

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/5640/Add.4

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REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE ON
IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES

HONG KONG

The following notification has been received from the delegation of the United Kingdom on behalf of Hong Kong in response to the questionnaire on import licensing procedures annexed to document L/5640. The present document revises information previously made available to contracting parties in L/5109/Rev.1.

Reply No.1

Line 18: change "import licence" to "carrier copy".
Line 24: change "original copy" to "carrier copy".

Reply No.2

Delete "(c) acetic acid" and "(d) automatic machines, whether coin operated or not, designed for gaming purposes including any part thereof;"

Reply No.4

Delete "(c) For protection of the public against vice

(i) automatic machines, whether coin operated or not, designed for gaming purposes" and

"(e) For suppression of the manufacture of dangerous drugs

(i) acetic acid"

and change list items (d) and (f) to (c) and (d), respectively.

Reply No. 7(d)

Replace with:

(d) (1) Consideration of import licence applications for the following items is effected by a single administrative organ, i.e. the Trade Department:

(i) reserved commodities;

(ii) textiles;

(iii) Argentinian goods;

(iv) strategic commodities (where necessary, licence applications covering imports of electronic equipment (including communications and radar) and scientific instruments and apparatus are first submitted to the Telecommunications Branch of the General Post Office for a decision as to whether the commodity is a strategic one).

- (2) Importers who wish to import the following items must submit their licence applications to another government department for prior endorsement indicating that there is no objection to the items being imported.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Prior endorsement required from</u>
(i) Agricultural pesticides	Agriculture and Fisheries Department
(ii) Pharmaceutical products and medicines	Pharmacy and Poisons Board chaired by the Director of Medical and Health Services
(iii) Explosives (strategic commodities)	Mines Division, Labour Department.

After the applications have been endorsed by the departments concerned, the applicants will submit them to the Trade Department for processing and issue:

- (3) Licence applications covering imports of the following items are issued only to those importers in possession of certain valid documents issued by other government departments:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Document</u>
(i) Arms and ammunition (strategic commodities)	dealer's licence or limited licence for possession issued by the Royal Hong Kong Police Force
(ii) Radioactive substances and irradiating apparatus	radioactive substances licence and irradiating apparatus licence issued by the Medical and Health Department (Radiation Board)

Reply No. 12, lines 2-3

Change "HKD5 (US\$0.75)" to "HKD10 (US\$1.28)"
and change "HKD7.50 (US\$1.10)" to "HKD7.50 (US\$0.96)"

Reply No. 20, line 6

Change "HKD2 (US\$0.30)" to "HKD2 (US\$0.26)"

Reply No. 23

Replace (e), (f), (g) and (h) with, respectively:

- (e) Mammals birds, reptiles and their carcasses, by the Agriculture and Fisheries Department. A special permit is required before importation. The special permit must be obtained beforehand for both permanent arrivals and temporary (e.g. transshipment) arrivals. The terms (requirements) stated on the special permit must be complied with in full. Purpose : to prevent the introduction of infectious disease. Maintained under Reg. 1, 3, 4(1) and 10(1) of the Public Health (Animals & Birds) Ordinance, Cap. 139.
- (f) Plants, plant pests and soil, by the Agriculture and Fisheries Department. Licences are required for import of plants, supported by phytosanitary certificates. Prior authorizations are required for import of plant pests or soil. Purpose : to prevent the introduction and spread of plant pests. Maintained under Section 4 7 and 8 of the Plant (Importation & Pest Control) Ordinance, Cap. 207.
- (g) Animals and plants of endangered species, and their parts and derivatives, by the Agriculture and Fisheries Department. Licences are required before importation, supported by CITES Export Permits. Purpose : to conform with the requirements of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES or Washington Convention). Maintained under Section 4, Animals and Plants (Protection of Endangered Species) Ordinance, Cap. 137.
- (h) Any artificial sweetener or food containing artificial sweetener (other than saccharin, saccharin sodium, saccharin calcium and aspartame), by the Urban Services Department. Import for human consumption of any other artificial sweetener, or food containing any other artificial sweetener is prohibited. Purpose : protection of public health. Maintained under Regulation 3, Food Adulteration (Artificial Sweeteners) Regulations, Cap. 132.

Appendix

Paragraph (g): change "HKD4,000 (US\$600)" to "HKD4,000 (US\$513)".

Paragraph (h): change "HK\$500 (US\$75)" to "HKD1,000 (US\$123)".

Insert the following as new paragraphs (l) and (m), then reletter the remaining paragraphs beginning with (n).

"(l) Articles imported solely for use in a sports competition and to be exported after the competition.

"(m) Articles imported after having been exported for use in a sports competition."