

**GENERAL AGREEMENT ON  
TARIFFS AND TRADE**

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Original: English

REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE ON IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES

Pakistan

The following notification has been received from the delegation of Pakistan in response to the questionnaire on import licensing procedures annexed to document L/5640/Rev.1. The present document replaces information previously contained in document L/5250/Rev.1 dated 16 December 1983.

1. Outline of system

In the Import Policy 1985-86, the Negative List System which was first adopted in 1983-84 has been maintained. The list envisages notification of items which are banned for import in the country. The rationale for banning items or placing in the negative list is threefold:

- (1) Items banned due to religious or security implications.
- (2) Luxury consumer goods.
- (3) Items banned for protective reasons.

In addition to the negative list a restricted list is also included in the import policy, which indicates items importable by public sector, industrial consumers, requirements of specific industries, items importable subject to specific conditions, items importable from specified sources and subject to quantitative restrictions.

The items which are not included in the prohibited/negative list or restricted list are allowed to be freely importable. Some items are also allowed to be imported by returning overseas Pakistanis.

2. Purpose and coverage

Not valid

3. No change

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4. Import of five items i.e. milk and milk powder etc. is subject to quantitative restrictions i.e. linked with past import or with actual capacity of the individual industrial consumers. This has been done to keep the import of these items on a level commensurate with the demand within the country. The import of some items is subject to specified sources under credit, loan and barter or US PL-480 subject to availability of funds. Similarly some items are importable through public sector agencies only.

5. Import is regulated/governed by the Imports and Exports (Control) Act 1955 and annual Import Policy Order, which is a statutory notification issued by administration under the said Act.

Description of imports of goods mentioned in individual import licences is in accordance with the description given in the "Indicative List" published by the Chief Controller of imports and exports. However, the scope of the description is defined in terms of import trade control classification (based on CCCN).

6. (a) to (f) No comment as details are not given.

(g) No change

(h) For items importable subject to quantitative restrictions import licences are issued on restricted basis. At present the licences are issued for all items at the rate of 100 per cent value licensed during the preceding year to the existing importers and that 25 per cent of the value licensed during the preceding year are reserved for issuing licences to newcomers for butter, milk and infants' food only subject to a minimum value of Rs 10,000.

As regards issue of licences under barter arrangements, these are authenticated according to availability of funds only. As regards items importable by public sector the import is open for concerned public sector agencies only.

(i) to (k) No comments as details are not given.

7. to 19. No comments as details are not given.