

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

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COMMUNICATION FROM THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES

The following communication is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the United States:

Illustrative List of "Processes and Production Methods"

The following are selected examples of government regulations designed to protect health or consumers by controlling the procedures or conditions under which a product is produced.

These regulations require:

1. That imported living plants must be grown under conditions (relating to containers, height above ground, etc.) which in the importing country help assure a healthy or high quality product;
2. That imported meats must be processed in slaughter houses or packing plants which meet certain requirements which in the importing country help assure a safe, clean and wholesome final product; for example, requirements
 - which specify the design or number of facilities for slaughtering healthy or suspect animals,
 - for separating several states of the slaughtering, cutting and packing lines,
 - for assuring cleanliness of the premises or of the personnel.
3. That imported meats must be produced from animals which have been subject to measures to protect them from diseases which do not exist in the country of origin;
4. That imported meats may be marked only by a particular stamping ink (for example, Methyl Violet is the only stamping ink authorized by certain countries, whereas it is prohibited for use in the United States);

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5. That imported processed meats be processed under temperature/time specifications which are excessive by international standards to achieve the desired result;
6. That certain substances commonly used in wine-making, must not be used even if they are completely removed by filtration, absorption, etc.;
7. That the addition of excess sugars or acids to wine is prohibited, even if they are chemically indistinguishable from the naturally-occurring sugars or acids of the product;
8. That imported products must be subject to quarantine or other inspection procedures by the importing country, which are inadequate or even non-existent in that country;
9. That imported seeds must be produced under specified conditions. (It is worth noting that seed quality depends especially on performance which cannot be assured by inspection of the seed itself. Some seed standards can only be written in terms of PPM's.);
10. That boat and yacht manufacturers use specified production processes and that in building facilities, meet certain requirements concerning temperature, humidity, and ventilation.