

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

L/5640/Rev.2
10 March 1986

Limited Distribution

IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES

Status of Notifications under GATT Procedures

Note by the Secretariat

Revision

The CONTRACTING PARTIES at their twenty-eighth session in November 1972, decided, *inter alia*, that the data assembled on licensing systems should be kept up-to-date and that contracting parties should be invited to notify annually by 30 September, any changes which should be made concerning the information on their licensing systems (see SR.28/6 and L/3756, paragraph 76).

In paragraph 2 of the Understanding Regarding Notification, Consultation, Dispute Settlement and Surveillance adopted on 28 November 1979 (L/4907) the CONTRACTING PARTIES reaffirmed their commitment to existing obligations under the General Agreement regarding publication and notification. At its meeting of 26 March 1980 the Council invited contracting parties to submit notifications according to the calendar referred to in C/M/139 and Annex III of C/111.

Every year, contracting parties are invited to communicate to the secretariat any data on their licensing systems necessary to bring up-to-date their individual country data. The questionnaire used in this connection, which was originally circulated in L/3515, is reproduced in the Annex to the present document.

Documents containing the latest notifications made in accordance with these procedures are listed below. Up to the end of 1980 they were circulated as addenda or corrigenda to a document with the dual symbol COM.IND/W/55-COM.AG/W/72. As from the beginning of 1981, they have been issued in the L/-series. In order to reduce the number of different L/-documents in circulation and to facilitate reference to the responses to the questionnaire, future notifications will appear as addenda to the present document (which has in the past been L/5106 and revisions).

<u>Contracting Party</u>	<u>Document reference</u>	<u>Date of latest notification</u>
Argentina ¹	L/5640/Add.27	1985
Australia ¹	L/5640/Add.13 and Corr.1	1985
Austria ¹	L/5640/Add.30	1986

¹

Also signatory to Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures

<u>Contracting Party</u>	<u>Document reference</u>	<u>Date of latest notification</u>
Bangladesh	L/5606	1984
Barbados	Add.70	1980
Benin	-	-
Brazil	Add.35	1971
Burma	-	-
Burundi	Add.3	1971
Cameroon	-	-
Canada ¹	L/5640/Add.10/Rev.1	1985
Central African Republic	-	-
Chad	Add.4	1971
Chile ¹	L/5640/Add.8/Rev.1	1985
Colombia	-	-
Congo	-	-
Cuba	Add.52	1972
Cyprus	Add.42	1971
Czechoslovakia ¹	L/5301	1982
Dominican Republic	L/5640/Add.24	1985
Egypt ¹	-	-
European Community Community and ¹ member States ¹	L/5640/Add.21 and Rev.1 and Suppl.1	1985
Finland ¹	L/5640/Add.6 and Corr.1	1985
Gabon	Add.8	1971
Gambia	-	-

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Also signatory to the Agreement of Import Licensing Procedures.

<u>Contracting Party</u>	<u>Document reference</u>	<u>Date of latest notification</u>
Ghana	-	-
Guyana	-	-
Haiti	-	-
Hungary ¹	L/5640/Add.12	1984
Iceland	Add.43	1971
India ¹	L/5640/Add.7 and Rev.1	1985
Indonesia	-	-
Israel	Add.33	1971
Ivory Coast	Add.10	1971
Jamaica	L/5640/Add.16	1985
Japan ¹	L/5640/Add.28	1985
Kampuchea ²	Add.30	1971
Kenya	Add.34/Rev.1	1972
Korea, Rep. of	L/5436 and Suppl.1	1983
Kuwait	Add.40	1971
Madagascar	Add.57	1976
Malawi	L/5640/Add.1	1984
Malaysia	-	-
Malta	Add.12 and Corr.1 to Corr.4	1977
Mauritania	-	-
Mauritius	-	-
New Zealand ¹	L/5640/Add.18	1985
Nicaragua	-	-

¹
Also signatory to Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures.

²
Applying the General Agreement on a de facto basis.

<u>Contracting Party</u>	<u>Document reference</u>	<u>Date of latest notification</u>
Niger	-	-
Nigeria	L/5438	1982
Norway ¹	L/5640/Add.23	1985
Pakistan ¹	L/5640/Add.25	1985
Peru	L/5507	1983
Philippines ¹	L/5640/Add.26/Rev.1	1986
Poland	Add.14 and Add.56/Rev.1	1976
Portugal	L/5640/Add.9 and Corr.1	1985
Romania ¹	L/5110	1981
Rwanda	Add.15	1971
Senegal	-	-
Sierra Leone	Add.19	1971
Singapore ¹	L/5639	1984
South Africa ¹	L/5640/Add.17/Rev.1	1985
Spain	L/5640/Add.15	1984
Sri Lanka	L/5203/Rev.1	1983
Suriname	-	-
Sweden ¹	L/5640/Add.14 and Corr.1	1985
Switzerland ¹	L/5640/Add.19	1985
Tanzania	-	-
Thailand	L/5576	1983
Togo	-	-
Trinidad and Tobago	-	-

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Also signatory to Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures.

<u>Contracting Party</u>	<u>Document reference</u>	<u>Date of latest notification</u>
Tunisia ²	Add.20 and Corr.1	1976
Turkey	L/5640/Add.29 and Corr.1 and Suppl.1	1986
Uganda	-	-
United Kingdom on behalf of Hong Kong ¹	L/5640/Add.4 and Corr.1 and Rev.1	1985
United States ¹	L/5640/Add.22	1985
Upper Volta	Add.37	1971
Uruguay	L/5640/Add.11	1984
Yugoslavia ¹	L/5640/Add.20	1985
Zaire	Add.53	1972
Zambia	Add.51	1972
Zimbabwe	-	-

¹
Also signatory to Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures.

²
Acceded provisionally to the General Agreement.

ANNEX

QUESTIONNAIRE ON IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURE¹

The present questionnaire is designed to elicit information on import licensing and similar administrative procedures² maintained in and applied to the customs territories to which GATT applies. If different procedures or methods of licensing or similar administrative procedures are applied to different categories of products or to different countries of supply or different modes of importation, they should be separately described in respect of each question as relevant.

Outline of systems

1. Give a brief description of each licensing system as a whole and, with respect to each, reply to the following questions as relevant, placing all of the material with respect to a given system in sequence together, and using cross references as appropriate when elements which have already been described are also present in another system.

Purposes and coverage of the licensing

2. Identify each licensing system maintained and state what products, appropriately grouped, are covered.

3. The system applies to goods originating in and coming from which countries?

4. Is the licensing intended to restrict the quantity or value of imports, and if not, what are its purposes? Have alternative methods of accomplishing the purposes been considered and if so which? Why have they not been adopted?

5. Cite the law, regulation and/or administrative order under which the licensing is maintained. Is the licensing statutorily required? Does the legislation leave designation of products to be subjected to licensing to administrative discretion? Is it possible for the government (or the executive branch) to abolish the system without legislative approval?

¹Originally circulated as L/3515 of 23 March 1971

²Similar procedures are understood to include technical visas, surveillance systems, minimum price arrangements, and other administrative reviews effected as a prior condition for entry of imports.

Procedures

6. For products under restriction as to the quantity or value of imports (whether applicable globally or to a limited number of countries or whether established bilaterally or unilaterally):

- (a) Is information published, and where, concerning allocation of quotas and formalities of filing applications for licences? If not, how is it brought to the attention of possible importers? Of governments and export promotion bodies of exporting countries and their trade representative? Is the overall amount published? The amount allocated to goods from each country? The maximum amount allocated to each importer?
- (b) How is the size of the quotas determined: on a yearly, six-monthly or quarterly basis? Are there cases where the size of quota is determined on a yearly basis but licences are issued for imports on a six-monthly or quarterly basis? In the latter case is it necessary for importers to apply for fresh licence on a six-monthly or quarterly basis?
- (c) Are licences allotted for certain goods partly or only to domestic producers of like goods? What steps are taken to ensure that licences allocated are actually used for imports? Are unused allocations added to quotas for a succeeding period? Are the names of importers to whom licences have been allocated made known to governments and export promotion bodies of exporting countries upon request? If not, for what reason? (Indicate products to which replies relate.)
- (d) From the time of announcing the opening of quotas, as indicated in (a) above, what is the period of time allowed for the submission of applications for licences?
- (e) What are the minimum and maximum lengths of time for processing applications?
- (f) How much time remains, at a minimum, between the granting of licences and the date of opening of the period of importation?
- (g) Is consideration of licence applications effected by a single administrative organ? Or must the application be passed on to other organs for visa note or approval? If so, which? Does the importer have to approach more than one administrative organ?

- (h) If the demand for licences cannot be fully satisfied, on what basis is the allocation to applicants made? First come, first served? Past performance? Is there a maximum amount to be allocated per applicant and if so on what basis is it determined? What provision is made for new importers? Are applications examined simultaneously or on receipt?
- (i) In the case of bilateral quotas or export restraint arrangements, where export permits are issued by exporting countries, are import licences also required? If so, are licences issued automatically?
- (j) In cases where imports are allowed on the basis of export permits only, how is the importing country informed of the effect given by the exporting country to the understanding between the two countries?
- (k) Are there products for which licences are issued on condition that goods should be exported and not sold in the domestic market?

7. Where there is no quantitative limit on importation of a product or on imports from a particular country:

- (a) How far in advance of importation must application for a licence be made? Can licences be obtained within a shorter time-limit or for goods arriving at the port without a licence (for example, owing to inadvertency)?
- (b) Can a licence be granted immediately on request?
- (c) Are there any limitations as to the period of the year during which application for licence and/or importation may be made? If so, explain.
- (d) Is consideration of licence applications effected by a single administrative organ? Or must the application be passed on to other organs for visa, note or approval? If so, which? Does the importer have to approach more than one administrative organ?

8. Under what circumstances may an application for a licence be refused other than failure to meet the ordinary criteria? Are the reasons for any refusal given to the applicant? Have applicants a right of appeal in the event of refusal to issue a licence, and if so to what bodies and under what procedures?

Eligibility of importers to apply for Licence

9. Are all persons, firms and institutions eligible to apply for Licences:
- (a) Under restrictive licensing systems?
 - (b) Under non-restrictive systems?

If not, is there a system of registration of persons or firms permitted to engage in importation? What persons or firms are eligible? Is there a registration fee? Is there a published list of authorized importers?

Documentational and other requirements for application of licence

10. What information is required in applications? Submit a sample form. What documents is the importer required to supply with the application?
11. What documents are required upon actual importation?
12. Is there any licensing fee or administrative charge? If so, what is the amount of the fee or charge?
13. Is there any deposit or advance payment requirement associated with the issue of licences? If so, state the amount or rate, whether it is refundable, the period of retention and the purpose of the requirement.

Conditions of licensing

14. What is the period of validity of a licence? Can the validity of a licence be extended? How?
15. Is there any penalty for the non-utilization of a licence or a portion of a licence?
16. Are Licences transferable between importers? If so, are any limitations or conditions attached to such transfer?
17. Are any other conditions attached to the issue of a licence:
- (a) for products subject to quantitative restriction?
 - (b) for products not subject to quantitative restriction?

Other procedural requirements

18. Are there any other administrative procedures, apart from import licensing and similar administrative procedures, required prior to importation?

19. Is foreign exchange automatically provided by the banking authorities for goods to be imported? Is a licence required as a condition to obtaining foreign exchange? Is foreign exchange always available to cover licences issued? What formalities must be fulfilled for obtaining the foreign exchange?