

**GENERAL AGREEMENT
ON TARIFFS AND TRADE**

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REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE ON IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES

ARGENTINA

Revision

The following notification has been received from Argentina in response to the Questionnaire on Import Licensing Procedures annexed to L/5640/Rev.10. It updates and replaces information previously provided in documents L/5640/Add.27 and Corr.1-4.

Introduction

At present import licensing in Argentina exists only in the motor vehicle sector. The licences are associated with import quotas.

Imports of vehicles in tariff sub-heading 87.01.20 and tariff headings 87.02, 87.03 and 87.04 are subject to an import quota amounting to 10 per cent of the domestic production of vehicles of those kinds. Bids are invited for the quota for heading 87.03, on the one hand, and on the other hand for the quota for headings 87.02, 87.04 and sub-heading 87.01.20 together as if they were a single type of product.

In both cases the available quota (10 per cent of estimated domestic production for the year in which the bidding is organized) is divided into two tranches: one for the official agents of makes and one for private individuals (who may also be commercial or other companies). In the case of motor vehicles, heading 87.03, 80 per cent of the available quota is allocated to official agents and the remaining 20 per cent to private individuals. In the case of commercial vehicles (87.01.20, 87.02 and 87.04) the distribution is 50 per cent of the available quota for each of the two tranches.

There are no restrictions for motor-vehicle spare parts apart from the prohibition on importing used tyres and engines.

Outline of System

1. See introduction.

Purposes and Coverage of Licensing

2. See introduction.
3. The system applies to vehicles originating in and coming from all countries.
4. Licensing is intended to restrict the quantity of imports.

5. Decree 2677/91 and amendments thereto, Decree 683/94 and 1179/94 and Resolutions SI 78/94, 102/94 and 21/. Licensing is mandatory and the Government can abolish the system without legislative approval.

Procedures

6. I. Information is published in the Boletín Oficial (Official Journal).
 - II. The size of quotas is determined on a yearly basis, and amounts to 10 per cent of domestic production.
 - III. Local motor-vehicle manufacturers have an export-offsetting system. Unused allocations are added to the subsequent period.
 - IV. Thirty days are allowed for the submission of applications for licences from the time of announcing the opening of quotas.
 - V. Minimum length of time for processing of applications is seven days, and the maximum 45 days.
 - VI. There is no interval between the granting of licences and the date of opening of the period of importation.
 - VII. Only the Secretariat of Industry considers licence applications.
 - VIII. The criteria are seniority as an importer and *pro rata* allocation for official agents when the total number of applications exceeds the quota, and one vehicle per private individual per draw.
 - IX. There are no bilateral quotas or export restraint agreements.
 - X. See IX.
 - XI. See IX.
7. (a),(b),(c) Licences are applied for at the time when the importer wishes to import.
- (d) Only the Secretariat of Industry considers licence applications.

8. There are none.

Eligibility of Importers to Apply for Licence

9. (a) Representatives of official agents and private individuals are eligible to apply for licences under restrictive licensing systems.
- (b) Motor-vehicle assemblers are eligible to apply for licences under non-restrictive systems.

Documentational and Other Requirements for Application for Licence

10. Sample forms for official agents and for private individuals are annexed hereto.¹
11. Documents required upon actual importation are the same as for any import transaction plus the licence certificate.
12. A fee of 100 pesos is charged from private individuals.
13. Private individuals pay an advance of 2,500 pesos on account for duties and other taxes. Representatives of official agents make an advance payment of 25 per cent of the c.i.f. value on account for duties and other taxes.

Conditions of Licensing

14. The period of validity of a licence is one year.
15. In the case of official agents, the unused number of units from one year is deducted from their quota, as a percentage, for the following year.
16. Licences are not transferable between importers.
17. (a) For products subject to quantitative restriction: There are no other conditions attached to the issue of a licence.

(b) For products not subject to quantitative restriction: Compensation of the value of imports through exports.

Other Procedural Requirements

18. No other administrative procedures apart from import licensing are required prior to importation.
19. There are no restrictions on access to foreign exchange.

¹Available for reference in the Secretariat (Office No. 3013).