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REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE ON IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES

FINLAND

Revision

The following notification has been received from the delegation of Finland in response to the questionnaire on import licensing procedures annexed to document L/5640/Rev.4. The present document updates and replaces the information appearing in L/5640/Add.6 and Corrs.1 and 2.

IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES

Outline of systems

1. The import licensing régimes applied in Finland are automatic import licensing and import licensing procedures for the administration of quotas and individual (discretionary) licensing.

2. The import licensing régimes can be divided into four groups as follows.

A. Licensing for imports from countries for which Finland applies so-called multilateral treatment (see Annex)

1. Global licensing for the administration of quotas applicable to the imports of certain agricultural products, petrol and petrol products, silver and gold.

2. Individual (discretionary) licensing applicable to the imports of certain agricultural products, oil, oil products and coal.

B. Individual (discretionary) licensing under bilateral trade agreements.

C. Individual (discretionary) licensing for imports from other countries than those included in A and B above.

D. Automatic licensing.

3.-4. A. 1. Global licensing for the administration of quotas, the values of which are fixed annually: importers applying for an import licence may import the products within the quotas from the countries for which multilateral treatment is granted provided that the country of origin is also one of those countries. The global quota programme covers the following products:

HS Position

ex 3	Salmon and certain other fish
ex 4	Dried milk
ex 8	Certain fruits (seasonal restrictions) and berries
ex 11	Starches
ex 15	Certain vegetable oils
ex 17	Glucose and certain syrups

HS Position

- ex 20 Fruit juices and certain prepared tomatoes
- ex 27 Mineral tar, coal tar distillation products, solvent gasoline and petrol, motor spirit and bitumen
- ex 71 Unwrought silver and gold

A.2. Individual (discretionary) licensing for the administration of imports according to domestic needs: importers applying for an import licence are free to select the country of importation among the countries for which multilateral treatment is granted provided that the country of origin is also one of those countries.

B. The import régime is also applicable to imports of products enumerated under A from socialist countries with which Finland has concluded agreements on the reciprocal removal of the obstacles to trade, viz. Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic and Poland.

Individual licensing covers the following product groups:

HS Position

- 1 Live animals
- ex 2 Meat and edible meat offal
- ex 4 Dairy products, birds' eggs, natural honey
- ex 6 Cut flowers (seasonal restrictions)
- ex 7 Vegetables (seasonal restrictions) and certain roots and tubers
- ex 8 Bananas (seasonal restrictions)
- ex 10 Cereals
- ex 11 Products of milling industry
- ex 12 Oil seeds, fodder, sugar beet and sugar cane
- ex 15 Animal and vegetable fats and oils
- ex 16 Meat preparations
- ex 17 Sugar and sugar confectionery
- ex 19 Pasta stuffed with meat
- ex 20 Preparations of vegetables, fruit and other parts of plants
- ex 21 Miscellaneous edible preparations
- ex 23 Residues and waste from food industry, prepared animal fodder

HS Position

- ex 27 Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation, bituminous substances
- ex 97 Collages made from flowers (seasonal restrictions)

C. Licensing for the administration of bilateral quotas under bilateral trade agreements applies to products from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The import régime also applies to products enumerated under A.1. and A.2. when imported from this country.

D. Individual licensing is applied to the import of all products from countries not mentioned under A or B above.

E. Automatic licensing is applicable for surveillance purposes to certain textile, steel and agricultural products, if not otherwise stated in Finland's trade agreements. Licences are granted automatically.

5. The import licensing régimes described above are used for the operation of Finnish licensing systems according to the Law on Safeguarding Foreign Trade (157/73) and the subsidiary Decree (162/74 as amended in 1974-1987). The Law contains the main principles applicable to regulating foreign trade. The Decree specifies the products subject to import licensing systems.

Procedures

- 6. (a) Information on annual global quotas is published in the official publications of the Import and Export Permits Office. The amounts published are global quotas as to quantity or value and are not allocated to goods from any specific country mentioned under A above.

Information on the import system of Finland can be obtained through the GATT secretariat and through the Finnish embassies and trade missions abroad.
- (b) The size of the quotas is determined on annual basis. Licences are usually issued for imports for three months during the calendar year. The validity of these licences can be prolonged. After using the granted licence the importer must apply for a new licence.
- (c) Licences are issued to all importers alike. The system of granting licences for three months makes it possible to control the actual use of granted licences. Licences should be returned to the Import and Export Permits Office within 60 days after their expiry date or after the import has been effected under a granted licence.

Unused allocations may be divided among other importers during the calendar year, but are not added to quotas of the following year. The licences granted to each importer are published by the Import and Export Permits Office.

- (d) Applications can be submitted before or during the calendar year concerned. However, the examination of applications for licences does not take place until the first day of the calendar year in question.
- (e) 1-14 days.
- (f) Applications can be made at any time during the year (see answer under (d)).
- (g) The Import and Export Permits Office in Helsinki administers the import licensing régime applicable as the only administrative licensing authority.
- (h) If the demand for licences cannot be fully satisfied, the allocation of quotas is carried out on the basis of past import performance. A reasonable amount, about 10 per cent, of each quota is reserved for new importers. If the importer needs a smaller share, his theoretical unused amount is divided between other importers in proportion to their past performance. Applications are examined on receipt.
- (i) In the case of arrangements providing for issuance of export permits by the exporting country, import licences are not usually required.
- (j) The information procedures are usually agreed upon in the bilateral agreements.
- (k) Import licences are sometimes issued on the condition that the product should be exported and not sold on the domestic market.

7. Applications for the import of products under the automatic licensing régime under E may be filed at any time to the Import and Export Permits Office. The licence is granted 1-4 days after the request.

8. The reasons for refusal are always communicated to the applicant. The applicant may renew his application for a licence refused.

Eligibility of importers to apply for licence

9. (a-b) All persons, firms, or institutions engaged in foreign trade business activities in Finland are eligible to apply for licences for products in their sectors. There is no authorization of importers, nor any register of authorized ones.

Documentational or other requirements for application of licence

10. The application should include the following data: name and address of applicant, commodity, HS position, quantity and amount of currency required, country of consignment, country of purchase and country of origin, expected time of importation and payment terms, sales conditions.

11. Upon actual importation the following documents are required:

- invoice
- customs declaration
- declaration of dutiable value
- import licence

12. The licensing fees vary from FIM 20 to FIM 700 depending on the value of the products to be imported under a licence.

13. There are no deposit or advance payment requirements associated with the issue of licences.

Conditions of licensing

14. The period of validity of a licence is three to six months, which is not usually prolonged.

15. No.

16. Licences are not transferable without approval by the Import and Export Permits Office.

17. No.

Other procedural requirements

18. No.

19. Licence is required as a condition for obtaining foreign exchange for products under non-automatic licensing systems in cases where the country of origin is a country with which Finland has a payment agreement and the licence permits call for payment in convertible currency. Foreign exchange is available to cover licences issued.

List of countries which are granted multilateral import treatment in licensing.

Afghanistan	Ecuador
Albania	Galapagos Islands
Algeria	Egypt
Andorra	El Salvador
Angola	Equatorial Guinea
Antigua-Barbuda	Ethiopia
Argentina	Federal Republic of
Australia	Germany
Christmas Islands	Fiji
Cocos Islands	France
Norfolk Islands	French Antilles
The southern Islands	(Guadeloupe,
of Australia	Martinique and French
Austria	part of the Islands
Bahamas	of St. Martin)
Bahrain	French Guyana
Bangladesh	French Polynesia
Barbados	French southern
Belgo-Luxembourg Economic Union	islands in the Indian
Belize	Ocean
Benin	New Caledonia
Bhutan	Réunion
Bolivia	Saint Pierre and
Botswana	Miquelon
Brazil	Gabon
Brunei	Gambia
Burkina Faso	Ghana
Burma	Greece
Burundi	Grenada
Cameroon	Guatemala
Canada	Guinea
Cape Verde	Guinea-Bissau
Central African Republic	Guyana
Chad	Haiti
Chile	Honduras
Easter Island	Hungary
Juan Fernandez Islands	Iceland
China	India
Colombia	Union territories
Comores	(Sikkim, etc.)
Congo	Indonesia
Costa Rica	Iran
Cuba	Iraq
Cyprus	Ireland
Denmark	Israel
Faroe Islands	Italy
Greenland	Ivory Coast
Djibouti	Jamaica
Dominica	Japan
Dominican Republic	Jordan
	Kampuchea

Kenya
Kiribati
Korea, Republic of
Kuwait
Laos
Lebanon
Lesotho
Liberia
Libya
Madagascar
Malawi
Malaysia (Malaya, Sabah, Sarawak)
Maldives
Mali
Malta
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mexico
Monaco
Mongolia
Morocco
Mozambique
Namibia
Nauru
Nepal
Netherlands
 Netherlands' Antilles (Aruba,
 Bonaire, Curacao, Saba, St.
 Eustatius and the Netherlands'
 part of the Islands of St.
 Martin)
New Zealand
 Chatham Islands
 Stewart Islands
 Other outlying islands and
 Pacific Islands
Nicaragua
Niger
Nigeria
Norway
 Bouvet Island
 Jan Mayen
 Peter I Island
 Spitzbergen
Oman
Pakistan
Panama
Papua New Guinea
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Portugal
 Azores
 Macao
 Madeira
Qatar
Romania
Rwanda
St. Christopher and Nevis
St. Lucia
St. Vincent and the
 Grenadines
Samoa
San Marino
Sao Tome and Principe
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Singapore
Somalia
Solomon Islands
South Africa, Republic of
 Prince Edward's
 Islands
Spain
 Balearic Islands and
 Pine Islands
 Canarien
 Spanish Africa
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Suriname
Swaziland
Sweden
Switzerland and
 Liechtenstein
Syria
Tanzania
Thailand
Togo
Tonga
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkey
Tuvaly
Uganda
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom
 Ascension
 Bermuda
 British Pacific
 Islands

British West Indies
(Montserrat)
Falkland Islands
Gibraltar
Hong Kong
Labuan
Rodriguez and Diego Garcia
St. Helena
Tristan da Cunha
British Virgin Islands
United States
American Samoa
Canton and Enderbury Islands
Caroline Islands
Howland and Baker Islands
Jarvis Island
Johnston Islands
Kure Island
Mariana Islands
Marshall Islands
Midway
Palmyra Island and Kingman Reef
Wake Islands
Other trust territories in the
Pacific
Puerto Rico
Swains Islands
Virgin Islands of the United
States
Uruguay
Vanuatu
Venezuela
Vietnam
Yemen, Arab Republic of
Yemen, People's Democratic
Republic of
Yugoslavia
Zaire
Zambia
Zimbabwe