

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/5130/Rev.1
11 January 1984

Limited Distribution

Original: English/
Finnish

REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE ON IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES

FINLAND

Revision

Information on import licensing procedures of Finland, submitted in response to the questionnaire annexed to the document L/5106/Rev.2 has been made available to contracting parties in documents L/5130, L/5130/Corr.1 and L/5130/Suppl.1. The following notification, describing the present import licensing system, replaces the data previously submitted by Finland with the exception of L/5130/Suppl.1, which remains valid.

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 is applied for imports from countries which are granted a so-called multilateral treatment (see annex).
 - B. Individual (discretionary) licensing is applied to the imports of certain agricultural products, oil and coal from countries which are granted a so-called multilateral treatment (see annex).
 - 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 quotas, the values of which are fixed annually: importers applying for an import licence may import the products within the quotas from any country which is granted multilateral treatment provided that the country of origin is also one of those countries. The global quota programme covers the following products:

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 (discretionary) licensing for the administration of imports according to domestic needs: importers applying for an import licence are free to select the country of imports among the countries which are granted multilateral treatment, provided the country of origin is also one of those countries.

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.

Individual licensing 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
- ex 12 Oilseeds, fodder, sugar beet
- ex 15 Animal and vegetable fats
- ex 16 Meat preparations
- ex 17 Sugar and molasses

BTN Chapter

- 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 the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The import régime also applies to products enumerated under A and B when imported from this country.

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 administrates the import licensing régimes 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 filed 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 20 to Fmk 700 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 maximum period of validity of a licence is three to six months, which is not usually extended.

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 in cases where the country of origin is a country with which Finland has a payment agreement and the licence permits payment in convertible currency. Foreign exchange is available to cover licences issued.

¹The application form is available for reference in the secretariat (Room 1063, Centre William Rappard).

ANNEXMultilateral Import Treatment
as Applied from 1 July 1980

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

Kampuchea
Kenya
Kiribati
Korea, Republic of
Kuwait
Laos
Lebanon
Lesotho
Liberia
Libya
Madagascar
Malawi
Malaysia (Malaya, Sabah, Sarawak)
Maldives
Mali
Malta
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mexico
Monaco
Mongolia
Mozambique
Morocco
Namibia
Nauru
Nepal
Netherlands
 Netherlands' Antilles (Aruba,
 Bonaire, Curacao, Saba,
 St. Eustatius and the
 Netherlands' part of the
 Islands of St. Martin)
New Zealand
 Chatham Islands
 Stewart Islands
 Other outlying islands and
 Pacific islands
Nicaragua
Niger
Nigeria
Norway
 Bouvet Island
 Jan Mayen
 Peter I Island
 Spitzbergen
Oman
Pakistan
Panama
Papua New Guinea

Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Portugal
 Azores
 Cabinda-Landava
 Macao
 Madeira
Qatar
Romania
Rwanda
St. Christopher and Nevis
St. Lucia
St. Vincent and Grenadines
Samoa
San Marino
Sao Tome and Principe
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Singapore
Somalia
Solomon Islands
 Puerto Rico
 Swains Islands
 Virgin Islands of the
 United States
South Africa, Republic of
 Prince Edward's Islands
Spain
 Balearic Islands and Pine Islands
 Canaries
 Spanish Africa
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Suriname
Swaziland
Sweden
Switzerland and Liechtenstein
Syria
Tanzania
Thailand
Togo
Tonga
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkey
Tuvalu

Uganda	United States (cont'd)
United Arab Emirates	Johnston Islands
United Kingdom	Kure Island
Ascension	Mariana Islands
Bermuda	Marshall Islands
British Pacific Islands	Midway
British West Indies (Montserrat)	Palmyra Island and Kingman Reef
Brunei	Wake Islands
Falkland Islands	Other trust territories in the Pacific
Gibraltar	Upper Volta
Hong Kong	Uruguay
Labuan	Vanatu
Rodriguez and Diego Garcia	Venezuela
St. Helena	Viet-Nam
Tristan da Gunha	Yemen, Arab Republic of
British Virgin Islands	Yemen, People's Democratic Republic of
United States	Yugoslavia
American Samoa	Zaire
Canton and Enderbury Islands	Zambia
Caroline Islands	Zimbabwe
Howland and Baker Islands	
Jarvis Island	