

**GENERAL AGREEMENT
ON TARIFFS AND TRADE**

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REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE ON IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES

CYPRUS

Addendum

The following notification has been received from the Permanent Mission of Cyprus in response to the Questionnaire on Import Licensing Procedures annexed to document L/5640/Rev.9. It updates and replaces information previously notified in COM.IND/W/55-COM.AG/W/72/Add.42.

OUTLINE OF SYSTEM

1. Cyprus maintains a system of import licensing administered by the Department of Trade of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry with respect to various products as listed in Annex A. Products listed in Annex B, being part of Annex A, are subject to quantitative restrictions. Furthermore Annex A includes products for which there is an absolute import ban for the purpose of the protection of local production. These products, mainly agricultural ones, cannot be specified due to the fact that the local production varies from year to year. Products which are not listed in Annex A do not require an import licence.

PURPOSES AND COVERAGE OF LICENSING

2. Import licences are granted without any quantitative restrictions in respect of products where the issue involved is not the actual quantity entering the market but other considerations, such as sanitary, national security or other factors, pursuant to GATT Articles XX and XXI.

Products listed in Annex B are subject to quantitative restrictions. Licences are granted based on a yearly quota allocated to importers at the beginning of each calendar year.

In the case of some agricultural products, a certain quantity at fixed time periods is permitted to be imported as a supplement to the domestic production to satisfy domestic demand.

3. The system applies in a uniform way to all countries with the following exceptions: there are some products of which importation is allowed exclusively from the European Community countries in conformity with the provisions of the Protocol for the Implementation of the Second Stage of the Association Agreement between Cyprus and the Community. The second exception concerns a prohibition of imports from certain countries in accordance with the United Nations Resolutions.

4. As stated in (2) above, licensing is intended to restrict the quantity or in some cases the value of imports without excluding the possibility of using the system so as to take into account other considerations mainly for the protection of health, safety and some environmental factors.

5. The licensing system administered by the Department of Trade of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is based on the Imports Regulation Law 49 of 1962 and its Amendment 7 of 1967. Products subject to licensing are designated through Orders by the Minister of Commerce and Industry issued under the above-mentioned legislation. The Orders are published in the Official Gazette of the Republic. Products can be subtracted from or added to the list only by means of an official Decision.

PROCEDURES

6. For products under restriction

I. For industrial products under restriction as to the quantity or value of imports, a press release in the form of a Notice is issued in October of each year informing interested importers that applications must be submitted by a fixed date. The Notice is also sent to the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the main body with which the majority of importers are registered.

II. Quotas for industrial products are determined on a yearly basis. Quotas for agricultural products are determined whenever the need to supplement domestic production arises to meet local demand. In this case, a press release is issued in the same way as in 6(I) above, and they are published so as to cover different time periods.

III. The normal procedure entails that licences are allotted to all interested parties. No unused allocations are added to quotas for a succeeding period. The licence is submitted to the Department of Customs upon importation. As a rule the names of importers are not revealed to governments or export promotion bodies of exporting countries.

IV. Generally, the time allowed for the submission of applications is three weeks with the possibility of an extension, if deemed necessary.

V. For agricultural products the length of time for processing applications is about two weeks. For industrial products for which quotas are allocated on a yearly basis, it takes about two months.

VI. Licences granted are, in principle, valid for immediate importation.

VII. Licence applications are, in principle, only dealt with by one authority. In some cases mainly where agricultural products are involved certain certificates are additionally required by other authorities. See also reply in 17(b).

VIII. Generally, a criterion of past performance is used in quota allocations, but at the same time a provision is made so that a small percentage of the overall value or quantity is also granted to new importers. Applications are examined simultaneously.

IX-X. Not applicable.

XI. Import licences are sometimes issued on condition that the products should be exported and not sold in the domestic market.

7. For products with no quantitative limits on importation

(a) Where there is no quantitative limit on importation of a product, there is no fixed time-limit for an application to be submitted. However, and in accordance with the Regulations in existence, an importer must obtain a licence before he concludes an order for goods to be delivered.

- (b) A licence is normally granted on request. In some cases a time period of up to five working days is needed.
- (c) There are no fixed time-limits during which applications and/or importation may be made.
- (d) The same applies as in 6(VII) above, as far as the authority dealing with the application is concerned.

8. The reason for a possible refusal to issue a licence is stated on the application itself which is then returned to the applicant. An applicant in the event of his being refused a licence has the right to appeal to the Court of Justice.

ELIGIBILITY OF IMPORTERS TO APPLY FOR LICENCE

9. Any permanent resident of the Republic of Cyprus or Organization to which the right of conducting business in the Republic has been granted by the Authorities is eligible to import and to be granted an import licence under the non-restrictive licensing system. Under the restrictive system, all importers are eligible to apply and to be considered.

DOCUMENTATIONAL AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICATION FOR LICENCE

10. The information required in applications¹ includes the name, address, telephone and telex number of the applicant as well as the registration number of the company concerned, if it is a company involved, or the social security number of the applicant. Additionally, details of the goods to be imported are required which include a description of the goods, their tariff classification as well as the quantity and value of goods. The applicant also has to fill in details relating to the country of origin/shipment of the goods to be imported. The importer is required to submit the application in triplicate, together with a proforma invoice also in triplicate.

11. Upon actual importation the importer has to present to the Customs Authorities the following documents: the import licence, the actual invoice, the bill of lading, the delivery order, the Euro I Certificate if the origin of the goods is from the European Community countries and any other documents from other Governmental bodies if deemed necessary.

12. There is a licensing fee of three Cyprus Pounds for every clearance of goods upon importation where the goods are subject to an import licence.

13. There is no deposit or advance payment requirement for issuing licences.

CONDITIONS OF LICENSING

14. An import licence is valid for a period of six months from the date of issue. A licence cannot be renewed, but it can be replaced with a new one.

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

16. Licences are not transferable between importers.

¹A sample application form is available for reference in the Secretariat.

17.(a) The validity of a licence for products subject to quantitative restrictions varies according to the nature of the products concerned.

- (i) **Agricultural products**: They are considered as seasonal products and, therefore, the licences are normally granted for a specified time-period which is normally under six months. In the above case there is a condition regulating the period for which the licence is valid.
- (ii) **Industrial products**: The quota allocated to importers is normally of a year's duration. In this case a licence may be granted for six months and be replaced with a new one for another six months.

(b) The licences covering products which may or may not be subject to quantitative restrictions usually carry the same conditions with the exception of the licence validity as explained in 17(a) above. In the case of agricultural products, there is a condition for a phytosanitary certificate so as to conform with the rules and regulations of the Ministry of Agriculture. There is also a need for veterinary conditions in the case of meat being imported as well as other conditions if other Government bodies are involved, for example, a permit from the Department of Mines in the case of import of explosives.

OTHER PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS

18. There are no other administrative procedures required prior to importation as far as the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is concerned.

19. Foreign exchange is automatically provided by the banking authorities for goods to be imported. However, for imports requiring a licence, the import licence must be presented to the bank if any facilities (e.g. letter of credit) are to be granted. Any other requirements are subject to the Exchange Control Law of the Central Bank of Cyprus.

ANNEX A**GOODS SUBJECT TO IMPORT LICENSING**

<u>Tariff Heading</u>	<u>Product Description</u>
00.01-01.06	Live animals
02.01-02.10	Meat and edible meat offals except rabbit
03.01	Live fish
03.02-03.04	Fish fresh, chilled or frozen
03.05	Smoked trout
04.01-04.04	Milk and milk cream and other dairy products except dairy products specially prepared as food for babies in airtight containers for retail sale, concentrated milk containing added sugar and the evaporated milk
04.06	Cheese and Curd X
04.07	Birds' eggs in shell, fresh, preserved or cooked
04.08	Birds' eggs not in shell and egg yolks, fresh, dried, cooked by steaming or by boiling in water, moulded, frozen or otherwise preserved whether or not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter
04.05	Natural honey
05.04	Guts, bladders and stomachs of animals
05.11	Animal products not elsewhere specified or included; dead animals of Chapters 1 or 3, unfit for human consumption
07.01-07.14	Edible vegetables and certain roots tubers except chick-peas, lentil and black eye beans
Chapter 8	Edible fruits and nuts, peel of melons or citrus fruit
09.01	Coffee whether or not roasted or decaffeinated; coffee husks and skins; coffee substitutes containing coffee in any proportion
11.01-11.06	Cereal flours, cereal groats and cereal meal, flour and meal of leguminous vegetable, and of fruit; flour, meal and flakes of potatoes
12.02	Groundnuts (peanuts) whether or not shelled
12.07	Sesame seeds, whitened or not in shell
12.09	Vetch seed
12.12	Locust beans, fresh or dried, whether or not kibbled or ground. Fruit stones and kernels and other vegetable products of a kind used primarily for human consumption
12.14	Any type of hay in any form
13.02	Birdlime used for the making of limetwigs
15.07-15.15	Vegetable oils including olive oil, olive kernel and their fractions whether or not refined but not chemically modified, other than linseed oil and castor oil
15.16	Animal or vegetable fats and oils partly or wholly hydrogenated, or esterified in any way, whether or not refined, but not further prepared
15.17	Edible mixtures or preparations of animal fats or oils and other edible fats or vegetable or of fractions of fats or oils of Chapter 15, other than margarine
15.21	Beeswax
16.01-16.03	Preparations of meat
19.01-19.02	Food based on milk (milk substitutes); ice-cream powder and other preparations suitable for the production of ice-cream; excluding items specially prepared for infant feeding
19.02	Macaroni, spaghetti, noodles, lasagna, ravioli, cannelloni and similar pasta
19.04	Preparations known as cheese puffs, chipitos and similar products

20.01-20.09	Preparations of vegetables, fruit and nuts, other parts of plants including olives and leguminous vegetables and juices of vegetables and fruits, excluding food and juices specially prepared for infant feeding, and fruit pulp except strawberry and apricot pulp
21.03	Tomato ketchup
21.05	Ice-cream, ice-cream powder and other preparations suitable for the manufacture of ice-cream
21.06	Food which have milk as base, milk substitutes, preparations for the garnishing of pastry cakes, ice-cream powder, and other preparations suitable for the manufacture of ice-cream
21.01	Soda water
22.02	Waters, aerated or not, containing added sugar or other sweetening matter or flavoured and other non-alcoholic beverages
22.04-22.06	Wines of all types
22.07-22.08	Ethyl alcohol
22.09	Vinegar and substitutes for vinegar edible obtained from acetic acid
23.02	Bran, sharps and other residues, derived from the sifting, milling or other working of cereals
23.09	Preparations of a kind used in animal feeding, excluding preparations for the fish culture, poultry and pets
25.20	Gypsum, anhydride, (gypsum calcined) plaster except gypsum for use in dentistry
25.22	Quicklime, slaked lime and hydraulic lime, other than calcium oxide and hydroxide
25.23	Portland cement, aluminous cement, slag cement, supersulphate cement and similar hydraulic cements, whether or not coloured or in the form of clinkers
27.01	Coal, briquettes, ovoids and similar solid fuels manufactured from coal
27.02	Lignite, whether or not agglomerated
27.09	Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals (crude oil)
27.10	Petroleum partly refined, including topped crudes; motor spirit kerosene, jet fuel, white spirit, diesel oil, fuel oil and residual fuel oils
27.11	Petroleum gases and other gaseous hydrocarbons
27.13	Petroleum bitumen and other residues of petroleum oils or of oils obtained from bituminous minerals
27.14	Bitumen and asphalt, natural, bituminous shale, asphaltic rock and tar sands
27.15	Bituminous mixtures based on natural asphalt, on natural bitumen, on petroleum bitumen, on mineral tar or on mineral tar pitch (e.g. bituminous mastics, cut-backs)
28.04	Oxygen and hydrogen
28.10, 28.40	Boric acid, oxides of boron and borates and peroxoborates salts
28.11	Carbon dioxide in gas form
29.01-29.42	Organic chemicals, except naphthalene (Heading No. 29.02), saccharin (Heading No. 29.25), vitamins and hormones (Headings Nos. 29.36 and 29.37), glycosides, natural or reproduced by synthesis (Heading No. 29.38), vegetable alkaloids (Heading No. 29.39) and antibiotics (Heading No. 29.41)
33.01	Essential oil of roses and rose water
34.02	Surface-active preparations and washing preparations
35.07	Enzymes and prepared enzymes used for the increase of olive oil production
36.01-36.04	Explosives and fireworks
36.05	Matches
39.23	See 85.22 etc.
40.11-40.12	Solid or cushion rubber tyres for motor vehicle as follows:

	(a) without indication of the mark or the name of manufacturers, or bearing altered or not clear inscriptions;
	(b) used tyres, including retreaded and regrooved;
	(c) new tyres which are described or with the indication Substandard, Regraded, D/A Second or Third Quality, Maximum Speed or similar description or indications which denote that they are faulty.
40.15	Rubber gloves, excluding gloves for medical use
44.02	Wood charcoal, including shell and nut charcoal agglomerated or not
44.08	Veneer sheets and sheets for plywood (whether or not spliced) and other wood sawn lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not glazed, sanded or finger-jointed, of a thickness not exceeding 6mm.
44.09	Wood (including strips and friezes for parquet flooring, not assembled) planed or grooved, tongued and the like
44.10	Particle board and similar board of wood, fibreboard of wood or other ligneous materials, whether or not bonded with resins or other organic substances
44.11	Fibreboard covered with melamine or wood leaf or covered with other substance even on one side (MDF) of which density exceeds 0.5g/cm ³ but not exceeding 0.9g/cm ³
44.12-44.13	Plywood, veneered panels and similar laminated wood and densified wood in blocks, plates, strips or profile shapes
44.15	Packing cases, crates and similar packings of wood
44.18	Builders' carpentry of wood and assembled parquet flooring panels
48.19	Boxes and other packing containers of paper or paperboard and paper bags of two or more ply
56.08	Fishing nets, and nets used for catching game and wild birds
58.02	Terry towelling and similar woven terry fabrics
61.15	Tights and panty hose of all kinds
61.01-61.14)	Undergarments and outer garments
62.01-62.11)	
63.02	Bed linen, table linen, toilet linen and kitchen linen except those made directly of lace
63.05	Sacks and bags of all kinds used for the packing of goods, made of polypropylene
64.01-64.06	Footwear and parts thereof
68.10	Flooring tiles (mosaics)
69.05	Roofing tiles
70.13	Glass bowls for fish and plants
70.20/73.08/	Greenhouses made of any material
76.10/94.06 etc.	
72.13-72.15	Iron bars for building
73.06	Pipes of iron or steel, black or galvanized weld of 12-115mm. diameter and pipes of iron or steel of square or rectangular shape (pasamana)
73.08	Scaffolding made from iron and steel (pipes) tubes
73.10	Casks, drums, cans, boxes and similar containers of sheet or plate iron or steel, of a description commonly used for the conveyance or packing of goods excluding cans of a kind normally used for the canning of fruit or vegetables or juices of fruit or vegetables
73.11	Containers for compressed or liquefied gas
73.13-73.14	Netting wire, fencing wire and wire meshes, excluding barbed wire and thick wire
73.17	Wire nails of iron or steel, except nails of steel which are nailed by use of special pistol

73.18	Woodscrews and self-tapping screws and metal drive screws
73.23	Buckets of iron or steel
73.25-73.26	Cast articles and forgings of iron or steel unworked
76.04	Bars, rods, angles, shapes and sections of aluminium
76.08	Tubes and pipes of any type of aluminium or aluminium tubes and pipes
83.09	All types of bottle stoppers
83.11	Electrodes of base metal, coated or cored of a kind used for soldering
84.02	Steam boilers
84.13	Water pumps, centrifugal pumps, water pump surface centrifugal pumps, electric submersible and centrifugal automatic suction pumps
84.14	Air or other gas compressors with air chamber and air chambers
84.21	Air, oil and fuel filters for motor vehicles
84.23	Weighing machinery, scales and weighs of all kinds and parts thereof
84.24	Fire extinguishers
84.70	Postage franking machines
84.74	Concrete mixers of a capacity of 10c.ft. or less
85.01, 85.02-85.04	Electric generators and liquid transformers
85.07	Electric accumulators (batteries) for motor vehicles except those for motorcycles
85.22, 85.23, and 85.24	An import licence, prior to ordering, is necessary for H.S. Code Nos. 39.23, 85.22, 85.23, and 85.24 - cassettes, visual and audio (or parts thereof) and magnetic tapes in cylinders and laser discs. Cassettes and magnetic tapes in cylinders, (video taped or recorded) which the Director of Customs and Excise is satisfied are forwarded by the sender, especially for news (journalistic purposes) reel. Advertising or educational reasons are exempt from this rule.
85.35	Lightning arresters
85.43	Electric signal generators, electrical blasting and dynamiting sets
87.08	Wheels with used rubber tyres
90.09	Photocopying apparatus except black and white
93.03	Special firearms for humane killing of animals
93.06	Cartridges and airgun pellets
94.01-94.03	Wooden furniture and parts thereof
94.05	Ceiling lights and globes
94.06	Prefabricated buildings
95.07	Limesticks for catching (wild) birds

ANNEX B**PRODUCTS SUBJECT TO QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS**

<u>Tariff Heading</u>	<u>Product Description</u>
15.07-15.15	Vegetable oils (in bulk)
19.02	Macaroni, and other similar products
19.04	Cheesepuffs, chipitos, etc.
21.05) Ice-cream, ice-cream powder and other preparations suitable for the manufacture
19.01.90.90.11) of ice-cream
25.23	Cement
28.04	Oxygen
28.11	Carbon dioxide (CO ²)
29.15.21	Acetic Acid
36.05	Matches
40.12.20	Used tyres exclusively for retreating purpose or retreated tyres
40.15	Rubber gloves (kitchen gloves)
44.10	Melamine faced chipboard
44.19	(a) Paper bags of two-ply or more (b) carton boxes (corrugated)
61.15	Tights and panty hose of all kinds
61.01-61.14) Undergarments and outer garments
62.01-62.11)
58.02) Terry towelling and similar woven terry fabrics
63.02)
63.05	Sacks and bags for packing purposes
64.01	Footwear
69.05	(a) Common Roofing tiles (b) Engobe Roofing tiles
73.06	Tubes and pipes of iron or steel black or galvanized of 12-115mm. diameter and pipes of iron or steel of square or rectangular shape (passamana)
73.10	Cans (for the packing of dyes only)
73.17	Wire nails of iron or steel, except nails of steel which are nailed by use of special pistol
73.18	Woodscrews, chipboard screws
73.23	Buckets of iron or steel
76.04	Wrought bars, rods, angles, shapes and sections and wire of aluminium
83.09	Bottle stoppers (a) Screw type (b) Crown corks
83.11	Electrodes
84.13.70	<u>Water pumps</u> (a) Centrifugal deep-well turbine pumps (b) Centrifugal surface pumps (c) Centrifugal deep-submersible pumps
84.21	Air-and oil filters for motor vehicles
84.74	Concrete mixers
85.07	(a) Electric accumulators (batteries) for vehicles (b) Maintenance-free batteries for vehicles
93.06	Empty cartridges