

**AGREEMENT ON IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES**

Notification under Articles 1.4(a) and 8.2(b)

HONG KONG, CHINA

The following communication, dated 24 December 2002, has been received from the delegation of Hong Kong, China.

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Pursuant to Articles 1.4(a) and 8.2(b) of the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures, Hong Kong, China hereby notifies the Committee on Import Licensing of its full liberalisation of the rice trade as from 1 January 2003. Upon full liberalisation, capital and financial entry requirements for registration as rice stockholders to import rice will be removed. All interested parties could apply to be registered as rice stockholders. While import of rice will continue to be subject to licensing requirements in accordance with the Reserved Commodities Ordinance (Chapter 296, The Laws of Hong Kong) and its subsidiary regulations<sup>1</sup>, import quota will be removed and rice stockholders will make their own decision on the level of rice to import.

Details of the rice import arrangements in 2003, including the licensing requirements, are at Annex<sup>2</sup>. The same information can be found at [http://www.tid.gov.hk/english/import\\_export/nontextiles/nt\\_rice.html](http://www.tid.gov.hk/english/import_export/nontextiles/nt_rice.html).

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<sup>1</sup> Available at <http://www.justice.gov.hk/Home.htm>.

<sup>2</sup> Available for consultation in the Secretariat (Market Access Division).