

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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CONSULAR FORMALITIES

Communication from the Delegation of Brazil

During the plenary discussion of consular formalities at the twenty-first session, the representative of Brazil informed the CONTRACTING PARTIES that his Government had recently simplified a number of consular formalities and had, in certain cases, reduced fees (SR.21/3, page 26). The following details of action taken are circulated at the request of the delegation of Brazil.

Even though Brazil cannot immediately abolish all consular formalities, an effort has been made to gradually simplify them. Thus, the Brazilian Government has approved the following measures: Decree No. 49,977; Decree No. 1,640; and the Tariff Directory's Circular No. 83. By these measures, the following simplifications have been adopted in Brazilian consular formalities:

- (i) in cases where a consular invoice does not exist, when so declared by the party concerned, or in cases where the consular invoice is not duly presented by the end of the term allowed, the fine, which was equivalent to the import duty on the given item, has been reduced to 20 per cent of its value;
- (ii) the fine of 1 to 5 per cent of the import duty, due in cases where divergencies existed between the consular invoice and the import licence, is no longer applicable when the weight difference is less than 5 per cent than that declared on the invoice, and when (a) the difference relates to the gross weight of any product, (b) the difference relates to hygroscopic or volatile products or those imported in bails; (c) the difference occurs in liquid weight, without altering the value cited in the invoice;
- (iii) the indication of the country of origin in the invoice has been replaced by the certificate of origin which should accompany the invoice;
- (iv) signatures on the certificates of origin are to be authorized in the country from which they are dispatched, and no longer in the country from which they are embarked.

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