

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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Special Distribution

Multilateral Trade Negotiations

GROUP 3(e) - BASIC DOCUMENTATION

Inventory of Quantitative Import Restrictions
Applied by Countries Covered by the Joint Working Group

AUSTRALIA

Revision

Note: The notification concerning BTN 24.01 has been deleted.

Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Beet sugar and cane sugar, solid (17.01)	Australia	Japan Romania United States

(a) Description:

The importation of sugar is prohibited (except with the consent in writing of the Australian Minister of Northern Development or an officer authorized by him) under the Sugar Agreement Act, which approves of the agreement between the Australian and Queensland Governments.

(b) Comments by other countries:

Japan: As Australia is the second largest (after Cuba) sugar exporter, it is difficult to understand why there is a prohibition.

(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

Legislation prohibiting the import of sugar has been in force for many years. The measures in relation to imports are an integral part of production and marketing arrangements for Australia's sugar industry under which production and prices as well as imports are closely controlled.

Reference: L/3653/Add.16

Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Other sugars; sugar syrops; artificial honey ...; caramel (17.02)	Australia	Romania United Kingdom

(a) Description:

The importation of syrup (17.02.900) is prohibited (except with the consent in writing of the Australian Minister of Northern Development or an officer authorized by him) under the Sugar Agreement Act, which approves of the agreement between the Australian and Queensland Governments.

(b) Comments by other countries:

United Kingdom: A useful market for United Kingdom syrups could be developed in Australia if the prohibition were removed, especially for high quality golden syrup. This product would sell at a higher price than the Australian product, and thus would not offer price competition. As a major exporter to the United Kingdom benefiting from membership in the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement, Australia has the capacities to import useful quantities of this non-competitive United Kingdom product.

(c) Comments by the country maintaining the measures:

Legislation prohibiting the import of sugar and syrup has been in force for many years. The measures in relation to imports are an integral part of production and marketing arrangements for Australia's sugar industry under which production and prices as well as imports are closely controlled.

Reference: L/3653/Add.16

Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Molasses, whether or not decolourized (17.03)	Australia	Philippines Romania

(a) Description:

The importation of sugar (in molasses) is prohibited (except with the consent in writing of the Australian Minister of Northern Development or an officer authorized by him) under the Sugar Agreement Act, which approves of the agreement between the Australian and Queensland Governments.

(b) Comments by other countries:

(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

Legislation prohibiting the import of sugar (in molasses) has been in force for many years. The measures in relation to imports are an integral part of production and marketing arrangements for Australia's sugar industry under which production and prices as well as imports are closely controlled.

Reference: L/3653/Add.16

Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Flavoured or coloured sugars, syrups and molasses, ... (17.05)	Australia	Romania

(a) Description:

The importation of sugar, golden syrup and treacle is prohibited (except with the consent in writing of the Australian Minister of Northern Development or an officer authorized by him) under the Sugar Agreement Act, which approves of the agreement between the Australian and Queensland Governments.

(b) Comments by other countries:

(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

Legislation prohibiting the import of sugar, golden syrup and treacle has been in force for many years. The measures in relation to imports are an integral part of production and marketing arrangements for Australia's sugar industry under which production and prices as well as imports are closely controlled.

Reference: L/3653/Add.16

Product (BTN):	Country or group maintaining measures:	Countries indicating an interest:
Chocolate (ex 18.06)	Australia	Switzerland

(a) Description:

Import prohibition for chocolate containing alcohol.

(b) Comments by other countries:(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

This prohibition was introduced in 1952 to complement State legislation relating to pure food and relates only to confectionery containing more than 1.15% by volume of alcohol. The State legislation was intended to give control over this type of confectionery to prevent premature consumption of alcohol by children and adolescents. Where State authorities do not object to the sale of such confectionery, it has been the practice of the Minister in charge of Customs matters to approve applications to import, and this has occurred in the past in some States. There are no Federal regulations governing the alcohol content of domestically produced liquor chocolates. All regulations relating to the purity of domestically produced foods are made by State Governments.

Reference: