

REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE ON IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES

Notification under Article 7.3 of the Agreement on
Import Licensing Procedures

SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

The following communication, dated 5 December 2009, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Saint Kitts and Nevis.

Outline of system

1. St. Kitts and Nevis operates two licensing systems. One of which is the import license regime for general goods whereby applicants are required to complete an application form and to pay an EC\$1.00 postage stamp fee. The application form must be completed in duplicate, whereby the administrative division of the Government Supply Office would retain a copy and the other delivered to the party requesting the import license. In relation to plant and plant products, an import license must be obtained to ensure that the exporting country and the products do not appear on the schedule of restricted or prohibited goods.

There is a separate regime for the importation of meat and meat products and live animals. An application form is submitted by the importer to the Veterinary division of the Agriculture Department for consideration. In addition the exporting country must provide a health certificate for the goods being imported. If the goods meet the necessary health standards then the application is signed and the import permit is issued.

The second license system applies to the exportation of local produce and local animals & animal products. In the case of animals and animal products, the applicants are required to apply for a special license from the Agriculture Department which is the competent authority for certifying local products for exportation.

Purpose and coverage of licensing

2. For the importation of meat products and live animals, there are basically two systems.
 - (a) Countries where diseases of a particular species are endemic, a license would be denied
 - (b) Countries where rabies are endemic, a license would be denied
3. In relation to meat and meat products, the countries of origin are primarily South American countries where the above diseases are endemic.

4. The import license system is designed to control the quantities of specific imported goods. Additionally, it assists in reducing the importation of trans-boundary diseases into the Federation. The system also provides statistical data on the importation of specific imported goods.

5. All imports under the 'Importation of Restricted Goods Licensing Regime' in St.Kitts and Nevis are provided for under Statutory Rules & Orders Number 19 of 1975 and Number 31 of 1976. Section Eleven (11) of the External Trade Order Chapter 338 and Statutory Rule and Order Number 14 of 1992.

There is no provision for administrative discretion with regard to the list of good that appear in the different schedules. Any amendments or repeal of the different instruments must be legislated.

Procedures

- 6.I. Imports requiring import licenses are gazette and recorded in the Statutory Rules & Orders Number 19 of 1975 and Number 31 of 1976, and posted at the Government Supply Office. In regards to restrictions on the importation of goods produced locally, the supply office is required to notify the major importers of their allotted quotas. In relation to meat, meat products and plants the restriction is activated when there is a disease outbreak. There are no country quotas for imports originating from safe countries.
- II. The overall quota is determined by the level of domestic production. However, individual quotas are allocated based on the import history of the different importers. Quotas are given on a yearly basis, while licenses are issued at least one (1) month prior to importation.
- III. Yes, licenses are allotted for certain goods to domestic producers. Administratively the Supply Office monitors these licenses to ensure that allocated licenses are used for imports. There is no transfer of licenses for succeeding periods. The names of importers who received licenses are made available to any other government agency upon request.
- IV. Applicants are allowed at least one month to submit applications for licenses upon the announcement of the opening of quotas.
- V. Applications for import licenses for general goods can be processed immediately and for plants, animals, and meat & meat products the processing time ranges from two (2) days to a month.
- VI. Import licenses are granted at least one month prior to the importation of goods.
- VII. Applications for import licenses are considered by the Government Supply Office and the Veterinarian Services Division of the Department of Agriculture.
- VIII. Licenses would be allocated based on past performance of the requesting importers. The quotas are also determined based on past importation performance. This is not applicable for meat and meat products.
- IX. There are no additional requirements for licenses by exporting countries. The licensing systems are predominantly for domestic measures.
- X. For meat and meat products only, the export country may communicate their export permit information to our regulatory authority via mail or email.
- XI. No

7. Where there is no quantitative limit on importation of a product or imports from a particular country:

- (a) At least one (1) month prior to the importation of the goods. No.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) No.
- (d) No.

8. Whenever there is an abundance of local fresh produce, import restrictions are put in place and import licenses may be refused by the competent authority. Refusals for licenses are communicated to the applicants. For meat and meat products the restriction would take effect whenever there is a disease outbreak of an exotic nature.

Eligibility of importers to apply for a license

- 9.(a) Yes.
- (b) NA.

There is no specific published list of authorized importers. However, commercial importers are required to have the relevant business license which is separate from the import license.

Documentation and other requirements for application for license

10. The application process in St.Kitts and Nevis is a simple one. It calls for the Description of the goods, Country of Origin, Quantity of the imported goods, CIF Value and Retail Price if the goods are intended for retail sale.

The applicant would be required to submit the completed application form in duplicate copy along with copies of the invoices. For the importation of meat and meat products.

11. Upon importation, applicants are required to submit a completed Customs Declaration Form along with the relevant Commercial Invoice, Bill of Laden, Certificate of Origin where applicable and in some case the Certificate of Title.

12. Yes. An EC\$1.00 stamp fee is collected as an administrative charge. There is also an EC\$50.00 administrative fee for meat and meat products.

13. No

Conditions of licensing

14. Licenses are valid for one (1) shipment. The license cannot be extended.

15. No.

16. No.

17. No.

Other Requirements

18. No.

19. No.
