

**REQUEST BY COTE D'IVOIRE FOR A WAIVER UNDER ARTICLE IX OF
THE WTO AGREEMENT FOR MINIMUM VALUES UNDER THE
AGREEMENT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE VII
OF GATT 1994**

Addendum

The following communication, dated 24 April 2002, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Côte d'Ivoire.

Further to the observations made by members of the Committee on Customs Valuation concerning aspects of the request by Côte d'Ivoire for authorization to use minimum values when implementing the Agreement on Customs Valuation, I have the honour to request that you kindly communicate to members of the said Committee these responses formulated by experts in our capital.

Making optimum use of the delays and extensions obtained

In its previous requests, Côte d'Ivoire committed itself to implementing a reform programme to strengthen the capabilities of the services involved in using and applying the WTO Valuation Agreement.

However, as indicated in the supporting arguments to the waiver requests with regard to minimum values, the political, economic and social upheavals in Côte d'Ivoire in the period following December 1999 have prevented the sound implementation of all the measures identified.

For example, the seminar on the WTO Valuation Agreement, due to be organized by the World Customs Organization in Abidjan, in 2000, had to be postponed due to the prevailing political situation in Côte d'Ivoire. The rescheduled seminar in 2001 also had to be cancelled, this time owing to air transport security concerns in the aftermath of the attacks of 11 September 2001 in the United States of America. It is now due to be held at the end of April 2002, in Abidjan.

Given the importance it attaches to the subject of transaction value, and in the light of this situation, the Government took the necessary steps, with support from the private sector, to organize two seminars on transaction value in 2001, for the benefit of just sixty (60) officials from all of the services concerned.

With a view to consolidating the training of customs officials and giving them the logistical support they require for their work, plans have been made to:

- Provide customs officials with a course in auditing, in order to enhance the effectiveness of post-clearance control;

- set up a constantly updated values database, and
- implement an external assistance programme (in process of development).

Despite the shortcomings and difficulties mentioned, Côte d'Ivoire adopted the implementing text for the effective application of transaction value as of 1 July 2001.

The role of preshipment inspection companies

As stipulated in their contracts with the State, inspection companies provide assistance to the customs administration by offering their advice on the information contained in commercial invoices.

In view of the application of transaction value since 1 July 2001, there is a strong likelihood that the role of these companies, should their contracts be renewed, will be restricted to carrying out post-clearance risk analysis or, at most, to certain categories of sensitive products.

Thus, it is completely out of the question that preshipment inspection companies will replace customs officials.

The revised list of goods

The attached list of goods to which minimum values may be applied has been revised, taking into account the observations made. Goods such as alcohol, poultry and rice no longer appear on the list.

That concludes the information available in reply to the concerns expressed.

**REVISED LIST OF GOODS TO WHICH MINIMUM
VALUES MAY BE APPLIED**

NOMENCLATURE	DESCRIPTION
0202100000 to 0210900000	Meat and meat offal
0401100000 to 0402900000	Milk
0902100000 to 0902400000	Tea
1101000000	Wheat or meslin flour
1507 to 1508 and 1511 to 1515	Refined vegetable oils
1517100000	Margarine
1701911000 to 1701999000	Sugars
1704100000	Chewing gum, whether or not sugar-coated
1704900000	Other (sweets)
1901100000	Milk based food preparations
1902300000	Pasta
1902400000	Couscous
1905300000	Biscuits
2002902000	Tomato concentrates
2402200000	Cigarettes containing tobacco
3101000000 to 3105900000	Fertilizers
3306100000	Dentrifices
3401191000	Ordinary soap
3401200000	Soap in other forms
3402200000	Surface-active washing preparations put up for retail sale
3506910000	Adhesives based on rubber or plastics
3605000000	Matches
4011400000	New pneumatic tyres, of rubber, of a kind used on
4011400000	New pneumatic tyres, of rubber, of a kind used on mopeds
4011500000	New pneumatic tyres, of rubber, of a kind used on bicycles
4013200000	Inner tubes, of rubber, of a kind used on bicycles
4013900000	Inner tubes, of rubber, of a kind used on mopeds
4013900000	Inner tubes, of rubber, of a kind used on motorcycles
4820200000	Exercise books
3208291000 and 5209291000	Damask and the like, bleached

NOMENCLATURE	DESCRIPTION
5208 to 5212	Dyed or printed fabrics
5310900000	Jute fabrics
5407 to 5408	Woven fabrics of synthetic filament yarn, dyed or printed
5512 to 5515	Woven fabrics of synthetic staple fibres, dyed or printed
5516	Woven fabrics of artificial staple fibres, dyed or printed
6305100000	Sacks, of jute
6305330000	Woven polypropylene sacks with a carrying capacity of
6305330000	Woven polypropylene sacks with a carrying capacity of
6305330000	Woven polypropylene sacks with a carrying capacity of
6309000000	Worn clothing
7210410000	Galvanized sheets and plates (corrugated and pantiled)
7214 and 7215	Bars and rods of iron or non-alloy steel
7216	Angles, shapes and sections of iron or non-alloy steel
7306301000	Other tubes, welded, of iron or steel
7317000000	Nails, tacks
7323940000	Enamelled table or kitchen articles
7606111000	Corrugated aluminium
7615110000 to 7615200000	Table, kitchen or other household articles and parts thereof,
8506101100 to 8506101900	R20/R06 batteries
8711209000	Motorcycles and mopeds
8712000000	Bicycles
8714910010	Moped and bicycle frames
9404210000	Foam mattresses