GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE ON IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES

Argentina

The following notification has been received from the delegation of Argentina in response to the questionnaire on import licensing procedures annexed to document L/5640/Rev.1. The present document replaces the information appearing in L/5278 and Corr.1.

QUESTIONNAIRE ON IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES

I. OUTLINE OF SYSTEMS

1. Decree No. 4070/84 provided for the prohibition of imports of certain goods and established for another group the system of prior study for the issue of a DJNI (Sworn Declaration of Import Needs) Certificate.

For most imported goods there is an automatic system.

On 30 June 1985 the prohibition of imports ceased and since that date only the system of prior study applies as a partial restriction.

The Decree in question requires that importers, whether of the public or the private sector, must present their needs to the Secretariat of Foreign Trade by submitting a Sworn Declaration of Import Needs (DJNI). This requirement applies to all imported goods, including those for which there are no restrictions.

The Secretariat of Foreign Trade then issues a DJNI Certificate for submission to agencies authorized to deal in foreign exchange, since without this document such agencies may not engage in import operations.

II. PURPOSES AND COVERAGE OF THE LICENSING

- 2. The products to which the system applies are contained in the various Sections of the tariff nomenclature and amount to approximately 20 per cent of total annual imports.
- 3. The system is applied regardless of the country of origin or of consignment.
 - 4. Its purpose is to conserve foreign exchange.
 - 5. Laws 22.415 and 22.792 and Decree No. 4070/84.

Authority to abolish the system is vested in the Ministry of Economy.

III. PROCEDURES

6.(a) Information concerning the issuing of DJNI Certificates is published. This information is edited periodically and is sold at cost of printing to the public interested.

It is available to the public for consultation free-of-charge in the library of the Secretariat of Foreign Trade.

6.(b) There are no fixed quotas. There is no discrimination or limitation in the issue of certificates when the goods concerned are not produced in the country.

When there are national substitutes, certificates may nevertheless be issued if the need is demonstrated for a specific use which cannot be met locally, or if the national output does not entirely satisfy demand.

6.(c) The reply here is once again that there are no fixed quotas.

The issue of certificates does not depend on the status of the applicant.

- 6.(d) As there are no fixed quotas, no reply is called for.
- 6.(e) Minimum and maximum lengths of time: 20 and 60 days.
- 6.(f) Once the DJNI Certificate is obtained, the goods can be imported at any time. No time-limits are set for importation.
- 6.(g) The organ designated as the applications authority and therefore as the receiver of Sworn Declarations of Import Needs and the issuer of the DJNI Certificates is the Secretariat of Foreign Trade.

The Secretariat of Industry analyses most of the applications, except those dealing with goods for the armed forces or security forces, for which the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of the Interior are competent, respectively.

Applications which are disapproved by the Secretariat of Industry are analysed by the Honorary Imports Advisory Commission consisting of private importer and producer enterprises.

The advice of this Commission may be contrary to the opinion of the public body.

- 6.(h) See 6.(b) above.
- 6.(i) In such cases, certificates are issued automatically.
- 6.(j) There is no provision for such a procedure.
- 6.(k) There are none.
- 7.(a) The certificates are issued automatically and are received within 72 hours after application. A DJNI Certificate may be obtained despite the fact that the goods have arrived at the port.
 - 7.(b) See 7.(a).
 - 7.(c) There are none.
 - 7.(d) There is no such consideration.

8. The applicant is informed of the refusal and the reasons therefor. He has the right of appeal to the applications authority (Secretariat of Foreign Trade).

IV. ELIGIBILITY OF IMPORTERS TO APPLY FOR LICENCE

9. All persons, enterprises and institutions that are registered as importers with the National Customs Administration are eligible to apply for DJNI Certificates.

V. DOCUMENTATIONAL AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICATION OF LICENCE

10. A sample form is annexed.

The opinion of the Secretariat of Industry must be added to the application.

- 11. The usual customs and bank documentation is required.
- 12. There is an administrative fee of \$a 2.50 per DJNI.
- 13. The issue of a DJNI Certificate is subject to a bank deposit equivalent to the import duty for the goods, calculated on its f.o.b. value.

Such deposits are released automatically in 120 days and may be released prior to the expiry of that period, although the deposit is intended for the payment of the import duty to which the goods are liable.

The deposit is refundable and its amount is brought up to date in accordance with the rules for adjustable individually registered fixed-term deposits benefiting from the United States dollar clause.

The purpose of the requirement is to ensure that the submission of a DJNI represents a real intention to be carried out by the entry of the goods, so that the statistics provided by the system do not distort the real state of affairs.

VI. CONDITIONS OF LICENSING

14. The period of validity of a DJNI Certificate is 180 days, except as regards capital goods and goods imported to replace fixed assets, in which cases there is no date of expiry.

DJNI Certificates cannot be extended. For that purpose the importer must submit a new DJNI and return the expired certificate.

- 15. There is no penalty.
- 16. DJNI Certificates are not transferable for use at agencies authorized to deal in foreign exchange.

17. There are no other conditions,

VII. OTHER PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS

- 18. There are none.
- 19. To obtain foreign exchange, one must have a DJNI Certificate.

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