

REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE ON IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES¹

Notification under Article 7.3 of the Agreement
on Import Licensing Procedures

MADAGASCAR

The following notification, dated 12 August 2008, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the Republic of Madagascar.

Outline of system

1. Since 1992, there have been no restrictions on imports of goods and products entering Madagascar, with the exception of prohibited goods and those requiring prior authorization from the relevant technical ministries.

Imported goods and products require neither prior authorization nor import permits.

The import system applied by Madagascar is called the Liberalized Import System (SILI). It is administered by banks and the Central Bank.

Purpose and coverage of licensing

2. The Liberalized Import System applies to all imports of non-prohibited goods financed from funds made available to the Central Bank of Madagascar. Such imports, which are those requiring foreign exchange transfers, are exempt from licensing and from payment of the fixed duty.

3. The Liberalized Import System applies to all products regardless of origin and provenance.

4. The system in force in Madagascar aims to simplify procedures and facilitate trade. The import statistics card (FSI), the document required to be used for clearing goods through customs, was abolished in May 2007.

5. Legislative provisions in force:

- Order No. 189/88 of 14 January 1988 on the Liberalized Import System;
- Decree No. 92-424 of 3 April 1992 regulating goods imports and exports;

¹ See G/LIC/3, Annex, for the questionnaire.

- Decree No. 2008-181, amending and supplementing Decree No. 92-424 of 3 April 1992 regulating goods imports and exports.

Procedures

6.-8. The Liberalized Import System applies to all imports, including those requiring prior authorization.

The Liberalized Import System has brought an end to the quota system.

Products requiring prior authorization:

In order to ensure law and order, protect consumers and safeguard public health and the environment, certain imports are subject to particular regulations and require prior or special authorization.

These regulations concern the following areas:

- Radiation protection;
- animal imports;
- veterinary pharmaceutical products;
- precious stones;
- arms and ammunition;
- explosive substances;
- psychotropic substances;
- ozone depleting substances;
- tobacco products.

With regard to the import of products subject to prior or special authorization, the importer is required to liaise with the relevant technical ministry in order to complete the necessary administrative formalities.

Technical ministries generally issue prior authorizations upon presentation of the requisite supporting documents and after a technical inspection of the products.

Prior authorization is granted within 72 hours at most.

Imports of ammunition, implements of war and explosives are subject to quantity restrictions and strict controls since they are classified as a danger to human safety and State security.

Eligibility of importers to apply for licence

9. The Administration and any resident economic operator inscribed in the Trade and Companies Register with no criminal precedents *vis-à-vis* the tax authorities are eligible for importer status.

Any operator other than the Administration must open a commercial account with the domiciliary bank of its choice.

Documentational and other requirements for application for licence

10. The pro forma or final invoice, together with the Cargo Tracker Note (BSC) and possibly the prior authorizations from the technical ministries concerned, must be submitted to the bank for demociliation.

The importer must ensure that the product designations correspond to the goods.

11. No information has been provided.

12. No information has been provided.

13. No information has been provided.

Conditions of licensing

14.-17. No information has been provided.

Other procedural requirements

18. Since April 2007, Madagascar has put an end to the preshipment verification or inspection procedure, which has been replaced by the use of a Cargo Tracker Note for the monitoring of imports.
