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REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE ON IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES

SWEDEN

Revision

The following revised notification has been received from the delegation of Sweden in response to the Questionnaire on Import Licensing Procedures annexed to L/5640/Rev.9. It updates and replaces document L/5640/Add.14/Rev.5.

**IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES FOR GOODS UNDER
CHAPTERS 1-24 OF THE HARMONIZED SYSTEM**

Outline of system

1. Basically Sweden has only one licensing system for goods under Chapters 1-24 of the Harmonized System. The Swedish Board of Agriculture is the licensing authority for agricultural products and fertilizers and the National Board of Fisheries is the licensing authority for fish and products of fish.

Purposes and coverage of licensing

2&3. For imports from all countries, an import licence from the Swedish Board of Agriculture is required for the following products:

- cane or beet sugar and chemically pure sucrose, in solid form;
- syrup and other solutions of cane or beet sugar;
- molasses (except molasses used in animal feeding).

An import licence is required from the Swedish Board of Agriculture for seeds of lupin, grafted cherry trees, plum trees, pear trees, and apple trees for imports from all countries except those which have a free trade agreement with Sweden.

For imports from certain countries¹, an import licence from the Swedish Board of Agriculture is required also for some other kinds of meat and meat products, eggs, not in shell and egg yolks.

¹Albania, Armenia, Bulgaria, the People's Republic of China, Hungary Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Moldavia, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, Vietnam, Belorussia, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the rest of the former Soviet Union except Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia.

All imports (with a few exceptions) from Serbia and Montenegro are banned.

For imports from all countries, an import licence from the National Board of Fisheries is required for the following products:

- herrings, fresh or chilled.

For imports from all countries except: (i) EFTA-countries (exclusive of Finland); (ii) Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Faroe Islands, Hungary, Israel, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic and Turkey, an import licence is required for the following products:

- frozen herring;
- fillets and other fish meat of herrings, fresh or chilled;
- fillets and other fish meat or herrings, other;
- herrings, including fillets, salted.

All imports (with a few exceptions) from Iraq, Serbia and Montenegro are banned.

4. The main purposes of the licensing system administered by the Swedish Board of Agriculture and by the National Board of Fisheries are to supervise imports, especially low-price imports, of certain products and to limit, when necessary, such imports. In most cases, licences are granted automatically. Licensing requirements combined with quantitative restrictions are thus normally applied to a small number of products.

5. The licensing system administered by the Swedish Board of Agriculture and by the National Board of Fisheries is based on the Ordinance (1984 No.53) on Import and Export Regulation.

Imports of products under the ordinance are in principle allowed without an import licence from the Swedish Board of Agriculture or the National Board of Fisheries. The Government may, however, authorize the Boards not to allow importation without a licence and such authorizations have also been issued.

Procedures

6. I. The Swedish Board of Agriculture and the National Board of Fisheries issue circulars in which information concerning the scope of the licensing requirements and formalities of filing applications for licences is published. In exceptional cases where quotas are applied, each importer is informed directly about the quantity at his disposal for licences during a certain period. As regards new importers see VIII below.

II. When quotas in exceptional cases are applied they are determined on a yearly or six-monthly basis.

III. Domestic producers do not receive any special part of a quantity released. Licences are granted only for current purchases which in principle have to be proved by a sales contract. In order to check the utilization of the licence, the Board in question requires that the licence should be returned to the Board within a specified period. The names of importers who have obtained licences

are, in accordance with existing legislation, not revealed to authorities and export organizations in the exporting country.

IV. A reasonable period of time. See I above.

V. The procedure normally takes a maximum of ten working days.

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

VII. As a rule, licence applications are handled only by one administrative authority. In any event the importer has to approach only one authority.

VIII. Quotas, if any, are allocated mainly on the basis of applicants' imports during an earlier base period. A reasonable part of the quota is then reserved for new importers. Applications are examined simultaneously. In cases where restrictions are not combined with fixed quotas, applications are examined on receipt.

IV-X. Does not apply to agricultural or fish products.

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

7. (a)-(b) There is no minimum time fixed. A licence can be granted immediately on request.

(c) No.

(d) See 6 VII.

8. The reason for a refusal is communicated to the applicant. He can request the Board in question to reconsider the case and subsequently appeal to the Government.

Eligibility of importers to apply for licence

9. (a)-(b) All persons, firms and institutions domiciled in Sweden are eligible to apply for licences.

Documentational and other requirements for application for licence

10. Applications shall contain information as shown by the annexed form. A sales contract ought to be attached to the application.

11. Normal customs documents and, where required, an import licence shall be presented upon importation.

12. No.

13. No.

Conditions of licensing

14. An import licence is valid for three months at the longest. The validity of the licence can be extended after a new application.

15. No.

16. No.

17. No.

Other procedural requirements

18. In some cases, import permission for sanitary and phytosanitary regulations may be called for in addition to licensing.

19. Payments may be made without specific permission in each case and without the formality of presenting an import licence. For payments exceeding SEK 75,000, importers have to fill in - on the form where the customer instructs the bank to make the payment abroad - a few data in codes about the transaction for balance-of-payments statistical purposes.

ANNEX

Form Referred to in Reply to Question 10

Question 10: Import licence application. Information required in the application.

1. Name and address of applicant.
2. Description of goods.
3. Statistical number.
4. Quantity.
5. C.i.f. value, SEK.
6. Amount of invoice.
7. Estimated time of importation.
8. Country of origin.
9. Estimated time for payment.
10. Name and address of exporter (actual supplier, not agent or other intermediary).
11. Country from which goods are to be delivered.
12. Date, signature of applicant.

IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES FOR GOODS UNDER CHAPTERS 25-97 OF THE HARMONIZED SYSTEM

Outline of system

1. Basically Sweden has only one licensing system for goods under these chapters. Licences are issued upon written application by the importer. The National Board of Trade is the licensing authority for goods under Chapters 25-97 of the Harmonized System with the exception of Chapter 31 and certain other commodities for which the Swedish Board of Agriculture is the licensing authority.

Purposes and coverage of licensing

2&3. For imports from certain countries¹, a licence is required for fibreboard of wood and most ferro-alloys.

The importation of certain products of iron and steel from countries other than EC and EFTA countries requires an import licence for surveillance purposes. All imports (with a few exceptions) from Iraq, Serbia and Montenegro are banned.

4. The main purposes of the licensing are to limit, when necessary, the imported quantity and to provide a means to supervise imports of certain goods.

5. The licensing is authorized under an ordinance of 9 February 1984 (No. 53)² on Import and Export Regulation. Section 1 of that ordinance reads as follows:

"This ordinance is to be applied if the Government or, after decision by the Government, the Swedish Board of Agriculture, National Board of Fisheries or the National Board of Trade prescribe that goods are not allowed to be imported or exported without permission (import licence or export licence) by the Swedish Board of Agriculture, National Board of Fisheries or the National Board of Trade (licensing authorities). The ordinance is not applicable to goods for which import or export control is regulated according to the statutes mentioned in Annex 1.³

Regulations referred to in the first paragraph will be prescribed:

1. for special trade policy reasons;
2. in view of risk of disturbance in the social economy or the national supply;
3. in order to protect the prices of agricultural products; or
4. in order to regulate the prices of fish products."

¹People's Republic of China, Czech Republic, Hungary, Kazakhstan, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Poland, Belorussia, the Russian Federation, Slovak Republic and Ukraine.

²Reprinted (SFS 1987:1291).

³Statutes concerning gas protection equipment, military and high-tech equipment, nuclear engineering and foreign exchange.

Prescriptions on licence and limitations in imports and exports are under two ordinances of 22 January 1987¹ on Import and Export Licences within the competence of the National Board of Trade and the Swedish Board of Agriculture respectively.

Procedures

6. Sweden does not maintain any quota restrictions on imports of goods for which the National Board of Trade is the licensing authority.

7. (a) The time of processing of licences for goods not subject to quantitative restrictions is one to ten working days.

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

(d) An importer needs to approach one authority only.

8 A licence is issued only to a person or a firm domiciled in Sweden. Reasons for refusals are always communicated to the applicant. The applicant can request the Board in question to reconsider the case and subsequently appeal to the Government.

Eligibility of importers to apply for licence

9. (a)-(b) All persons, firms and institutions domiciled in Sweden are eligible to apply for licences and entitled to expect consideration within the framework of normal procedures provided they are the presumptive importers.

Documentational and other requirements for application for licence

10. Information required in the application is inter alia: name and address of the applicant, description of goods, statistical number, quantity, value, country of origin, manufacturer, supplier, time of delivery. A sales contract or the like shall be attached to the application.

11. Normal customs documents and, where required, an import licence shall be presented upon importation.

12. No.

13. No.

Conditions of licensing

14. The normal period of validity of a licence is the current month plus three months, however not exceeding the period of licensing. The validity can be extended by submitting the licence to the licensing authority with a request for extension. A decision regarding extended validity is noted on the licence.

15. No.

¹Reprinted (KFS 1991:12).

16. No.

17. (a)-(b) No.

Other procedural requirements

18. No.

19. Payments may be made without specific permission in each case and without the formality of presenting an import licence. For payments exceeding SEK 75,000, importers have to fill in - on the form where the customer instructs the bank to make the payment abroad - a few data in codes about the transaction for balance-of-payments statistical purposes.