

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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REPLIES TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE ON LICENSING

SWEDEN

Revision

Outline of systems

1. Basically Sweden has only one licensing system for goods covered by the general import prohibition (see point 5 below). Licences are issued upon written application by the importer. The Board of Commerce is the licensing authority for goods under Chapters 25-99 of the BTN, with the exception of Chapter 31, and certain other commodities in respect of which the National Agricultural Marketing Board is the licensing authority.

Purposes and coverage of the licensing

2-3. For imports from most socialist countries, among which Poland, Romania, Czechoslovakia and Hungary, a licence is required for the following goods:

a limited number of chemical products, certain plastics; most yarns, fabrics, knitwear and ready-made textiles; shoes of leather, artificial leather, rubber or plastics; table china; pig iron, most ferro-alloys, rolling mill products, including tubes of iron or steel, certain semi-manufactures of aluminium; graphite electrodes.

"For imports from South Korea a licence is required for most yarns, fabrics, knitwear, ready-made textiles and rubber boots.

"For imports from Japan a licence is required for a number of products (mainly textiles). For imports from India, Pakistan and Malta a licence is required for certain textiles.

"Imports of all goods from Rhodesia are prohibited.

"The importation of certain textile products not otherwise subject to import licensing require a surveillance licence.

"The importation of certain footwear made of rubber, plastics, leather or artificial leather is subject to import license requirement irrespective of origin".

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 in order to make possible rapid action when market conditions give reason for such actions. Apart from the agreements between Sweden and certain countries concerning export restraint in the field of textiles, alternative measures have not been planned in recent years in order to achieve these purposes.

5. The licensing is authorized under a Government Decree of 14 March 1947 (No. 82) on general import prohibition. Section 1 of that Decree reads as follows:

"Imports into Sweden of goods other than those indicated in the List No. 1 attached to this Decree (the free list) may not take place without permission (import licence) by the authorities referred to in Section 2. In connexion with the granting of such licence the conditions for the utilization of the licence may be stipulated.

"Upon authorization by the Government and according to principles decided upon by the Government, the licensing authorities may grant applicants the right to import goods other than those indicated in the free list without licence. Such permission is granted in accordance with requirements deemed necessary."

This Decree is not applicable to goods, for which import prohibition or import control is in force according to Annex 2 of the Decree.¹ Only the basic regulations are laid down by law. The Government or the Board of Commerce may decide which goods should be exempted from the import prohibition. Without a decision by Parliament the Government cannot revoke the general import prohibition.

¹As regards egg albumin and certain starches the licence requirement is maintained under the Decree (No. 340) of 9 June 1967 regarding certain price regulations in the field of agriculture. The National Agricultural Marketing Board is licensing authority.

Procedure

6. (a) The Board of Trade issues a periodical information, where regulations are published concerning goods that are subject to licence requirements and the countries of origin. Furthermore the periodical contains rules on the formalities for the submission of licence applications. Neither the total amount for licensing nor the amount released for each country is in general published in the review. 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 (h) below.

(b) Allocations are in principle made for one-year periods. Licences are usually valid for six months, after the expiration of the current quarter year. After this period the importer must apply for a new licence.

(c) Domestic producers do not receive any special share of released quantities. The total amount is allocated on the same basis between all importers. Licences are only issued for immediate purchases which have to be certified by a sales contract. Non-utilized parts of a licence are in principle not transferable to a following period. The names of importers who have obtained licences are not revealed to authorities and exporting organizations in the exporting country, on account of the provisions of the legislation concerning official secrets.

(d) The amount allocated is 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 reallocated to other importers which are believed to be able to utilize the licence.

(e) Usually the time required for the handling of licence applications is four to ten days.

(f) A licence which has been granted is in principle valid for immediate importation.

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

(h) 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.

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

(j) In the case when imports are permitted subject to the presentation of an export declaration this document is transmitted by the customs authorities to the Board of Commerce. The Board of Commerce furthermore periodically receives accounts of export declarations issued by the exporting country.

(k) In Sweden 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 four to ten days. Exceptionally a licence can be granted immediately.

(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. In principle 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.

Documentational and other requirements for application of licence

10. Applications shall contain information as shown by the annexed form. A sales contract shall 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 licence is in general valid for six months, not including the current quarter year. 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 a foreign exchange 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 for imports may be made through authorized banks without specific permission in each case and without the formality of presenting an import licence provided that the conditions for current payments as defined in the Swedish exchange control regulations are met. Import payments are regarded as current payments (a) if made by a letter of credit with a validity not exceeding nine months and payable either against documents evidencing shipment to Sweden or after the arrival of the goods in Sweden or (b) - where other modes of payment than letter of credit are used - if not made earlier than immediately before delivery. Advance payments are regarded as current payments up to one third of the purchase sum in respect of imports of machinery, if stipulated in the contract, and up to an amount of SKr 50,000 in respect of other imports. Importers have to complete and deliver to the authorized bank a declaration form for import payments exceeding SKr 5,000 (SKr 10,000 in respect of the Nordic countries) and to present such evidencing documents as the bank may require for the verification of the authenticity of 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. Reference
3. BTN number
4. Description of goods
5. Annexes
6. Quantity
7. Calculated amount of invoice in foreign currency
8. Calculated amount of invoice in Swedish crowns
9. Terms of shipment (c.i.f., f.o.b. etc. and place of importation or shipment)
10. Calculated c.i.f. value, Swedish crowns
11. Estimated time for payment (quarter year, year)
12. Estimated time of importation (quarter year, year)
13. Name and address of exporter (actual supplier, not agent or other intermediary)
14. Name and address of foreign recipient of payment for goods (not bank)
15. Date, signature, telephone number
16. Country of purchase
17. Country of origin

KUNGL. KOMMERSKOLLEGIUM

Handelslicensavdelningen
 Box 1209
 111 82 Stockholm
 Tel 08 22 36 00

Tillhandahålls utan kostnad
 Ansökan ingives i 1 ex

Importlicensansökan

Lic nr	Ifylles ej av sökanden
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Allmänna anvisningar

Avskits ej definitivt kop förän importlicens erhållits. Endast ett varuslag omfattas på en och samma ansökan. Vid import från olika länder används särskild blankett för varje land.

Speciella anvisningar

- 1 Numren anger de rutor, dit anvisningarna hänför sig.
- 2 Ärendets beslutning hos sökanden och den som hos sökanden handlägger ärendet.
- 5 I regel erfordras att ansökan åtföljes av handling, som styrker att preliminärt köpeavtal ingåtts.
- 6 Nettovikt eller annan uppgift om myckenhet enligt i tulltaxan foreskriven redovisningsgrund för varuslaget i fråga.
- 7-8 Det belopp, som av importören skall erläggas till den utländske betalningsmottagaren.
- 7 Ifylles endast om fakturan väntas bli utställd i annat myntslag än svenska kronor.
- 10 Varans värde i svenska kronor inkl alla kostnader intill dess varan anlant till svensk lossningshamn eller gransort, även ev. provision till utlandet.
- 11 När flera betalningsterminer förekommer anges hur mycket som skall erläggas vid olika tidpunkter.
- 14 Lamna i förekommande fall även motsv. uppgifter för utländsk mottagare av provision, frakt eller dyl. med angivande av belopp.
- 15 Underskrives av behörig firmatecknare.
- 16 Det land varifrån varan skall inköpas eller för försäljning eller i annat syfte direkt eller över annat land avskickas till Sverige.
- 17 Det land, i vilket varan tillverkats eller frambagts eller skall tillverkas eller frambringas.

Den, som i ansökan medvetet lämnar oriktig uppgift, straffas med dagsböter eller fängelse.

1 Sokandens namn, adress, postanstalt			
2 Sokandens referens (se anv.)		3 Tulltaxenr.	
4 Varuslag			
5 Bilagor med angivande av dessas datum (se anv.)		6 Kvantitet (se anv.)	
7 Beräknat fakturabelopp i utländskt myntslag (se anv.)		8 Beräknat fakturabelopp sv. kr (se anv.)	
9 Leveransvillkor (cif, fob etc. med ortsangivelse t. ex. cif Malmö)		10 Beräknat cif-varde sv. kr (se anv.)	
11 Beräknad tidpunkt för likvid (kvartal, år) (se anv.)		12 Beräkn tidp. för införsel (kvartal, år)	
13 Den utländske säljarens namn, adress, land (egentlig säljare, ei agent eller annan förmedlare)		Inköpsl. Ursprungsland Myntslag	
14 Den utländske betalningsmottagarens namn, adress, land (ej bank) (se anv.)		Giltig t. o. m.	
15 Datum, underskrift (se anv.) telefon nr		16 Ursprungsland (se anv.)	
16 Datum, underskrift (se anv.) telefon nr		17 Ursprungsland (se anv.)	
17 Ursprungsland (se anv.)		Licensdatum	
Anteckningar (bl. a. remissinstansens yttrande)		Villkor	
		Ankomststempel	

Komm.koll. L.S. 50.000

Gransk	Beslut dat.	Utskr	Stmpl.	Bokf.		Underskr dat.	Avpr ark	
				Kvot	Kont		Lic kop	Ans

Sökandens ytterligare upplysningar

Myndigheternas anteckningar