

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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Multilateral Trade Negotiations

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Group "Non-Tariff Measures"

Sub-Group "Customs Matters"

IMPORT DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

Addendum

FINLAND AND SWEDEN

1. At its May 1975 meeting, the Sub-Group "Customs Matters" agreed that members should submit to the secretariat in writing by 15 September 1975 lists of what they considered to be excessive in other countries' information requirements, explaining and identifying their specific difficulties. The Sub-Group would then hold discussions at its next meeting on the basis of a secretariat paper which would give a synopsis of the complaints and comments received (MTN/NTM/4, paragraph 8 and GATT/AIR/1188). This request was reiterated at the October 1975 meeting of the Sub-Group (MTN/NTM/7, paragraph 7 and GATT/AIR/1227).
2. The comments received are consolidated in document MTN/NTM/W/22/Rev.1 and Add.1
3. A communication from Finland on behalf of Finland and Sweden in reply to some of these comments has been received and is reproduced hereunder. In each case the reply refers to a requirement listed in paragraph 28 of MTN/NTM/W/22/Rev.1 and the number beside each reply refers to the number of the comment contained in paragraph 28.

The United States notification on excessive information requirements contained in document MTN/NTM/W/22/Rev.1, paragraph 28, is mainly based on the CCC document (No. 18909) concerning particulars required by the customs authorities for formalities on the importation of goods.

As regards Sweden, this list is obsolete because it refers to procedures used before the introduction of the so-called declaration procedure on 1 January 1974. As regards the specific sub-paragraphs referring to Sweden, the following remarks could be made:

16.(43) Deferred payment-bank control

Before 1 January 1974, an annotation was made by the customs authorities concerning the right to a later time-limit for deferred payment in certain cases.

17.(44) Deposits

Before 1 January 1974, an annotation was made by the customs authorities concerning deposits, e.g. in respect of consignments, which were released before all clearance formalities had been completed.

18.(45) Types of duties and taxes

This requirement is necessary when the customs authorities levy different kinds of duties and taxes on imported goods.

19.(46) Clearance procedure

In order to simplify the clearance of goods through customs, the same form is used for different purposes. For that reason it is necessary to indicate the clearance procedure applied for.

21.(59) Application to be present during the examination

This is no longer required. Before the declaration procedure was obligatory, an importer could be present during the examination if he wanted but the customs authorities had to be informed of such a wish.

As far as Finland is concerned, the so-called declaration procedure was introduced in 1972. The following remarks can be made on the specific sub-paragraphs referring to Finland:

3.(12) Place of introduction

Place of introduction, which is the same as place of entry, is required to be indicated for statistical purposes.

10.(27) Type of storage

Type of storage is required to be included in a goods declaration, which is to be lodged when depositing the goods into the warehouse. It is no more required in connexion with the clearance of goods for home use after warehousing.

11.(28) Date of entry into warehouse

Requirement of date of entry into the warehouse serves the purpose of ensuring that the time-limit fixed for warehousing goods has not been exceeded.