

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE ON IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES

FINLAND

Information on import licensing procedures of Finland, submitted in response to the questionnaire annexed to the document L/5106, has been made available to contracting parties in document COM.IND/W/55 - COM.AG/W/72/Add.21/Rev.1. The following notification, describing the present import licensing system, replaces the data previously submitted by Finland.

Outline of systems

1. The import licensing régimes used in Finland are automatic import licensing and import licensing procedures for the administration of quotas and individual (discretionary) licensing.
2. The import licensing régimes can be divided into five groups as follows:
 - A. Global licensing for the administration of quotas for certain agricultural products, petrol, silver and gold from countries with multilateral trade systems.
 - B. Individual (discretionary) licensing for the import of certain agricultural products, oil and coal from countries with a multilateral import system and for the import from socialist countries with which Finland has concluded an agreement on the reciprocal removal of obstacles to trade.
 - C. Individual (discretionary) licensing under bilateral trade agreements.
 - D. Individual (discretionary) licensing from countries other than A, B and C above.
 - E. Automatic licensing.

3-4. A. Global licensing for the administration of import quotas the value of which are fixed annually: Importers applying for an import licence may import the products within the quotas from any country with a multilateral import system (Annex) when also the country of origin is one of those countries. The global import system covers the following quotas:

BTN Chapter

ex 3	Salmon and certain other fresh and chilled fish
ex 4	Dried milk
ex 8	Certain fruits (seasonal restrictions)
ex 11	Starches excluding potato starch
ex 15	Certain vegetable oils.
ex 17	Glucose and certain syrups
ex 20	Fruit juices
ex 27	Mineral tar, coal tar distillation products, solvent gasoline and petrol, aviation spirit and bitumen
ex 71	Unwrought silver and gold

B. Individual licensing for the administration of import of products according to domestic need: Importers applying for an import licence are free to select the country of import among countries with a multilateral import system.

The import régime is also applicable to the import of products enumerated under A from socialist countries with which Finland has concluded agreements on the reciprocal removal of the obstacles to trade, viz. Bulgaria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic and Poland.

The individual licensing system covers the following product groups:

BTN Chapter

1	Live animals
ex 2	Meat
ex 4	Dairy products
ex 6	Cut flowers (seasonal restrictions)
ex 7	Fresh vegetables
ex 8	Cut fresh bananas
ex 10	Cereals
ex 11	Products of milling industry

BTN Chapter

- ex 12 Oilseeds, fodder, sugar beet
- ex 15 Animal and vegetable fats
- ex 16 Meat preparations
- ex 17 Sugar and molasses
- ex 20 Preparations of vegetables, fruit and other parts of plants
- ex 23 Residues and waste from food industry, processed animal fodder
- ex 27 Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation, bituminous substances

C. Licensing for the administration of bilateral quotas under bilateral trade agreements applies to products from People's Republic of China, Romania and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The import régime applies also to products enumerated under A and B when imported from these countries and to the following product groups imported from People's Republic of China and Romania:

BTN Chapter

- ex 25 Cement
- ex 28 Zinc oxide and aluminium sulphate
- ex 40 Rubber tyres
- ex 51 Woven fabrics of man-made fibres
- ex 53 Yarn and woven fabrics of wool
- ex 54 Woven fabrics of flax or ramie
- ex 55 Yarn and woven fabrics of cotton
- ex 56 Yarn and woven fabrics of man-made fibres
- ex 58 Woven pile fabrics; chenille fabrics and yarn
- ex 59 Felt and articles of felt, coated textile fabrics
- ex 60 Knitted and crocheted goods
- ex 61 Undergarments
- ex 62 Other textile articles
- ex 64 Rubber and leather footwear
- ex 69 China tableware
- ex 73 Certain rolled steel products; cast iron tubes and pipes; certain articles of iron or steel
- ex 76 Aluminium wire

BTN Chapter

- ex 85 Electrical generators, motors, etc.; insulators and other articles for electrical installations
- ex 90 Gas, liquid and electricity meters
- ex 93 Rifles, carbines and cartridges

The bilateral licensing régime applies to imports from the countries above provided that the country of purchase and the country of origin are the same and that payments are effected as stipulated in the applicable agreement on payment.

D. Individual licensing applies to the import of all products from countries not mentioned under A, B or C above.

E. Automatic licensing is operated for surveillance purposes for certain textile and steel products, if not otherwise stated in Finnish trade agreements. Licences are granted automatically.

5. The import licensing régimes described above are used for the operation of Finnish licensing systems according to the Law on Safeguarding Foreign Trade (157/73) and the subsidiary Decree (162/74 as amended in 1974-1980). The Law contains the main principles applicable to regulating foreign trade. The Decree specifies the products subject to import licensing systems, which cannot be abolished without legislative approval.

Procedures

6. (a) Information on annual global quotas is published in the official publication of the Import and Export Permits Office. The amounts published are global quotas as to quantity or value and are not allocated to goods from any specific country mentioned under A above.

Information on the import system of Finland can be obtained through the GATT secretariat and through the Finnish embassies and trade missions abroad.

- (b) The size of the quotas is determined on annual basis. Licences are usually issued for imports for three months during the calendar year. The validity of these licences can be prolonged. After using the granted licence the importer must apply for a new licence.
- (c) Licences are issued to all importers alike. The system of granting licences for three months makes it possible to control the actual use of granted licences. Licences should be returned to the Import and Export Permits Office after their expiry date or after the import has been effected under a granted licence.

Unused allocations may be divided among other importers during the calendar year, but are not added to quotas of the following year. The licences granted to each importer are published by the Import and Export Permits Office.

- (d) Applications can be submitted before or during a calendar year. However, the examination of applications for licences does not take place until the first day of the calendar year in question.
- (e) 1-14 days.
- (f) Applications can be made at any time during the year (see answer under (d)).
- (g) The Import and Export Permits Office in Helsinki administers the import licensing régime applicable as the only administrative licensing authority.
- (h) If the demand for licences cannot be fully satisfied, the allocation of quotas is carried out on the basis of past import performance. A reasonable amount, about 10 per cent, of each quota is reserved for new importers. If the importer needs a smaller share, his theoretical unused amount is divided between other importers in proportion to their past performance. Applications are examined on receipt.
- (i) In the case of arrangements, where export permits are issued by exporting countries, import licences are not usually required.
- (j) The information procedures are usually agreed upon in the bilateral agreements.
- (k) Import licences are sometimes issued on the condition that the product should be exported and not sold in the domestic market.

7. Applications for the import of products under the automatic licensing régime under E may be filled at any time to the Import and Export Permits Office. The applied licence is granted in 1-2 days.

8. Reasons for a refusal are always communicated to the applicant. The applicant may renew his application for a licence in the event of refusal. He has also a right of appeal to the Surveillance Body on Licensing Affairs.

Eligibility to importers to apply for licence

9. (a-b) All persons, firms or institutions engaged in business activities in Finland are eligible to apply for licences for products in their sectors. There is no authorization of importers, nor any register of authorized ones.

Documentational or other requirements for application of licence

10. The application should include the following data: name and address of applicant, commodity, BTN position, quantity and amount of currency required, country of consignment, country of purchase and country of origin, expected time of importation and payment terms, sales conditions.¹

11. Upon actual importation the following documents are required:

- invoice
- customs declaration
- declaration of dutiable value
- import licence.

12. The licensing fees vary from Fmk 10 to Fmk 440 depending on the value of the products to be imported under a licence.

13. There are no deposit or advance payment requirements associated with the issue of licences.

Conditions of licensing

14. The period of validity of a licence is usually three months. It may be extended subject to the import periods if the licence is presented for renewal before expiry date.

15. No.

16. Licences are not transferable without approval by the Import and Export Permits Office.

17. No.

Other procedural requirements

18. No.

19. Licence is required as a condition for obtaining foreign exchange for products under non-automatic licensing systems. Foreign exchange is available to cover licences issued. Foreign exchange is granted by the Bank of Finland upon application.

¹The application form is available for reference in the secretariat (Room 1073, Centre William Rappard).

ANNEX

Multilateral Import Treatment
As Applied from 1 July 1980

Afghanistan	Dominica
Albania	Dominican Republic
Algeria	Ecuador
Andorra	Galapagos Islands
Angola	Egypt
Argentina	El Salvador
Australia	Equatorial Guinea
Christmas Islands	Ethiopia
Cocos Islands	Federal Republic of Germany
Norfolk Islands	Fiji
The southern islands of Australia	France
Austria	French Antilles (Guadeloupe,
Bahamas	Martinique and French part of the
Bahrain	Islands of St. Martin)
Bangladesh	French Guyana
Barbados	French Polynesia
Belgo-Luxembourg Economic Union	French southern islands in the
Benin	Indian Ocean
Bhutan	New Caledonia
Bolivia	New Hebrides
Botswana	Réunion
Brazil	Saint-Pierre and Miquelon
Burma	Gabon
Burundi	Gambia
Cameroon	Ghana
Canada	Greece
Cape Verde	Grenada
Central African Republic	Guatemala
Chad	Guinea
Chile	Guinea-Bissau
Easter Island	Guyana
Juan Fernandez Islands	Haiti
Colombia	Honduras
Comores	Iceland
Congo	India
Costa Rica	Union territories (Sikkim etc.)
Cuba	Indonesia
Cyprus	Iran
Denmark	Iraq
Faroe Islands	Ireland
Greenland	Israel
Djibouti	Italy

Ivory Coast	Oman
Jamaica	Pakistan
Japan	Panama
Jordan	Papua New Guinea
Kampuchea	Paraguay
Kenya	Peru
Kiribati	Phillipines
Korea, Republic of	Portugal
Kuwait	Azores
Laos	Cabinda-Landava
Lebanon	Macao
Lesotho	Madeira
Liberia	Qatar
Libya	Rwanda
Madagascar	St. Lucia
Malawi	Samoa
Malaysia (Malaya, Sabah, Sarawak)	San Marino
Maldives	Sao Tome and Principe
Mali	Saudi Arabia
Malta	Senegal
Mauritania	Seychelles
Mauritius	Sierra Leone
Mexico	Singapore
Monaco	Somalia
Mozambique	Solomon Islands
Morocco	Puerto Rico
Namibia	Swains Islands
Nauru	Virgin Islands of the United States
Nepal	Upper Volta
Netherlands	Uruguay
Netherlands' Antilles (Aruba,	Venezuela
Bonaire, Guracao, Saba,	Viet-Nam
St. Eustatius and the	South Africa, Republic of
Netherlands' part of the	Prince Edward's Islands
Islands of St. Martin)	Spain
New Zealand	Balearic Islands and Pine Islands
Chatham Islands	Canaries
Stewart Islands	Spanish Africa
Other outlying islands and	Sri Lanka
Pacific islands	Sudan
Nicaragua	Surinam
Niger	Swaziland
Nigeria	Switzerland and Liechtenstein
Norway	Syria
Bouvet Island	Tanzania
Jan Mayen	Thailand
Peter I Island	Togo
Spitzbergen	Tonga
	Trinidad and Tobago

Tunisia
Turkey
Tuvalu
Uganda
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom
Ascension
Belize
Bermuda
British Pacific Islands
British West Indies (Antigua,
Montserrat, St. Kitts-Nevis,
St. Vincent)
Brunei
Falkland Islands
Gibraltar
Hong Kong
Labuan
New Hebrides
Rodriguez and Diego Garcia
St. Helena
Tristan da Cunha
British Virgin Islands

United States
American Samoa
Canton and Enderbury Islands
Caroline Islands
Howland and Baker Islands
Jarvis Island
Johnston Islands
Kure Island
Mariana Islands
Marshall Islands
Midway
Palmyra Island and Kingman Reef
Wake Islands
Other trust territories in the Pacific
Yemen, Arab Republic of
Yemen, People's Democratic Republic of
Yugoslavia
Zaire
Zambia
Zimbabwe