

REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE ON IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES

Notification under Article 7.3 of the Agreement
On Import Licensing Procedures

THE GAMBIA

The following communication, dated 10 December 2010, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of The Gambia.

Pursuant to Article 7.3 of the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures, the Republic of The Gambia notifies that The Gambia does not maintain any import licensing procedures, except for the importation of medicinal products into the country.

The imports of medicinal products are governed by the Medicines Act of 1984 that deals with the manufacture, importation, sale and distribution of medicinal products. Under this Act, the importation of medicinal products is administrated by the Board of Medicines which is a body comprised of the Director of Medical Services and the Government's Chief Pharmacist as well as medical practitioners. The function of this body is to advise the Government of The Gambia on the use, import and the registration of medicinal products.

As regards the importation of medicinal products, Section 12 of the Medicines Act of 1984 states that "any person who intends to manufacture, import, sell or distribute, any medicinal product in The Gambia may apply in writing to the Board of medicines for the permission to do so". Furthermore, Section 16 of the same Act declares that "no person shall import medicinal products unless such person is licensed by the Board". Thus, any person who intends to import any medicinal product must apply to the Board to get an import license. The holder of this import license must be a registered pharmacist. This non-automatic license is valid for a period of 12 months renewable.

Besides, Section 11 of the Medicine Act states that no medicinal product shall be manufactured, imported or distributed in The Gambia unless such medicinal product has been registered by the Board of Medicines.

The Medicines Act of 1984 is currently being reviewed by the Ministry of Health to incorporate the control of veterinary drugs.
