

**REPLIES TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE ON IMPORT  
LICENSING PROCEDURES<sup>1</sup>**

Notification under Article 7.3 of the Agreement on  
Import Licensing Procedures Notification for 2011

ARGENTINA

The following notification, dated 23 April 2012, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Argentina.

**Outline of systems**

1. Two types of import licence are administered at present by the Secretariat of Foreign Trade: automatic and non-automatic. Automatic import licences, as their name suggests, are granted on the basis of a single requirement, namely compliance with all of the prescribed formalities. They are approved in all cases and are consistent with Article 2 of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures. Applications for non-automatic licences are consistent with Article 3 of this Agreement, which is incorporated into Argentine legislation by way of Law No. 24.425.

Automatic import licences currently being administered include the Sworn Declaration of Product Composition (DJCP), for which the Secretariat of Foreign Trade is responsible, and the Prior Automatic Import Licence (LAPI), administered by the Directorate-General of Customs attached to the Federal Public Revenue Administration. Procedures for the DJCP are manual and applications are submitted to the Directorate of Imports of the Undersecretariat for Foreign Trade and International Relations. The LAPI is the first computerized import licence processed by the MARIA computer system (SIM). It aims to monitor imports in advance, thereby providing an advance supply of descriptive statistical information for the historical records, which, in turn, enables their trends to be analysed. This would prove useful in the event of trade defence measures being adopted and avoid delays which could harm the various domestic sectors.

Non-automatic import licences are import certificates issued to importers who comply with current statutory requirements with regard to consumer rights and submit the corresponding application to the Directorate-General of Customs when requesting clearance documents for imports of consumer goods.

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<sup>1</sup> See G/LIC/3, Annex, for the Questionnaire.

## **Purposes and coverage of licensing**

2. Automatic licences include the Prior Automatic Import Licence (LAPI), which covers imports of, *inter alia*, the following products: footwear parts, paper in reams and rolls, textiles (cotton and synthetic yarn), parts and spare parts of agricultural and self-propelled machinery, cardboard boxes, telephone accessories, wooden furniture (bedroom furniture and cupboards), dried egg yolks and canned peaches; and the Sworn Declaration of Product Composition (DJCP), which covers the textile and clothing industry.

Non-automatic licences include the Footwear Import Certificate, the Paper Import Certificate, the Bicycle Import Certificate, the Household Goods Import Certificate, the Toy Import Certificate, the Tyre and Tube Import Certificate, the Motorcycle Import Certificate, the Ball Import Certificate, the Textile Product Import Certificate, the Footwear Parts Import Certificate, the Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles Import Certificate, the Metallurgical Product Import Certificate, the Yarn and Fabric Import Certificate, the Tyre Import Certificate, the Miscellaneous Product Import Certificate, the Import Certificate for Screws and Related Products, the Import Certificate for Auto Parts and Related Products, and the Motor Vehicle Import Certificate.

3. The system applies to goods originating in and coming from all countries.

4. Licensing does not restrict either the quantity or the value of imports. The purpose of the system is to assess product compliance with safety standards and to protect consumer rights by establishing the origin and source, as well as the composition and quality, of imported goods.

5. Licensing is maintained under the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures of the GATT 1994, which is incorporated into Argentine legislation by way of Law No. 24.425.

Licensing is statutorily required for certain types of goods. The Ministry of the Economy and Public Finance is the only body to designate, through resolutions, products subject to licensing.

The Executive does not need legislative approval to abolish the import licensing system.

## **Procedures**

6.I-XI. n/a.

7.(a) The only cases in which licences may be obtained within a shorter time-limit are applications for automatic import licences either for perishable goods or critical inputs for a sector of the domestic industry or for products which are covered by the licence and the value or quantity of which is minimal in relation to the rest of the goods making up the import.

(b) The following time-limits apply in all cases:

LAPI and DJCP: a minimum of two and a maximum of ten working days.

Import certificates for footwear, paper, household goods, bicycles, toys, tyres and tubes, motorcycles, balls, textile products, footwear parts, miscellaneous manufactured articles, metallurgical products, yarns and fabrics, tyres, miscellaneous products, screws and related products, auto parts and related products, and motor vehicles: a minimum of ten and a maximum of 60 calendar days given that applications are examined simultaneously.

(c) There are no restrictions as to the period of the year during which an application for a licence may be made.

(d) Licence applications are examined by the Secretariat of Foreign Trade.

8. The only reason for a non-automatic import licence being refused is failure to meet the ordinary criteria. The interested party is always notified of such reasons so that the errors detected can be rectified.

#### **Eligibility of importers to apply for licences**

9. All importers are eligible to apply for licences, the only requirement being inclusion in the Directorate General of Customs' Register of Importers and in the Integrated Foreign Trade System.

#### **Documentation and other requirements for licence applications**

10. The information required for import licence applications is that specified on the respective forms.

11. - The Prior Automatic Import Licence (LAPI), processed by the MARIA computer system (SIM)
- The Sworn Declaration of Product Composition (DJCP)
  - The Footwear Import Certificate (CIC)
  - The Paper Import Certificate (CIP)
  - The Household Goods Import Certificate (CIAH)
  - The Bicycle Import Certificate (CIB)
  - The Tyre and Tube Import Certificate (CICC)
  - The Toy Import Certificate (CIJ)
  - The Motorcycle Import Certificate (CIM)
  - The Ball Import Certificate (CIP)
  - The Textile Product Import Certificate (CIPT)
  - The Footwear Parts Import Certificate (CIPC)
  - The Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles Import Certificate (CIMD)
  - The Metallurgical Product Import Certificate (CIPM)
  - The Yarn and Fabric Import Certificate (CIHT)
  - The Tyre Import Certificate (CIN)
  - The Miscellaneous Product Import Certificate (CIPV)
  - The Import Certificate for Screws and Related Products (CITA)
  - The Import Certificate for Auto Parts and Related Products (CIAPA)
  - The Motor Vehicle Import Certificate (CIVA).

12. Pursuant to Resolution No. 44/2003, there is currently no licensing fee or administrative charge.

13. No deposit or advance payment requirement is associated with the issue of licences.

#### **Conditions of licensing**

14. The periods of validity of the various import licences are as follows:

LAPI: 60 calendar days as from the date of processing

DJCP: 360 calendar days as from the date of issue

CIC: 60 calendar days as from the date of issue

CIP: 120 calendar days as from the date of issue

CIAH: 60 calendar days as from the date of issue

CIB: 60 calendar days as from the date of issue  
CICC: 60 calendar days as from the date of issue  
CIJ: 60 calendar days as from the date of issue  
CIM: 60 calendar days as from the date of issue  
CIP: 120 calendar days as from the date of issue  
CIPT: 60 calendar days as from the date of issue  
CIPC: 60 calendar days as from the date of issue  
CIMD: 60 calendar days as from the date of issue  
CIPM: 60 calendar days as from the date of issue  
CIHT: 60 calendar days as from the date of issue  
CIN: 60 calendar days as from the date of issue  
CIPV: 60 calendar days as from the date of issue  
CITA: 60 calendar days as from the date of issue  
CIAPA: 60 calendar days as from the date of issue  
CIVA: 60 calendar days as from the date of issue

Licences may not be extended. A new licence may, however, be issued, for which the importer can commence the application procedures as far in advance as he considers appropriate.

15. There are no penalties for the non-utilization of a licence or portion of a licence.
16. Licences are non-transferable and are only delivered to the holders themselves or their authorized and duly accredited representatives or agents.
17. (a) No products subject to licensing are liable to quantitative restrictions;  
(b) import licences must be registered in the Integrated Foreign Trade System (SISCO) prior to their issue.

**Other procedural requirements**

18. No other administrative procedures are required prior to importation.
  19. The banking authorities are not involved in import licensing.
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