

Original: English/  
anglais/  
inglés

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REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE ON IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES

SINGAPORE

The following notification<sup>1</sup>, describing the present import licensing systems, updates and replaces the previous notification contained in L/5640/Add.33/Rev.1 and responds to the questionnaire annexed to document L/5640/Rev.5.

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

SINGAPOUR

La notification ci-après<sup>1</sup>, qui décrit le régime de licences d'importation actuel, met à jour et remplace la précédente notification publiée sous la cote L/5640/Add.33/Rev.1 et répond au questionnaire annexé au document L/5640/Rev.5.

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RESPUESTAS AL CUESTIONARIO RELATIVO A LOS PROCEDIMIENTOS  
PARA EL TRAMITE DE LICENCIAS DE IMPORTACION

SINGAPUR

La siguiente notificación<sup>1</sup>, en que se describen los sistemas actuales en materia de licencias de importación, actualiza y reemplaza la notificación anterior recogida en el documento L/5640/Add.33/Rev.1 y se presenta en respuesta al cuestionario anexo al documento L/5640/Rev.5.

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<sup>1</sup>English only/anglais seulement/en inglés solamente

Outline of systems

1. Legally, all goods can be imported freely except where a licence is required.

Purposes and coverage of the licensing

2. The licensing system is used to exercise controls of goods. At present, only one product, i.e. rice is subject to import licensing.

3. The system applies to rice originating in and coming from all countries, and for the time being also to all goods originating or consigned from Albania, Laos, Vietnam and Mongolia.

4. Generally, the purpose is not to restrict the quantity or value of imports. For rice, the purpose of licensing is to monitor trade in this commodity to ensure stability in supply and prices. Licensing of all goods originating from the countries mentioned in paragraph 3 is for statistical and research purposes.

5. Licensing is done on a legal basis. Goods subject to licensing are gazetted on the Order of the Ministry of Trade and Industry under the principal law known as the Control of Imports and Exports Act.

Goods can be placed on, or taken off, licensing by the Minister. However, the Orders are tabled in Parliament, which has the authority to revoke any Order if it deems fit to do so.

Procedure

6. (a) Information is published by means of notices issued by the Imports and Exports Office of the Trade Development Board. Copies of the notices are issued to the press, Chambers of Commerce, Associations, banks, foreign embassies in Singapore, carriers and traders in general.

Not applicable.

(b) Not applicable.

Not applicable.

(c) In practice, import licences are issued to traders who apply for them.

The licence is issued based on the inward declaration submitted. If the items are not imported, the licence will lapse after a given period.

Not applicable.

No requests have been received from foreign governments for such information.

(d) Not applicable.

(e) Licences can be processed within a day.

(f) Licences are issued at the time of submission of the inward declaration for the importation of the goods.

(g) The licence applications are processed by one organization.

(h) Not applicable.

Applications from new importers are given due consideration.

Applications are examined on receipt.

(i) Not applicable.

(j) Not applicable.

(k) No.

7. (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

(d) For trade purposes only one single administrative unit is involved.

8. If applications meet with the criteria, they are not turned down unless there is a revision of the criteria itself. They can appeal to the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

Eligibility of Importers to Apply for Licence

9. (a) Not applicable.

(b) Yes.

Documentation and other requirements for application for licence

10. Description of goods, quantity, value, from whom ordered and country of origin.

None.

11. Invoices, bills of lading and insurance policy for dutiable imports which are purchased on a f.o.b. basis and certificates of origin in a few cases.

12. S\$10.00 per licence.

13. No deposit is required.

Conditions of Licensing

14. The validity of the licence is pegged on to the validity of the import permit i.e. one month. Extension of licence is not granted.

15. None.

16. Licences are not transferable.

17. (a) No.

(b) No.

Other procedural requirements

18. No.

19. There is no foreign exchange control.

Not applicable.

Not applicable.

None.