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REPLIES TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE ON IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES

SWEDEN

Revision

The following revised notification<sup>1</sup> has been received from Sweden in response to the questionnaire on import licensing procedures annexed to L/5640/Rev.6. It updates and replaces document L/5640/Add.14/Rev.3.

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REPONSES AU QUESTIONNAIRE RELATIF AUX PROCEDURES  
EN MATIERE DE LICENCES D'IMPORTATION

SUEDE

Révision

La délégation de la Suède a fait parvenir au secrétariat la notification révisée ci-après<sup>1</sup> en réponse au questionnaire relatif aux procédures en matière de licences d'importation annexé au document L/5640/Rev.6. Cette notification met à jour et remplace le document L/5640/Add.14/Rev.3.

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RESPUESTAS AL CUESTIONARIO SOBRE PROCEDIMIENTOS  
PARA EL TRAMITE DE LICENCIAS DE IMPORTACION

SUECIA

Revisión

Se ha recibido de la delegación de Suecia la siguiente notificación revisada<sup>1</sup> en respuesta al cuestionario sobre los procedimientos para el trámite de licencias de importación anexo al documento L/5640/Rev.6. El presente documento actualiza la información que figura en el documento L/5640/Add.14/Rev.3, al que reemplaza.

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<sup>1</sup>English only/Anglais seulement/inglés solamente

Import Licensing Procedures for Goods under  
Chapters 1-24 of the Harmonized System

Outline of systems

1. Basically Sweden has only one licensing system for goods under Chapters 1-24 of the Harmonized System. The National Agricultural Market Board is the licensing authority for those products with some exemptions. Thus the National Board of Trade is the licensing authority for some, mainly non-edible, raw materials.

Purpose and coverage of the licensing

2&3. For imports from all countries an import licence from the National Agricultural Market Board is required for the following products:

- meat of asses, mules, hinnies, wild boar and goats;
- meat of buffalo, frozen;
- cod and herrings, fresh or chilled;
- fillets and other fish meat of cod and herrings, fresh or chilled,
- fillets of cod and coalfish, frozen;
- herrings, including fillets, salted;
- shrimps and prawns, boiled, unpeeled, not frozen;
- wheat (except durum wheat) and meslin;
- cane or beet sugar and chemically pure sucrose, in solid form;
- syrup and other solutions of cane or beet sugar;
- molasses (except molasses used in animal feeding);

An import licence is required from the National Agricultural Market Board for seeds of lupin, grafted cherry trees, plum trees, pear trees, and apple trees for imports from all countries except those, which have a free trade agreement with Sweden.

For imports from certain countries<sup>1</sup> an import licence from the National Agricultural Market Board is required also for some other kinds of

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<sup>1</sup>Albania, Bulgaria, the People's Republic of China, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, the Soviet Union and Vietnam.

fish and fish products, meat and meat products, eggs, not in shell, egg yolks and malt.

All imports (with a few exceptions) from South Africa, Iraq and Kuwait are forbidden.

4. The main purposes of the licensing system administered by the National Agricultural Market Board are to supervise imports, especially low-price imports, of certain products and to limit, when necessary, such imports. In most cases licences are granted automatically. Licensing requirements combined with quantitative restrictions are thus normally applied only to a small number of products, such as most of the above-mentioned kinds of fish. The licensing of wheat is aimed at controlling the imports of wheat not suitable for baking.

5. The licensing system administered by the National Agricultural Market Board is based on the Ordinance (1984 No.53) on Import and Export Regulation.

Imports of products under the ordinance are in principle allowed without an import licence from the National Agricultural Market Board. The Government may however authorize the Board not to allow importation without a licence and such authorizations have also been issued.

#### Procedures

6. I. The National Agricultural Market Board issues circulars in which information concerning the scope of the licensing requirements and formalities of filing applications for licences is published. In the exceptional cases where quotas are applied, each importer is informed directly about the quantity at his disposal for licences during a certain period. As regards new importers see VIII below.

II. When quotas in exceptional cases are applied they are determined on a yearly or six-monthly basis.

III. Domestic producers do not receive any special part of a quantity released. Licences are granted only for current purchases which in principle have to be proved by a sales contract. In order to check the utilization of the licence the Board requires that the licence document should be returned to the Board within a specified period. Unused allocations can be redistributed or carried over to the following period. The names of importers who have obtained licences are in accordance with existing legislation not revealed to authorities and export organizations in the exporting country.

IV. A reasonable period of time. See I above.

V. The procedure normally takes a maximum of ten working days.

VI. Licences granted are in principle valid for immediate importation.

VII. As a rule, licence applications are handled only by one administrative authority. In any event the importer has only to approach one single authority.

VIII. Quotas, if any, are allocated mainly on the basis of applicants' imports during an earlier base period. A reasonable part of the quota is then reserved for new importers. Applications are examined simultaneously. In cases where restrictions are not combined with fixed quotas, applications are examined on receipt.

IX-X. Does not apply to agricultural products.

XI. Import licences are sometimes issued on condition that the products should be exported and not sold in the domestic market.

7. (a)-(b) There is no minimum time fixed. A licence can be granted immediately.

(c) There is a system of seasonal restrictions on apples and pears. See 4.

(d) See 6 VII.

8. The reason for a refusal is communicated to the applicant. He can request the Board to reconsider the case and subsequently appeal to the Government.

#### Eligibility of importers to apply for licence

9. (a)-(b) All persons, firms and institutions domiciled in Sweden are eligible to apply for licences.

#### Documentational and other requirements for application of licence

10. Applications shall contain information as shown by the annexed form. A sales contract ought to be attached to the application.

11. Normal customs documents and - where required - an import licence shall be presented upon importation.

12. No.

13. No.

#### Conditions of licensing

14. An import license is valid for three to six months, or, as regards certain kinds of fish, for a considerable shorter period of time. The

validity can be extended on request. A decision in this respect is noted on the licence document.

15. No.

16. No.

17. (a)-(b) A general condition is that payments for goods shall be made through an authorized bank. In principle no other conditions are attached to the granting of a licence.

Other procedural requirements

18. In some cases, import permission from authorities responsible for sanitary and phytosanitary regulations may be called for in addition to licensing.

19. Payments may be made through authorized banks without specific permission in each case and without the formality of presenting an import licence provided that the payments are made on normal terms of payments. For payments exceeding SEK 50,000 importers have to fill in - on the form where the customer instructs the bank to make the payment abroad - a few data in codes about the transaction.

ANNEX

Form Referred to in Reply to Question 10

Question 10. Import licence application. Information required in the application.

1. Name and address of applicant.
2. Description of goods.
3. Statistical number.
4. Quantity.
5. C.i.f. value, SEK.
6. Amount of invoice.
7. Estimated time of importation.
8. Country of origin.
9. Estimated time for payment.
10. Name and address of exporter (actual supplier, not agent or other intermediary).
11. Country from which goods are to be delivered.
12. Date, signature of applicant.

Import Licensing Procedures for Goods under  
Chapters 25-99 of the Harmonized System

Outline of systems

1. Basically Sweden has only one licensing system for goods. Licences are issued upon written application by the importer. The National Board of Trade is the licensing authority for goods under Chapters 25-99 of the Harmonized System with the exception of Chapter 31, and certain other commodities for which the National Agricultural Market Board is the licensing authority.

Purposes and coverage of the licensing

2&3. For imports from certain countries<sup>2</sup> a licence is required for the following goods:

cement; a limited number of chemical products, certain plastics; certain yarns and fabrics, knitwear and ready-made textiles; shoes with outer soles of leather, artificial leather, rubber or plastics; table china; pig iron, most ferro-alloys, rolling mill products, including tubes of iron or steel, bars and rods of brass, certain semi-manufactures of aluminium and cables, cordage and the like of aluminium; AC motors, triphase; graphite electrodes.

The importation of certain textiles products from all countries other than EEC and EFTA countries, the Faroe Islands, Japan, United States, Canada, New Zealand and Australia requires an import licence for surveillance purposes.

Special regulations are valid for importation of certain textile products from Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Macao, Malaysia, Malta, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey and Yugoslavia.

The importation of certain products of iron and steel requires an import licence for surveillance purposes. All imports (with a few exceptions) from South Africa, Iraq and Kuwait are forbidden.

4. The main purposes of the licensing are to limit, when necessary, the imported quantity and to provide a means to supervise imports of certain goods.

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<sup>2</sup>Albania, Bulgaria, the People's Republic of China, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, the Soviet Union and Vietnam.

5. The licensing is authorized under an ordinance of 9 February 1984 (No. 53)<sup>3</sup> on Import and Export Regulation. Section 1 of that ordinance reads as follows:

"This ordinance is to be applied if the Government or, after decision by the Government, the National Agricultural Market Board or the National Board of Trade prescribe that goods are not allowed to be imported or exported without permission (Import licence or Export licence) by the National Agricultural Market Board or the National Board of Trade (licensing authorities).

The ordinance is not applicable to goods for which import or export control is regulated according to the statutes mentioned in Annex 1.<sup>4</sup>

Regulations referred to in the first paragraph will be prescribed

1. for special trade policy reasons
2. in view of risk of disturbance in the social economy or the national supply or
3. in order to regulate the prices of agricultural products or fish products."

Prescriptions on licence and limitations in imports and exports are under two ordinances of 22 January 1987<sup>5</sup> on Import and Export Licences within the competence of the National Board of Trade and the National Agricultural Market Board, respectively.

#### Procedure

6. I. The National Board of Trade issues circulars in which information concerning the scope of the licence requirements and formalities of filling up applications for licences as well as the overall amount is published. Each importer or agent is informed in writing about the amount at his disposal for licences during a certain period. As regards new importers, see VIII below.

II. Allocations are in principle made for one-year periods. Licences are usually valid for three to nine months after the expiry of the current month. The validity can be extended, however not exceeding the period of licensing. After this period the importer must apply for a new licence.

III. Domestic producers as such do not receive any special share of released quantities. The total amount is allocated on the same basis

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<sup>3</sup> Reprinted (SFS 1987:1291).

<sup>4</sup> Statutes concerning gas protection equipment, military and high-tech equipment, nuclear engineering and foreign exchange.

<sup>5</sup> Reprinted (KFS 1987:28).



between all importers. Licences are only issued for immediate purchases which have to be certified by a sales contract. Non-utilized shares of a licence are in principle not transferable to a following period. In accordance with existing legislation the names of the importers who have obtained licences are not revealed to authorities and exporting organizations in the exporting countries, with the exception of the names of importers of goods from South Africa.

IV. The amount allocated is as a rule available to the importer for three quarters of the period in respect of which the total allocation is granted. Licence amounts not utilized by one importer are generally re-allocated to other importers expected to be able to utilize the amounts.

V. The time required for the handling of licence applications is usually one to ten working days.

VI. A licence which has been granted is in principle valid for immediate importation.

VII. Licence applications are in principle only dealt with by one authority. The importer needs to approach one authority only.

VIII. If the amounts of licences applied for are greater than available total amounts or quantities, allocation is made on the basis of the applicants' imports during an earlier base period. There is no upper limit for such allocations. New importers are granted a minor share of the total amount or quantity. Applications from such importers are dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Licence applications are in general examined on receipt.

IX. The surveillance licensing requirements on the importation of certain textile products (cf. paragraphs 2-3) are applicable also to products subject to export restraint arrangements. In such cases licences are granted upon application and presentation of the relevant export document.

X. In the case when imports are permitted subject to the presentation of an export document, this is transmitted by the importer to the National Board of Trade with a licence application. The National Board of Trade furthermore periodically receives accounts of export declarations issued by the exporting country.

XI. Import licences are only exceptionally issued on condition that the goods are re-exported and not sold in the domestic market.

7. (a) Licences for goods not subject to quantitative restrictions are dealt with in the same way as other licences, i.e. the time of processing is one to ten working days.

(b) Licences can be granted immediately on request only under special circumstances.

(c) No.

(d) Licence applications are in principle examined only by one authority. The importer needs to approach one authority only.

8. A licence is issued only to a person or a firm domiciled in Sweden. Reasons for refusals are always communicated to the applicant. In the event of refusal applicants have a right of appeal through written application to the Government.

Eligibility of importers to apply for licence

9. (a)-(b) All persons, firms and institutions domiciled in Sweden are eligible to apply for licences and entitled to expect consideration within the framework of normal procedures provided they are the presumptive importers.

Documentational and other requirements for application of licence

10. Information required in the application is inter alia: name and address of the applicant, description of goods, statistical number, quantity, value, country of origin, manufacturer, supplier, time of delivery. A sales contract or the like shall be attached to the application.

11. Normal customs documents and - where required - an import licence shall be presented upon importation.

12. From 1 July 1989 a licensing fee is charged for issued licences according to the following tariff:

- The value of the licensed goods equal to or exceeding SEK 5,000 but below SEK 10,000 SEK 50
- The value of the licensed goods equal to or exceeding SEK 10,000 but below SEK 15,000 SEK 100
- The value of the licensed goods equal to or exceeding SEK 15,000 but below SEK 50,000 SEK 150
- The value of the licensed goods equal to or exceeding SEK 50,000 SEK 225

The fee is charged for licences issued by the National Board of Trade. Licences for certain products of iron and steel are excepted.

13. No.

Conditions of licensing

14. The normal period of validity of a licence is the current month plus three months, however not exceeding the period of licensing. The validity

can be extended by submitting the licence to the licensing authority with a request for extension. A decision regarding extended validity is noted on the licence.

15. No.

16. No.

17. (a)-(b) A general condition is that payments for goods shall be made through an authorized bank. In principle no other conditions are attached to the granting of a licence.

Other procedural requirements

18. Apart from import licensing and similar administrative procedures, no other measures are required prior to importation.

19. Payments may be made through authorized banks without specific permission in each case and without the formality of presenting an import licence provided that the payments are made on normal terms of payments. For payments exceeding SEK 50,000 importers have to fill in - on the form where the customer instructs the bank to make the payment abroad - a few data in codes about the transaction.