

Committee on Import Licensing

Original: English

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

### Notification under Article 7.3 of the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures

#### EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

#### Addendum

#### Import Licensing Procedures for WTO Tariff Quotas for High-Quality Beef and Frozen Buffalo Meat

#### Outline of systems

1. The object of the import licensing system is to ensure a sound administration of the EC's WTO tariff rate quotas for 58,700 tonnes of high-quality fresh, chilled or frozen bovine meat and 2,250 tonnes of frozen boneless buffalo meat. The relevant legislation related to the import licensing system for these tariff quotas is mentioned in the reply to question 5. As regards the requirements for applicants for import licences see reply to question 6.

#### Purpose and coverage of licensing

2. See answer to question 1. The products covered by the following tariff quotas are as follows:

Description of products	Tariff item number(s)
(a) Meat of bovine animals, fresh or chilled Meat of bovine animals, frozen	ex 0201 ex 0202
Edible offal - Of bovine animals, fresh or chilled -- Thick skirt and thin skirt - Of bovine animals, frozen -- Thick skirt and thin skirt	 ex 0206 10 95  ex 0206 29 91
(b) Meat of bovine animals, frozen - Boneless -- Buffalo meat	 ex 0202 30 90
© Boneless meat of bovine animals, fresh or chilled Edible offal of bovine animals: thick skirt and thin skirt, fresh or chilled	ex 0201 30 00 ex 0201 10 95
(d) Boneless meat of bovine animals, fresh or chilled Boneless meat of bovine animals, frozen: - Other Edible offal of bovine animals: - Thick skirt and thin skirt, fresh or chilled - Thick skirt and thin skirt, frozen	ex 0201 30 00  ex 0202 30 90  ex 0206 10 95 ex 0206 29 91
(e) Boneless meat of bovine animals, fresh or chilled Boneless meat of bovine animals, frozen:	ex 0201 30 00

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

- Other	ex 0202 30 90
Edible offal of bovine animals:	
- Thick skirt and thin skirt, fresh or chilled	ex 0206 10 95
- Thick skirt and thin skirt, frozen	ex 0206 29 91
(f) Boneless meat of bovine animals, fresh or chilled	
Boneless meat of bovine animals, frozen:	
- Other cuts with bone in, other	ex 0201 20 90
- boneless	ex 0201 30 00
Meat of bovines animals, frozen:	
- Other cuts with bone in, other	ex 0202 20 90
- boneless	ex 0202 30
Thick and thin bovine skirt, fresh or chilled	ex 0206 10 95
Thick and thin bovine skirt, frozen	ex 0206 29 91

3. The system applies in the European Community to the above-mentioned products originating as regards the tariff quota mentioned in (a) in answer to question 2 in Argentina, the US, Canada, Australia and Uruguay, and as regards the tariff rate quota mentioned in (b) in answer to question 2 in Australia.

4. See answer to question 1. As referred to in the answer to question 1, the licensing system covers the relevant WTO tariff quotas. The EC considers the method adopted to be the most appropriate to administer these tariff rate quotas.

5. The relevant legislation for the administration of import licences for the tariff quotas mentioned in the answer to question 1 is:

Commission Regulation (EC) No 936/97 of 27 May 1997 (OJ L 137).

The licensing is statutorily required. The legislation does not leave designation of products to be subjected to licensing to administrative discretion. The system cannot be abolished without legislative approval.

#### Procedures

6. Answer to questions 6.I to VIII and to 6. XI and 6. X. Question 6.IX is not relevant.

The information related to the quotas and the formalities for licence application is published in the Official Journal of the European Communities (see answer to question 5). There is no derogation from the licensing requirement.

The tariff quotas are annual tariff quotas. For US/Canada opened on a monthly basis. Applicants for import licences must be natural or legal persons, who at the time applications are submitted are registered in a VAT register in a Member State. The application for an import licence must be lodged within the competent authorities in the Member States and accompanied by a certificate of authenticity issued by the authorities in exporting countries. The competent authorities in the Member States issue import licences only after they are satisfied that all the information on the certificate of authenticity is correct and licences are issued immediately thereafter.

7. Question 7 related to no quantitative limits is not relevant in the present case.

8. The application for an import licence can only be refused if the relevant criteria are not fulfilled. Applicants can appeal to courts in the Member States according to the legislation in force in the respective Member States.

Eligibility of importers to apply for licence

9. See answer to question 6. Applicants for an import licence must be registered in a VAT register in the Member States and there is no registration fee.

Documentational and other requirements for application for licence

10. A specimen of the import licence is included in the EC Regulations set out in answer to question 10 of the main notification for 2000. Regarding the information required in applications, see the import licence and Commission Regulation (EC) No 936/97 of 27.05.97 (published in OJ L 137, page 10).

11. The import licence and, in case of US/Canada, the certificate of authenticity, plus appropriate health certificates.

12. No.

13. The issuing of import licence is subject to a security in order to guarantee that the importer transmits to the competent authority the quantity and origin of the products imported. The security is released when the information has been transmitted. Otherwise the security is forfeit.

Conditions of licensing

14. Import licences are valid three months. However, their validity expires at the latest on 30 June following the date of issue and the period of validity cannot be extended.

15. See answer to question 13.

16. Import licences are transferable without limitations.

17. No.

Other procedural requirements

18. No.

19. Not relevant.

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