

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

## REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE ON IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES

### CHILE

Information on the import licensing procedures of Chile has been made available to contracting parties in L/5228. The following notification, submitted in response to the questionnaire annexed to L/5640, replaces the data previously submitted by Chile.

#### Outline of system

1.- The Chilean import system allows the admission of all goods except used motor vehicles 1/.

Every import transaction must be covered by an import certificate ("Informe de Importación Emitido") issued by a banking establishment, the Chilean Copper Commission or the Central Bank of Chile, as appropriate.

#### Purposes and Coverage of the Licensing

2,3 and 4. The import certificate is not restrictive in respect of the quantity or value of import. Nor does it discriminate in terms of products or country of origin. The import certificate is designed to be used exclusively for statistical purposes.

The import certificate authorizes the importer to order shipment of the goods indicated within the stated time-limit, to request the National Custom Service to admit the goods into the country, and to have access to the foreign exchange market for payment of the goods abroad, in accordance with the relevant provisions.

The Central Bank issues import certificates for amounts exceeding US\$ 500 f.o.b., or in special cases for smaller amounts. In both cases, the import certificate applications must be submitted to the Central Bank by a banking establishment.

Banking establishments and exchange offices are authorized to issue import certificates for the import of goods of a value not exceeding US\$ 500 f.o.b.

5.- The Legal basis for the import certificate is the Law on International Exchanges, which empowers the Executive Committee of the Central Bank of Chile to lay down the provisions applicable to foreign trade matters. That authorization is incorporated in the Organic Law of the Central Bank of Chile.

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1/ The List of Imports Prohibited was revoked under Decree 330 of the Ministry of Economic Affairs (Official Gazette of August 18, 1981).

### Procedures

6.- Not applicable.

7.- Application may be made for an import certificate at any time of the year, through an exchange office, a banking establishment, or the Chilean Copper Commission, as appropriate. In general, the certificate can be obtained within twenty-four hours after the application is filed.

Importers must obtain the relevant import certificate before the date of shipment of the goods to be imported. Nevertheless, goods of a value not exceeding US\$ 3,000 f.o.b. may be shipped prior to the date of issue of the corresponding certificate.

The import certificate authorizes the importer to ship the goods specified within the 120 days following its date of issue.

There are no import quotas.

8.- An import certificate application may not be rejected, but may be returned in the event that errors or omissions are found in its presentation.

### Eligibility of importers to apply for License

9.- Any natural or legal person may import goods of any kind in any quantity, with the exception of used motor vehicles. The importer must fulfil the following conditions:

- he must present his Single Tax Roll ("RUT") number or Single National Roll ("RUN") number;

- he must show that he has no outstanding tax obligations; in accordance with Article 89 of the Tax Code;

- he must comply with the import rules of the Central Bank and with the other legal, regulatory and administrative provisions in force.

There is no Register of Importers since any natural or legal person can import subject to compliance with the above-mentioned conditions. Nor is any fee or charge payable in order to be an importer.

Documentational and other requirements for application of License

10 and 11.- An import certificate form 1/

12.- Banking establishments, exchange offices and Chilean Copper Commission collect a tax of 3 per cent of the amount of the transaction when issuing import certificates, which is offset against the applicable import duty.

13.- There are no prior deposits.

Conditions of Licensing

14.- The period of validity of an import certificate is 120 days as from the date of issue. In duly justified cases, the Central Bank of Chile may extend the period of validity of an import certificate.

15.- There are no penalties for non-utilization of an import certificate or a portion thereof.

16.- The import certificate is not transferable.

17.- There are no other conditions attached to the issue of an import certificate.

Other procedural requirements

18.- No

19.- The import certificate grants the importer access to the foreign exchange market for payment of the goods abroad, subject to the relevant provisions.

The foreign exchange banking market is accessible for transaction covered by an import certificate.

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1/ A copy of the import certificate form is available for reference in the Secretariat, Centre William Rappard, Office N<sup>o</sup> 1059.