

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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MARKS OF ORIGIN

Submission of Laws and Regulations

The following statements have been received from the Governments of Czechoslovakia, Finland and Indonesia, as well as an additional statement by the Government of Japan.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

"As far as Czechoslovakia is concerned it is not required that imported goods be marked by indication of origin. It should, at the same time, be noted that Czechoslovakia maintains that marking of origin of merchandise should not be obligatory and that the respective regulations should be amended so that they not impede exchange of goods."

FINLAND

In transmitting the statement reproduced below the Finnish Government has indicated that in its view the provisions for the obligatory marking of imported goods at present in force in Finland are in conformity with the principles proposed by the International Chamber of Commerce. It further indicated that in order to facilitate the customs procedure relating to marks of origin the insertion of more detailed instructions in the present provisions is under consideration.

"The general provisions in force providing for the obligation to mark imported goods, are contained in a law of 10 January 1934. Paragraph 1 of this law stipulates:

'The government has the right to require that certain imported goods - or their packing - intended for further sale in Finland, must be furnished with a mark showing the country of manufacture or origin before the goods are released from customs supervision. The aforesaid does not apply to basic or semi-finished products.'

"Special provisions are contained in a statute of 16 November 1934. Paragraph 1 of this statute lays down the following rules concerning the marking:

'The mark of origin on imported goods must indicate briefly the country of origin of the product in Finnish, Swedish or in any other language generally used in international trade. The name of a country alone is considered to be sufficient. The mark must be clear, easily visible, in Latin characters and in accordance with the provisions for imported goods issued by the Ministry for Commerce and Industry. Marks must be affixed as indelibly and lastingly as the nature of the article permits.'

"Paragraph 1 of this statute (as amended on 30 December 1938) enumerates the imported articles on which the mark of origin has to be affixed:

'Apples (fresh, from 1 August to 12 December);
Fruit-trees (live);
Cotton fabrics (unbleached and undyed; bleached, dyed or printed weighing more than 100 but not more than 250 grammes per sq.m.);
Fabrics of wool and other animal hair for clothing;
Hosiery: underwear, stockings and socks (of pure silk, half silk, wool or other animal hair, cotton or other vegetable textile materials);
Sport and summer shoes (with rubber soles and fabric uppers even if with galosh of rubber);
Footwear of rubber, footwear heels and soles (of soft rubber);
Incandescent lamps (except those with a glass globe of a diameter less than 25 mm).'"

INDONESIA

"There are no regulations requiring imported goods to bear marks of origin."

JAPAN

"The Japanese Government fully supports the Resolution on Marks of Origin adopted by the International Chamber of Commerce."¹

¹ The Japanese statement on laws and regulations was reproduced in L/478/Add.3.

