

MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS THE URUGUAY ROUND

RESTRICTED

NEGOCIATIONS COMMERCIALES MULTILATERALES NEGOCIATIONS D'URUGUAY

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NEGOCIACIONES COMERCIALES MULTILATERALES RONDA URUGUAY

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REPLIES TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE ON IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES

Finland

Revision

The following revised notification¹ has been received from the Permanent Mission of Finland in response to the questionnaire on import licensing procedures annexed to L/5640/Rev.6. It replaces document L/5640/Add.6/Rev.1.

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

Finlande

Révision

La Mission permanente de la Finlande a fait parvenir au secrétariat la notification révisée¹ ci-après en réponse au questionnaire relatif aux procédures en matière de licences d'importation annexé au document L/5640/Rev.6. Cette notification remplace le document L/5640/Add.6/Rev.1.

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

Finlandia

Revisión

En respuesta al cuestionario sobre procedimientos para el trámite de licencias de importación anexo al documento L/5640/Rev.6, se ha recibido de la Misión Permanente de Finlandia la notificación revisada siguiente.¹ El presente documento sustituye al documento L/5640/Add.6/Rev.1.

¹English only/En anglais seulement/En inglés solamente

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 decided into four groups as follows.

A. Licensing from countries which are granted a so-called multilateral treatment (see Annex)

(i) Global licensing for the administration of quotas for certain agricultural products, petrol and petrol products, applicable to the imports.

(ii) 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 countries other than A and B above.

D. Automatic licensing.

3.- 4. A(i). 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 which are granted multilateral treatment provided that the country of origin is also one of those countries. The global quota programme covers the following products:

HS Chapter

ex 3 Salmon and certain other fresh and chilled fish

ex 4 Dried milk

ex 8 Certain berries

ex 11 Starches

ex 15 Certain vegetable oils

ex 17 Glucose and certain syrups

ex 20 Certain fruit juices and certain prepared tomatoes

ex 27 Mineral tar, coal tar distillation products, solvent gasoline and petrol, motor spirit and bitumen.

A(ii). 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 from among the countries which are granted multilateral treatment, provided the country of origin is also one of those countries.

B. The import régime is also applicable to the import of products enumerated under A from Bulgaria with which Finland has concluded agreement on the reciprocal removal of the obstacles to trade.

Individual licensing covers the following product groups:

HS Chapter

- 1 Live animals
- ex 2 Meat
- ex 4 Dairy products, birds' eggs, natural honey
- ex 6 Cut flowers (seasonal restrictions)
- ex 7 Vegetables (seasonal restrictions)
- ex 10 Cereals
- ex 11 Products of milling industry
- ex 12 Oilseeds, fodder, sugar beet
- ex 15 Animal and vegetable fats
- ex 16)
 - 19) Meat preparations
 - 21)
- ex 17 Sugar and molasses
- ex 20 Certain preparations of vegetables, fruit and other parts of plants
- ex 23 Residues and waste from food industry, processed animal fodder
- ex 27 Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation, bituminous substances.

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 applies 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 and steel products, of not otherwise stated in Finland's trade agreements. Licences are granted automatically.

5. The import licensing régimes described above are used for the implementation of Finnish licensing systems according to the Law on Safeguarding Foreign Trade (157/73) and the subsidiary Decree (1301/89 as amended in 1990). The Law contains the main principles applicable to regulating foreign trade. The Decree specifies the products subject to import licensing systems, which cannot be abolished without legislative approval.

Procedures

6. I. 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.

II. The size of the quotas is determined mainly on annual basis. Licences are issued for a certain period. The validity of these licences may be prolonged. After using the granted licence the importer must apply for a new licence.

III. Licences are issued to all importers alike. Licences should be returned to the Import and Export Permits Office upon request.

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

IV. Applications can be submitted before or during the calendar year concerned. However, the licences are not issued until the first day of the calendar year in question.

V. 1-14 days.

VI. Applications can be made at any time during the year (see answer under (d)).

VII. The Import and Export Permits Office in Helsinki administrates the import licensing régimes applicable as the only administrative licensing authority.

VIII. If the demand for licences cannot be fully satisfied, the allocation of quotas is carried out on the basis of past 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.

IX. In the case of arrangements providing for issuance of export permits by the exporting country, import licences are not usually required.

X. The information procedures are usually agreed upon in the bilateral agreements.

XI. 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, specification of goods, 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.¹

11. Upon actual importation the following documents are required:

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

¹Copies of the application form are available for reference in the secretariat.

12. The licensing fees vary from FIM 50 to FIM 1,000 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 twelve 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.