

**NOTIFICATION UNDER THE AGREEMENT ON  
IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES**

Notification under Article 7.3 of the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures

**NAMIBIA**

The following communication, dated 23 April 2010, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of Namibia.

Namibia is hereby forwarding its notification on import licensing procedures in accordance with Article 7.3 of the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures. The notification covers the period 2003-2010.

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**I. NAMIBIAN AGRONOMIC BOARD IMPORT PERMIT**

Outline of the system

1. The Namibian Agronomic Board utilises an import permit system for the importation of controlled agronomic crops – white maize, wheat, pearl millet and as well as wheat flour, maize meal, and pearl millet flour and horticulture products.

Purpose and coverage of licensing

2. The permit system applies to products as outlined in paragraph 1 above.

3. The system is non-country specific.
4. The permit system is intended as an instrument to ensure the marketing of domestic production of the controlled products following which permits for imports are granted on an unlimited basis.
5. The Agronomic Industry Act, 1992 (Act 20 of 1992) gives powers to the Namibian Agronomic Board to issue permits with respect to the importation or exportation of controlled crops. Controlled crops are defined by Government Notice No. 45 of 1993. It is not possible to abolish the system without legislative approval.

#### Procedures

6. Not applicable.
- 7.(a) No time-limit.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) Permits are only granted during the open border period, i.e. once domestic production has been marketed to millers. As regards horticultural products, permits are granted once applicant has purchased a certain percentage from domestic producers.
- (d) An importer must also be in possession of a phytosanitary permit from the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry.
8. Applicants have the right to appeal a permit refusal or withdrawal to the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. Applications may be refused if there is still domestic production in the country. Reasons are provided to the applicant for such refusal or withdrawal.

#### Eligibility of importers to apply for licence

9. Importers/exporters of controlled agronomic products are required to register with the Board. There is a registration fee depending on the milling capacity. The list of importers is not published but is available on request from the Board.

#### Documentational and other requirements for application for licence

10. Quantity and type of products to be imported, town and country of origin, port of entry.
11. The importer must furnish the customs officials with the permits issued by the Board, the phytosanitary permit from the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry.
12. There is a fee of N\$54.
13. No.

#### Conditions of licensing

14. The permits are valid from one to three months depending on the quantities to be imported which may be extended upon request.
15. No.

16. Licences are non-transferable between importers.

17. No.

#### Other procedural requirements

18. Import permits must be obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry and the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

19. The provision of foreign exchange for import is subject to the requirements of the financial institution.

## **II. MEAT BOARD OF NAMIBIA IMPORT PERMIT**

#### Outline of system

1. The Meat Board of Namibia utilises an import/export permit system for the importation/exportation of live animals (cattle, sheep, goats and pigs) and products thereof.

#### Purpose and coverage of licensing

2. Separate licensing systems are used for imports/exports of live animals and meat.

3. The system does not differentiate by country.

4. The system is designed to monitor the imports and exports of the commodities mentioned in paragraph 1 above.

5. The licensing system is maintained under the statutory provisions of the Meat Industry Act 1981. The implementation of licences requires the approval of the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. Therefore, it is not possible to abolish the system without legislative approval.

#### Procedures

6. Not applicable.

7.(a) Applications should be submitted well in advance of importation to allow sufficient time for processing.

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

(d) An importer must also be in possession of a veterinary import permit from the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. Some imports are subject to the approval of other institutions, e.g. Ministry of Environment and Tourism in the case of protected species, Livestock Improvement Permit in the case of breeding material.

8. There are no circumstances other than specified by the Act. Applicants have the right to appeal a permit refusal or withdrawal to the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. Reasons are provided for any permit refusal or withdrawal.

Eligibility of importers to apply for licence

9. Importers must be registered with the Meat Board. There is no registration fee.

Documentational and other requirements for application for licence

10. Quantity and type of products to be imported, town and country of origin, port of entry (refer to 7(d)).
11. Import permit from the Board and a veterinary import permit from the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry.
12. There is a permit fee of N\$0.10 per kg excluding VAT for import of meat products.
13. No.

Conditions of licensing

14. Up to one month. This may be extended upon request.
15. No.
16. Licences are non-transferable between importers.
17. None accept as required by the permit.

Other procedural requirements

18. Refer to 7(d).
19. The provision of foreign exchange for import is subject to the requirements of the financial institution.

**III. PHYTOSANITARY IMPORT PERMIT**

Outline of the system

1. The phytosanitary import permit system for plants and plant products was established by the Agricultural Pest Act, 1973 (Act No. 3 of 1973).

Purpose and coverage of licensing

2. There is a single permit system and it applies to all plants and plant products.
3. The system does not discriminate by country.
4. The system is designed to ensure that imports of plants and plant products are free of harmful pests.
5. The licensing system is maintained under the provisions of the Agricultural Pest Act, 1973. The issuing of the permit is subject to the submission by the importer of a phytosanitary certificate issued by the competent authorities in the country of origin.

Procedures

- 6. Not applicable.
  - 7.(a) A minimum of seven days before date of importation.
  - (b) Yes.
  - (c) No.
  - (d) The application is processed by a single administrative organ.
8. Refusal of an application may be in the case of a potential risk of introduction of pests and diseases in the country. There is no appeal procedure. Reasons for such refusal are provided.

Eligibility of importers to apply for licence

- 9. No restriction on eligibility.

Documentational and other requirements for application for licence

- 10. Quantity and type of products to be imported, purpose of importation, town and country of origin, port of entry and expected date of arrival.
- 11. A phytosanitary certificate from country of origin, a certificate of origin and an import permit from the Namibian Agronomic Board in the case of controlled products.
- 12. There is a fee of N\$100.
- 13. No.

Conditions of licensing

- 14. Normally up to three months.
- 15. No.
- 16. Licences are non-transferable between importers.
- 17. None except those required for the issuance of an import permit.

Other procedural requirements

- 18. No.
- 19. The provision of foreign exchange for import is subject to the requirements of the financial institution.

#### **IV. VETERINARY IMPORT PERMIT**

##### Outline of system

1. The importation of animals and animal products into Namibia is governed by the Animal Diseases and Parasites Act, 1956 (Act No. 13 of 1956) as amended. A veterinary import permit issued by the Director of Veterinary Services is required for the importation of all animals and animal products into Namibia. The OIE Animal Health Code is used as the guideline for setting import requirements.

##### Purpose and coverage of licensing

2. A single permit system is used for all animals/animal products imported into Namibia. Conditions of importation are as stated on the import permit.

3. The system does not discriminate by country except that:

- Animals/animal products from South Africa – a veterinary import permit is required for the importation of ostriches, elephants, wild pigs, wildebeest and buffalo only. Importation of other animals/animal products is subject to a veterinary movement certificate issued by an official veterinarian in South Africa with requirements as set out in the Namibian/South African bilateral agreement (i.e. no import permit is required).
- Importation of dogs and cats for personal use from South Africa are allowed without a veterinary import permit, but a health certificate/movement permit issued by an official veterinarian in South Africa required. All other animals and animal products require a veterinary import permit.
- In the case of a disease outbreak in a specific country.

4. The system does not restrict quantity except where quarantine is required (space limitations). The system is aimed at preventing the introduction of disease that could constitute a danger to the animal population of Namibia.

5.(a) The system is governed by the Animal Diseases and Parasites Act, 1956 (Act No. 13 of 1956) as amended. The import permit is a statutory requirement. It is not possible to abolish the system without legislative approval.

##### Procedures

6. Not applicable.

7.(a) Applications should be made well in advance to allow for risk analysis.

(b) Issuance of a permit is dependent on 7(a).

(c) No.

(d) In the case of cattle, sheep, goats and pigs and meat thereof, the application for a veterinary permit must be accompanied by a permit from the Meat Board of Namibia. Some imports are subject to the approval of other institutions, e.g. Ministry of Environment and Tourism in the case of protected species, Livestock Improvement Permit in the case of breeding material.

8. Import permits are only refused if normal criteria are not met, e.g. if it appears that the import constitutes a danger of introducing disease to Namibia, or when quarantine space (where applicable)

is unavailable. Reasons for refusal are given to the applicant. Applicants have the right of appeal to the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry under the provisions of Act 13 of 1956.

Eligibility of importers to apply for licence

9. No restriction on eligibility.

Documentational and other requirements for application for licence

10. Number and species to be imported, country and farm of origin, place of loading, port of entry and date of importation. A list of other requirements by species and commodity is contained in the application for an import permit.

11. The permits referred to in 7(d).

12. There is a fee of N\$50.

13. No.

Conditions of licensing

14. The period of validity varies according to consignment.

15. No.

16. Licences are non-transferable between importers.

17. None, except those as required by the import permit.

Other procedural requirements

18. No.

19. The provision of foreign exchange for import is subject to the requirements of the financial institution.

**V. WHEAT AND DAIRY REBATE IMPORT PERMIT**

Outline of system

1. The importation of wheat and dairy products into Namibia for exemption from customs duties.

Purpose and coverage of licensing

2. A single permit system is used for importation of wheat and dairy products into Namibia for purposes of customs duty rebate. Conditions of importation are as stated on the import permit.

3. The system does not discriminate by country.

4. The system is not intended restrict quantity of imports.

- 5.(a) A Decision by SACU Council of Ministers under 2002 SACU Agreement. The system can be abolished without legislative approval.

Procedures

6. I. Information on the quantities of wheat and dairy products that can be imported without customs duties as well as application procedure is published in the newspapers during September of every year.
- II. The quotas issued to applicants are determined on a yearly basis.
- III. The permits issued must be presented to customs officials in order to be exempted from the payment of customs duties. Unused allocations are not added to quotas for the succeeding period.
- IV. Interested importers are allowed a period of one month to apply for quotas and permits are considered when submitted throughout the year for companies that have been allocated quotas.
- V. Applications are processed within 1-2 days.
- VI. Importation can be done immediately once permit is issued.
- VII. The permit applications are handled by a single administrative organ. However, with regard to importation of wheat, a permit from the Namibian Agronomic Board is required before importation.
- VIII. Rebate import permits are only considered for companies that have been allocated quotas.
- IX. Not applicable.
- X. Not applicable.
- XI. No.
- 7.(a) Applications should be made in advance before arrival of the shipment.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) No.
- (d) Refer to 6 (VII) above.

8. Import permits are only refused if the quotas for the specific product have been depleted. Applicants are informed of the reasons for refusal.

Eligibility of importers to apply for licence

9. There is no restriction on eligibility but importers wishing to import wheat and dairy products under rebate have to apply for allocation of quotas.



Documentational and other requirements for application for licence

10. Products and quantity to be imported, country of origin, port of origin, port of entry and date of importation. A list of conditions is indicated on the import permit.
11. The rebate import permit, a permit from the Namibian Agronomic Board in the case of wheat and a veterinary permit from the Directorate of Veterinary Services for animal products.
12. No.
13. No.

Conditions of licensing

14. The period of validity is normally one month.
15. No.
16. Licences are non-transferable between importers.
17. None, except those as required by the rebate import permit.

Other procedural requirements

18. No.
19. The provision of foreign exchange for import is subject to the requirements of the financial institution.

**VI. MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY IMPORT PERMIT**

Outline of the system

1. The Ministry of Trade and Industry is responsible for the control of imports into the country and implements an import permit system for all products that require permits and not under the jurisdiction of other Government institutions and agencies. In particular, permits are issued for second hand goods, marine and minerals products.

Purpose and coverage of licensing

2. The permit system applies to products as outlined in paragraph 1 above.
3. The system is non-country specific.
4. The system is intended as an instrument to control the importation of goods into the country as well as for statistical purposes.
5. The Import and Export Control Act of 1994 makes provision for the Ministry of Trade and Industry to control the importation of goods into the country. It is not possible to abolish the system without legislative approval.

Procedures

6. Not applicable.
  - 7.(a) No time limit.
  - (b) Yes.
  - (c) No.
  - (d) No, unless the products to be imported are under the jurisdiction of other Government institutions.
8. Permits applications may not be granted if the products to be imported are in a depleted condition particularly in the case of second hand goods. Reasons are provided to the applicant for such refusal.

Eligibility of importers to apply for licence

9. All persons and businesses who meet the criteria are eligible to apply for an import permit.

Documentational and other requirements for application for licence

10. Quantity, description, customs code and value of goods to be imported, country of origin, port of entry.
11. The importer must furnish the customs officials with the import permit by the Ministry of Trade and Industry only for those products not under the control of other Government institutions.
12. No.
13. No.

Conditions of licensing

14. The permits are valid for one calendar year.
15. No.
16. Licences are non-transferable between importers.
17. No.

Other procedural requirements

18. No.
19. The provision of foreign exchange for import is subject to the requirements of the financial institution.

## **VII. MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM IMPORT PERMIT**

### Outline of the system

1. The import permit system implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism applies to the import of wild animals or plants or their parts, derivatives and products.

### Purpose and coverage of licensing

2. The permit system applies to products as outlined in paragraph 1 above.

3. The system is non-country specific but applications are assessed individually and the nature of use in Namibia.

4. The system is intended as an instrument of controlling and protecting Namibia's fauna and flora as well as for statistical purposes.

5. Nature Conservation Ordinance of 1975 (amended in 1996). It is not possible to abolish the system without legislative approval.

### Procedures

6. Not applicable.

7.(a) At least a 3 days in advance of importation.

(b) Two days could be fastest to provide a permit.

(c) No.

(d) Some products might require the Veterinary approval with the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry.

8. Permits applications may not be granted if the nature of utilisation is trade related but the applicant is not registered in Namibia or live animals are aliens to Namibian environment. Reasons are provided to the applicant for such refusal.

### Eligibility of importers to apply for licence

9. All persons and businesses who meet the criteria are eligible to apply for an import permit.

### Documentational and other requirements for application for licence

10. Quantity, common and scientific name of the product, country of origin, date of import. A certificate from the country of export CITES Management Authority supporting and verifying the export of the product and a CITES export permit from country of origin.

11. The importer must furnish the customs officials with the import permit issued by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism as well as Veterinary approval from Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry for some products, and an export permit from the country of origin.

12. N\$100.

13. No.

Conditions of licensing

14. The permit is valid for six months.

15. No, but the permit fee is non-refundable.

16. Licences are non-transferable between importers.

17. Applications assessed on individual basis and conditions differ as per products.

Other procedural requirements

18. No.

19. The provision of foreign exchange for import is subject to the requirements of the financial institution.

**VIII. NAMIBIA MEDICINE REGULATORY COUNCIL IMPORT PERMIT**

Outline of the system

1. For the import of general medicine, a license must be obtained from the Namibian Medicine Regulatory Council for all medicines. Licenses are only granted to registered wholesalers and distributors. Once a license is issued, the import of general medicine can be undertaken without an import permit. However, special import permits are required for the import of narcotics and psychotropic substances.

Purpose and coverage of licensing

2. The permit system applies specifically to the import products as outlined in paragraph 1 above.

3. The system is non-country specific.

4. The import permit system is intended to control the import of medicines import, to ensure that medicines imported comply with Namibian laws and regulations as well as for statistical purposes.

5. Medicines and Related Substances Control Act, 2003 (Act 13 of 2003). It is not possible to abolish the system without legislative approval.

Procedures

6. Not applicable.

7.(a) At least three days in advance of importation. The application and approval process for a license can be completed within one month. For special permits for the import of narcotics and psychotropic substances, the application has to be submitted at least three days in advance and the approval process can be completed within a week.

(b) A special permit must be submitted at least one week prior to importation.

- (c) No.
  - (d) Special permits and licenses for the importation of medicines are all issued by the Namibian Medicine Regulatory Council.
8. Special permit applications may not be granted if the permit applicant does not have a requisite license to import, i.e. not a distributor or wholesaler.

Eligibility of importers to apply for licence

9. Special permit applications are only considered from registered distributors and wholesalers with a licence.

Documentational and other requirements for application for licence

10. Quantity, name of the medicine, country of origin, date of import information is required for the special permit. The information required for the import license relates to contact information of the importer and the business address from which the medicine will be distributed.
11. The importer must furnish the customs officials with the special import permit issued in the case of narcotics and psychotropic substances.
12. Special permits are granted for free. However, license applicants for the import of general medicine have to pay a fee of N\$1000.
13. No.

Conditions of licensing

14. The permit is valid for three months while the import license is valid for one calendar year.
15. No, but the permit fee is non-refundable.
16. Licences are non-transferable between importers.
17. The importer must comply with the provisions of the Medicine and Related Substances Control Act.

Other procedural requirements

18. No.
19. The provision of foreign exchange for import is subject to the requirements of the financial institution.
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