granted licences.

Eligibility of importers to apply for licences

9. (a) As far as restrictive licensing systems are concerned, anyone is eligible to apply for a licence. However, such applications should preferably be made by an importer approved to engage in import trade.

- (b) Under non-restrictive systems, the procedure is simpler.

There is a system of registration of persons or firms permitted to engage in importation. Any natural or legal person is eligible. There is no registration fee. There is a published list of authorized importers.

Documentational and other requirements for application for licence

10. The information that must be included in applications is specified in the attached CTRI information notice and Circulars Nos. 001-002/MINDIC/DC/SDI/SAF<sup>1</sup> to importers. The licence application must be accompanied by:

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<sup>1</sup>In French only.

- two pro forma or final invoices;
- a cheque for the amount of the inspection and control tax on imports where the value of the goods exceeds 1,000,000 FCFA.

11. The list of the documents required on actual importation is drawn up by the customs services.

12. There is no licensing fee or administrative charge.

13. There is no deposit or advance payment requirement associated with the issue of licences. Imports of rice, oil, sugar, maize gritz and fat alone are subject to the submission of a bank security for the following amounts per unit of measurement:

- rice: 30 FCFA/kg.;
- oil: 100 FCFA/litre.;
- sugar: 5 FCFA/kg.;
- maize gritz: 110 FCFA/kg.;
- fats: 50 FCFA/kg.

The perequation tax levied is paid to the Treasury in order to protect the industries concerned. The bank security submitted by the importer and blocked for three months constitutes a guarantee for the payment of the perequation tax.

#### Conditions of licensing

14. The period of validity of an authorization is six months, renewable once. Licences are valid for nine months, extendable for three months. Renewal or extension takes place at the request of the importer.

15. There is no penalty for the non-utilization of a licence or a portion of a licence.

16. Licences are not transferable.

17. The issue of a licence is subject to:

- prior approval to engage in importation for all types of products; or
- prior authorization, if the importer is not approved to engage in importation for all types of products, or in the case of a product subject to quantitative restrictions or perequation.

Other procedural requirements

18. Only imports of products subject to technical visas of some ministries is subject to this formality.

19. Foreign exchange is automatically transferred to the seller by the banking authorities for goods to be imported. A licence is required as a condition for obtaining foreign exchange. Foreign exchange is always available to cover licences issued. To obtain foreign exchange, it is necessary to have an authorization for the transfer of funds, issued by the Minister of Finance on submission of an import authorization or licence.

MINISTÈRE DU DÉVELOPPEMENT  
INDUSTRIEL ET COMMERCIAL  
DIRECTION DU COMMERCE  
SOUS-DIRECTION DES IMPORTATIONS  
SERVICE DES AGREMENTS ET DU FICHIER

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN  
Paix - Travail - Patrie

AVIS N° 001/MINDIC/DC/SDI/SAF  
AUX IMPORTATEURS POSTULANTS

LE MINISTRE DU DÉVELOPPEMENT INDUSTRIEL ET COMMERCIAL

Porte à la connaissance des personnes morales et physiques, désirant obtenir un premier agrément à l'exercice de la profession d'importateur, que les demandes y relatives sont reçues à la Direction du commerce de son département accompagnées des pièces suivantes:

- 1) une copie certifiée conforme d'une patente A/S (import-export) en cours de validité;
- 2) une déclaration d'immatriculation au Registre du commerce et un certificat d'identification au fichier central des entreprises délivré par la Direction de la statistique;
- 3) un reçu de versement de la cotisation annuelle de 10 000 FCFA par le Conseil national des chargeurs du Cameroun ou un mandat du même montant adressé à cet organisme.

Les opérateurs économiques sont en outre informés que dans le cadre des mesures de libéralisation de l'économie nationale la validité de l'agrément à l'importation est portée de un à deux ans. Par conséquent, les renouvellements se feront tous les deux ans.

Yaoundé, le 16 décembre 1991

APPLICATIONS:

- MINDIC (RADIO-PRESSE);
- TOUS CHEFS-LIEUX DE PROVINCES;
- CHAMBRE DE COMMERCE;
- DELEGATIONS PROVINCIALES DU MINDIC;
- ARCHIVES ET CHRONO.

**SPECIMEN**

MINISTÈRE DU DEVELOPPEMENT  
INDUSTRIEL ET COMMERCIAL  
DIRECTION DU COMMERCE  
SOUS-DIRECTION DES IMPORTATIONS  
SERVICE DES AGREMENTS ET DU FICHIER

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN  
Paix - Travail - Patrie

AVIS N° 002/MINDIC/DC/SDI/SAF  
AUX IMPORTATEURS

LE MINISTRE DU DEVELOPPEMENT INDUSTRIEL ET COMMERCIAL

Porte à la connaissance des anciens importateurs que les demandes de renouvellement de leur agrément au commerce d'importation devront comprendre les pièces suivantes:

- 1) un certificat d'imposition pour l'exercice en cours délivré par les services de la Direction des impôts et visé par le Trésor public;
- 2) une patente d'importation en cours de validité ou un certificat d'exonération de ladite patente pour les importateurs bénéficiant de ce privilège.
- 3) un reçu de versement de la cotisation annuelle de 10 000 FCFA par importateur délivré par le Conseil national des chargeurs du Cameroun ou un mandat du même montant adressé à cet organisme (Décret n° 751308 du 9 mai 1975);

Les opérateurs économiques sont en outre informés que dans le cadre des mesures de libéralisation de l'économie nationale la validité de l'agrément à l'importation est portée de un à deux ans. Par conséquent, les renouvellements se feront tous les deux ans.

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LE DIRECTEUR DU COMMERCE

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**SPECIMEN**

MINISTÈRE DU DEVELOPPEMENT  
INDUSTRIEL ET COMMERCIAL  
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REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN  
Paix - Travail - Patrie

FICHE DE RENSEIGNEMENTS AU CTRI  
A retourner dûment remplie au  
Ministère du développement  
industriel et commercial

Nom de l'importateur \_\_\_\_\_

Raison sociale \_\_\_\_\_

B.P. \_\_\_\_\_ à \_\_\_\_\_ Tél. \_\_\_\_\_ Téléx \_\_\_\_\_

Directeur \_\_\_\_\_ Nationalité \_\_\_\_\_

Nom de la personne habilitée à signer les titres d'importation \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nationalité \_\_\_\_\_

Numéro Statistique \_\_\_\_\_ Numéro de registre du Commerce \_\_\_\_\_

Lieu d'inscription \_\_\_\_\_ Capital social \_\_\_\_\_

Répartition du capital (en pourcentage)

Nationaux \_\_\_\_\_ %

Expatriés \_\_\_\_\_ %

Numéro d'inscription au CTRI de l'exercice écoulé \_\_\_\_\_

Patente d'importateur (récépissé ou copie) certifiée conforme délivrée par une autorité  
administrative n° \_\_\_\_\_ délivrée à \_\_\_\_\_

Rubrique spécialisée \_\_\_\_\_

Autorisation de vendre les boissons alcooliques n° \_\_\_\_\_

Date et lieu de délivrance \_\_\_\_\_ Autorité qui l'a délivrée \_\_\_\_\_

Autorisation d'importer et de vendre les armes et les munitions n° \_\_\_\_\_

Autorité qui l'a délivrée \_\_\_\_\_ Date et lieu de délivrance \_\_\_\_\_

Valeur des achats locaux \_\_\_\_\_

Valeur des importations (c'est-à-dire valeur avant paiement des droits de douane des  
importations réalisées au cours de l'exercice écoulé à l'exception des biens d'équipement et  
des hydrocarbures)

- en provenance de la zone franche \_\_\_\_\_

- en provenance de la CEE non compris la France \_\_\_\_\_

- en provenance d'autres pays \_\_\_\_\_ Total \_\_\_\_\_

Je soussigné \_\_\_\_\_ déclare sur l'honneur, sincères et véridiques  
les renseignements donnés sur la présente fiche.

A \_\_\_\_\_ le \_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_\_

EQUALIZED PRODUCTS AND STRATEGIC PRODUCTS FOR WHICH A CALENDAR FOR QUOTA RESTRICTIONS SHALL BE DECIDED LATER

Appendix I-C

Number	Tariff Heading	Description
1	09.02.10.00	Green tea, in immediate packings of a content not exceeding 3kg
2	09.02.20.00	Other green tea
3	09.02.30.00	Black tea, in immediate packings of a content not exceeding 3kg
4	09.02.40.00	Other black tea
5	10.05.90.00	Other maize
6	10.06.30.10	Semi-milled rice - put up for retail
7	10.06.30.90	Other semi-milled rice (rice and broken rice)
8	10.06.40.00	Broken rice
9	11.03.13.00	Groats and corn meal (gritz)
10	15.07.90.00	Soya-bean oil and its fractions, refined
11	15.08.10.00	Groundnut oil, virgin
12	15.08.90.00	Groundnut oil and its fractions, refined
13	15.11.90.00	Palm oil and its fractions, refined

14	15.12.21.00	Crude cotton-seed oil, whether or not gossypol has been removed
15	15.12.29.00	Cotton-seed oil and its fractions, refined
16	15.13.19.00	Coconut (copra) oil and its fractions, refined
17	15.13.29.00	Palm kernel or babassu and their fractions
18	From 17.01.11.00 to 17.01.12.00	Raw industrial sugar
19	17.01.59.10	Refined sugar
20	52.09.49.00	Other fabrics of yarns of different colours
21	52.10.29.00	Other fabrics, of mixed cotton
22	52.10.39.00	Other fabrics, of dyed cotton
23	52.10.41.00	Cotton fabrics of yarns of different colours, plain weave
24	52.10.49.00	Other cotton fabrics of yarns of different colours
25	52.10.51.00	Cotton fabrics, printed, plain weave
26	52.10.59.00	Other cotton fabrics, printed
27	52.11.29.00	Other cotton fabrics, bleached
28	52.11.31.00	Cotton fabrics, dyed, plain weave
29	From 55.12.19.00 to 55.12.29.00	Other fabrics of synthetic fibre

30	55.12.99.00	Other fabrics under heading no. 55.12
31	55.13.21.00	Fabrics of polyester staple fibres
32	55.13.23.00	Other woven fabrics of polyester staple fibres
33	55.13.39.00	Other woven fabrics of synthetic staple fibres
34	55.13.41.00	Woven fabrics of polyester staple fibres
35	55.15.11.00	Woven fabrics of polyester staple fibres, mixed with viscose rayon (synthetic fibres, other than those bleached)
36	55.16.42.00	Fabrics mixed with cotton dyed
37	55.16.43.00	Fabrics mixed with cotton, of yarns of different colours (synthetic fabrics, other than those bleached)
38	55.16.44.00	Fabrics mixed with cotton, printed
39	55.16.92.00	Other fabrics of synthetic fibres, dyed
40	55.16.93.00	Other fabrics of artificial staple fibres, of yarns of different colours
41	55.16.94.00	Other fabrics of artificial staple fibres, printed
42	58.02.11.00	Terry towelling and similar woven terry fabrics, of cotton, unbleached
43	58.02.19.00	Other

SPECIAL PRODUCTS REQUIRING A VISA FROM THE SUPERVISORY MINISTRY BEFORE IMPORTATION

Appendix II

Serial Number	Tariff Heading	Description of product	Visa of
1	02.01.10.00 - 02.10.90.00	Edible meat	MINEPLA
2	03.01.10.00 - 03.07.99.00	Fishery and livestock products	MINEPLA
3	23.09.90.00	Food for other animals	MINEPLA
4	30.03.10.00 - 30.04.90.00	Medicaments for cattle; pharmaceutical	MIN. SANTE
5	34.01.11.00	Medicated soaps	MIN. SANTE
6	36.02.00.00	Prepared explosives, other than propellant powders	MINEE
7	36.04.10.00	Fireworks	MINAT
8	36.04.90.00	Signaling flares and other pyrotechnic articles	MINAT
9	85.25.10.00	Transceivers	MIN.PTT
10	85.25.20.00	Transceivers	MIN.PTT
11	85.27.90.00	Other receivers	MIN.PTT
12	93.03.10.00	Muzzle-loading firearms	MINAT

13	93.03.20.00	Other sporting, hunting or target-shooting shotguns, including combination shotgun-rifles	MINAT
14	93.03.30.00	Other sporting, hunting or target-shooting rifles	MINAT
15	93.03.90.00	Other firearms under heading no. 93.03	MINAT
16	93.06.10.00	Cartridges for pistols	MINAT
17	93.06.21.00	Shotgun cartridges	MINAT
18	93.06.30.00	Other cartridges	MINAT
19	93.06.90.00	Other ammunition	MINAT
20	22.08.20.00 - 22.08.30.00 22.08.40.00 - 22.08.50.00 22.08.90.00 - 22.04.10.10 22.04.10.90 - 22.04.21.10 22.04.21.20	Alcoholic beverages (whiskies, spirits, rum, gin, aniseed liquors, champagnes, red wine, white wine)	MINAT
21	87.03.23.90 - 87.03.23.10 87.04.21.00 - 87.04.22.00 87.04.23.00	Used cars (motor cars, lorries)	

PRODUCTS WHOSE ENTRY AND DISTRIBUTION  
ARE FORBIDDEN THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY

Appendix III

Serial Number	Description of product
1	"IBERO" refined cooking oil
2	Whisky "CN" - "RAY"
	MIPICO skin care products
	Medicated cream - I.K.B. medicated cream
3	Cream-crusader - skin toning cream - Elegance
	Skin toning cream - Symbi cream - skin pear
	Cream reneue super bleaching - cream amba cream - nice
	Super cream - Desire complexion cream
	Tura medicated cream - MIPICO Hydroquinone lotion
4	Jaribu Antiseptic soap, Germicidal - H.G. 12
	Germicidal soap - MIPICO Germicidal soap
	Roberts medicated soap - Tura, Germicidal soap
	Sukissa Bango - Antiseptic Baap - Skingard
	Medicated soap - Bexo Antiseptic - Bicu soap
5	Captafol
	(Aretit) Dinoseb acetate
	Dinoseb

	Binapacryl (Morocide)
	Cyhexatin
	Dieldrin
	Heptachlor
	2 - 4 - 5 TCP
	Captafol-based fungicides
	Difolatan Folcid Merpalfol Crisfolatan Foltaf Haipen Mycodifol Orthodifolatan 80 Captalatan 80
	Herbicides with a dinoseb acetate base (ARETIT) HOE 002904 Evosit Phenotan
	Dinoseb-based Basanite Chemox general Chemox Chemsect Dynamyte Elgetol Hel - fire Kiloseb Nitropone Sinox General Unicrop Caldon Dinitro DN 289 Gebutox Premerge Subitex Vertac Dinitro weed killer

	(Morocide) Binafacryl-based Acrivid Ambox Dapacryl Dinoseb Endosan Mocrocide HOE 2 784 NIA 9 044
	Dieldrin-based Alvit Dieldrex Dieldrite Octalox Panoram D-31
	Aldrine-based Aldrex Aldrex 30 Aldrite Aldrosol Drinox Octalene Seedrin liquid
	Heptachlor-based Drinox H-34 Heptamul
6	Second-hand clothing - Import authorized since 25 March 1992
7	Toxic and other industrial wastes
8	"Cock Brand" mosquito killer - Import authorized
9	"Turkey brand" vegetable oil