

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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CONSULAR FORMALITIES

Letter received from the French Government dated 5 April 1955 on Abolition of Consular Formalities

I have the honour to send you herewith a copy of the instructions which have been addressed to the "Service des Douanes" with a view to the elimination of the consular invoices which had been required in France on the occasion of the importation of goods which are subject to ad valorem rates of duty.

Such instructions demonstrate the progress which France has achieved towards the simplification of customs formalities and constitute positive proof that the French Government is anxious to carry out, to the greatest extent possible, the GATT recommendations aimed at the gradual elimination of consular formalities relating to the importation of goods.

I should be very grateful if you would communicate to the contracting parties the decision taken on 14 February 1955 by the "Direction Générale des Douanes Françaises".

A N N E X

NOTE

SUBJECT: Invoices required for the implementation of the customs tariff - waiver of the requirement concerning the consular legalization or visa.

Within the framework of the provisions of paragraph 5 of Article 35 of the Code des Douanes which provide for the possibility of dispensing with the formality of the consular legalization or visa to be affixed on supporting invoices by bodies recognized by the French Government, as is normally required when the goods imported are subject to ad valorem rates of duty, the Administration, in agreement with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has decided to make effective the following measures:

1. Without prejudice to the arrangements already made with respect to Denmark, Finland, Norway, New Zealand and Sweden, as notified to the Service des Douanes under D.A. No. 2503 (1/5), F 1030/31 of 19 November 1953 and No. 85-2 (A.4), F 103/II of 24 November 1954, the requirement concerning the consular

legalization of commercial invoices shall be abolished in the case of goods imported from the following countries:

Australia	Indonesia
Burma	Japan
Canada	Pakistan
Ceylon	Rhodesia and Nyasaland
Greece	Surinam
India	Union of South Africa

2. The visa to be affixed to consular invoices (in lieu of the consular legalization) by chambers of commerce, chambers of industry, chambers of agriculture, or other recognized bodies, shall cease to be required in the case of goods imported from the following countries:

Austria	Luxemburg
Belgium (including the Belgian Congo and Ruanda Urundi)	Netherlands (including the Netherlands Antilles)
Czechoslovakia	Switzerland
Germany, Federal Republic of	United Kingdom
Italy	

Consequently, mere commercial invoices shall have to be accepted in future in the case of goods imported from the two groups of countries listed under 1 and 2 above even when such goods are subject to ad valorem rates of duty.

In the case of countries listed above, guarantee D.48 furnished against subsequent production of legalized or visaed invoices shall be cancelled.