

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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Special Distribution

Multilateral Trade Negotiations

GROUP 3(e) - BASIC DOCUMENTATION

Inventory of Quantitative Import Restrictions
Applied by Countries Other than those
Covered by the Joint Working Party

Addendum

POLAND

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. In Poland, foreign trade operates under the State monopoly system and is conducted by various foreign trade enterprises specially established for this purpose. These enterprises act upon an authorization received from the Minister for Foreign Trade, to whom they are subordinated. The Minister for Foreign Trade may also authorize some other organizations or enterprises to conduct foreign trade activities. Only legally-authorized enterprises, a list of which is published, are entitled to engage in trade transactions with foreign partners. The enterprises carrying out these transactions within their sphere of competence implement that part of national economic plans which concern foreign trade.
2. The Polish foreign trade enterprises are separated from the State from the economic, financial and legal point of view. They have juridical personality and conduct their business for their own account.
3. There are two kinds of licences: the general licence and the individual licence. A part of the national economic plan, which is assigned to the foreign trade enterprise for a given year, constitutes a general licence for that enterprise for the import of goods. The goods may either be specified in the plan or agreed upon with the domestic consignees. Quantities are specified only for certain essential goods. In other cases, only the value is indicated. The general licence, issued by the Ministry of Foreign Trade, is granted automatically when the annual plan is published. It may be amended according to corrections made to the plan for that enterprise. Within the general licence, an individual licence is issued separately for each contract. It applies to all categories of goods regardless of their origin. It is issued automatically by the foreign trade enterprise itself, immediately upon conclusion of a contract or upon receipt of documents certifying that such a contract has been concluded.
4. The licences are not of a restrictive character and are maintained simply for statistical and calculation purposes. They also enable the Polish customs authorities to control the legality of goods exchanges with other countries. The grant of a licence also implies approval of the transaction from the aspect of foreign exchange regulations. The import licence thus constitutes an authorization for payment in foreign currency for the imported goods.
5. The European Communities have expressed an interest in all imported agricultural products and have singled out eggs as a product of particular importance. The Polish delegation has stated that there has been no effort actively to export eggs.

Reference: COM.AG/W/72/Add.14
L/3653/Add.11