

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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Technical Group on Quantitative Restrictions  
and Other Non-Tariff Measures

WORK TO BE DONE UNDER THE  
TECHNICAL GROUP

Note by the Secretariat

1. At their 42nd Session, the CONTRACTING PARTIES adopted the report of the Group on Quantitative Restrictions and other Non-Tariff Measures (L/6073). They terminated this Group and established a technical group to conduct the future updating and analysis of documentation in accordance with the timetable and procedures agreed by the CONTRACTING PARTIES in 1984 and 1985 (L/6100).

2. This paper sets out the work to be done under the Technical Group on Quantitative Restrictions and Other Non-Tariff Measures.

A. Action by individual contracting parties

(i) Notification

3. Contracting parties should notify details of changes in the quantitative restrictions that they maintain as and when these changes occur and make a complete notification of their quantitative restrictions at two-yearly intervals. The first round of notifications having been made by the end of April 1986, the next complete notifications will be due at the end of April 1988. These notifications should contain the following information with respect to quantitative restrictions which they maintain (L/5713, paragraph 44(a), L/5888, paragraphs 7 and 8):

- (i) a full description of the products and tariff lines (or parts of tariff lines affected together with the relevant heading or sub-heading in the customs tariff concerned and, in cases in which this is not based on the Customs Co-operation Council Nomenclature, the corresponding CCCN heading;
- (ii) a precise indication of the type of restriction, using the list of symbols annexed to L/5888 (reproduced as Annex I of the present document);
- (iii) an indication of the grounds and GATT justification for the measures maintained, including the precise provisions which they cite as a justification (e.g. the relevant section of Article XVII or sub-paragraph of Article XX or XXI).
- (iv) an assessment, to the extent possible, of the trade effects of the measures.

4. Contracting parties which have already made notifications should, before 31 January 1987, supply the information lacking in the documentation. They should also inform the secretariat by the same date of any specific amendments they wish to make to the existing basic documentation and analyses (L/6073, paragraph 28).

5. In its last report the Group on Quantitative Restrictions and Other Non-Tariff Measures has agreed that delegations should make every effort to include the trade effects of measures in their notifications (L/6073, paragraph 28).

6. Existing notification procedures for updating the Inventory of Non-Tariff Measures (Industrial Products), as adopted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES in November 1979, should continue. The agreed format should be strictly adhered to in respect of future notifications. Both the governments which have made notifications and governments maintaining the measures should provide comments designed to ensure that, where appropriate, notifications are deleted or suitably modified or supplemented (BISD 27S/18; L/5713, paragraph 65(a); L/5888, paragraphs 9 and 10; L/6073, paragraph 23).

(ii) GATT procedures

7. Contracting parties which have invoked GATT provisions to justify quantitative restrictions which they maintain should follow the relevant GATT procedures if they do not already do so (L/5713, paragraph 44(f)).

B. Action by the Secretariat

8. The secretariat will draw the attention of the relevant governments to the need to supply information lacking in the documentation. Where requested, it will assist delegations of contracting parties to prepare their notifications of quantitative restrictions, drawing, if necessary, upon information available in official published sources (L/5713, paragraphs 44(a) and 65(a); L/5888, paragraph 48; L/6073, paragraph 28).

9. Following the receipt of notifications, the secretariat will update the basic data on quantitative restrictions contained in the NTM/W/6/-series. The Inventory of NTM will be updated on a continuous basis (L/5713, paragraphs 44(a) and 65(a); L/5888, paragraph 48).

10. The secretariat will update, and enlarge to cover all participants in the new round, the analyses of the basic data which it has already prepared (L/6073, paragraph 28).

11. The secretariat will begin working on the possibility of establishing a link between information available on quantitative restrictions and other non-tariff measures with tariff data in order to develop an integrated data base (L/6073, paragraph 29).

12. Subject to resources being available, the secretariat will provide a paper setting out methodologies used and summarizing some of the main conclusions contained in published studies of the trade effects of quantitative restrictions and other non-tariff measures (L/6073, paragraph 30).

C. Multilateral reviews

13. The Technical Group will carry out reviews at two-yearly intervals of:

- (i) the accuracy and adequacy of the documentation;
- (ii) grounds on which measures are maintained and their conformity with the General Agreement.

The next regular review will be held in October 1988 (L/5713, paragraphs 44(e) and 65(e); L/5888, paragraph 12). In compliance with the CONTRACTING PARTIES' decision taken at their 42nd Session (L/6100), the Technical Group on Quantitative Restrictions and Other Non-Tariff Measures will also meet, not later than March 1987, in order to finalize the updated documentation previously prepared by the Group on Quantitative Restrictions and Other Non-Tariff Measures.

ANNEX

Symbols for use in documentation on quantitative restrictions

P	Prohibition
CP	Prohibition except under defined conditions
GQ	Global Quota
GQC	Global quota allocated by country
BQ	Bilateral quota (i.e. anything less than a global quota)
AL	Automatic licensing
NAL	Non-automatic licensing
STR	Quantitative restriction made effective through state-trading operations
MXR	Mixing regulation
MPR	Minimum price, triggering a quantitative restriction
VER	"Voluntary" export restraint
-S	Seasonal restriction (to be used in addition to one of the symbols above)
-X	Export restriction (to be used in addition to one of the symbols above)