

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

Notification under Article 7.3 of the  
Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures

NORWAY

The following notification, dated 28 September 2012, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Norway.

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**I. AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS**

**Outline of system**

1. There are two automatic licensing systems present in Norway. This includes a licence for certain products which might be used as feed in domestic animal production (see A below). This is introduced as part of the comprehensive price and market system in the grain and feeding stuff sector.

There is also (see B below) an automatic licensing of certain agricultural products that are substitutes to domestically produced grains, and are imported both duty-free and out of quota, from 64 developing countries (least-developed countries (LDCs) and low-income countries (LICs) with less

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

than 75 million inhabitants). This system aims at insuring that import from these countries will not cause serious market disturbances in the domestic market. If the expected import volumes of grain and feed-products from the 64 countries reach a level where the volumes threaten to cause market disturbances, a safeguard mechanism might be brought into force. Another rationale behind this system is to give priority to imports from the poorest developing countries.

A. IMPORT LICENCE FOR CERTAIN PRODUCTS WHICH MIGHT BE USED AS FEEDING STUFF IN DOMESTIC ANIMAL PRODUCTION

**Purposes and coverage of licensing**

2. This licence is required for all importers, and a licence is issued to all importers who have handed in an end-use statement to the Norwegian Agricultural Authority. (The Norwegian Agricultural Authority is administratively under the Ministry of Agriculture, and has been delegated the entire responsibility of administering the import regime for agricultural products.)

The end-use statement shall confirm that the products covered will not be used as feeding stuff in domestic animal production. The products covered by this regulation were listed in Annex 1 to Norway's 2008 notification.<sup>2</sup> The system is introduced as part of the comprehensive price and market system for grains, meals and feeding stuff in Norway. The purpose is to secure that products suitable for use as feeding stuff are not imported under cover of another end-use, and therefore withheld from the tariffs applicable for feeding stuff products. In the Uruguay Round, the tariff equivalents of the former quantitative import restrictions on feeding stuff (the State monopoly for importation of feeding stuff) were calculated. This resulted in a system of dual tariffs on certain products so that higher tariffs are levied on products meant for use in animal production, and lower tariffs in case of other uses.

3. The system has a global application.

4. Imports are not regulated on a quantitative basis. The purpose is described under the reply to question 2.

5. The regulation of 9 June 1995, number 556 on import licences for certain products which can be used for animal feeding is introduced pursuant to the Act of 6 June 1997, number 32, concerning import- and export-regulations. This Act may not be abolished without legislative approval.

**Procedures**

6. There are no restrictions as to the quantity or value of imports.

I. Information on imports is given in the form of public announcements. The Agricultural Authority also sends information on changes in tariffs and related matters to enterprises and others who have asked to be put on an e-mailing list. Information is also provided on request.

II. It is not a quantitative measure.

III. Import licences apply to the applicant.

IV. N/A.

V. The normal processing time is one week.

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<sup>2</sup> Available for consultation in the Secretariat (Market Access Division) (English only).

- VI. The licence is valid from the date of issuing.
- VII. The Agricultural Authority has been delegated the entire responsibility of administering the import regime for agricultural products, including the issuing of licences. This body is under the Ministry of Agriculture.
- VIII. N/A.
- IX. There are no special arrangements for products subject to export licensing in the exporting country.
- X. N/A.
- XI. This is not an arrangement under which import licences are issued on condition that the goods should be re-exported.
7. Under the system there is no quantitative limit on importation of a product or from a particular country.
- (a) Licence is automatically issued to all importers who have handed in an end-use statement. The end-use statement must be submitted to the Norwegian Agricultural Authority before import licence is granted.
- (b) Import applications must be written. The application will be handled without unnecessary delay.
- (c) Applications for licences are not limited to any particular time of year.
- (d) The Norwegian Agricultural Authority issues the licence.
8. If the applications meet the criteria, a licence is granted.

**Eligibility of importers to apply for a licence**

9. All applications are granted irrespective of the firm which makes the application.

**Documentational and other requirements for application for licence**

10. The following information is required in the application: Name and address of applicant, item number according to the Norwegian customs tariff, description of goods, end-use statement, country of origin, and other relevant information (such as date, signature, telephone number, reference).
11. At the actual time of importation, the original invoice must be presented along with a plant disease certificate and/or a veterinary certificated where this is required.
12. There are no charged levies or other licensing fees.
13. No deposit or advance payment is required for licensing.

**Conditions of licensing**

14. The end-use statement required for the issuing of import licences is time-limited, and a new statement must be handed in after the expiry date.

15. There is no penalty on licences which have not been used or on licences which have only been used partially.

16. Licences cannot be transferred between importers.

17. There are no other conditions attached to the issuing of licences except the above-mentioned.

### **Other procedural requirements**

18. There are no other administrative procedures required prior to importation apart from veterinary, phytosanitary and quality regulations.

19. Foreign exchange is automatically provided.

B. SECURITY MECHANISM AND SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM FOR DUTY- AND QUOTA-FREE IMPORT OF GRAINS, FLOUR AND FEED PRODUCTS FROM LEAST-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (LDCs) AND LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES (LICs) WITH LESS THAN 75 MILLION INHABITANTS

### **Purposes and coverage of licensing**

2. This automatic licensing system covers imports of grains, flour and feed products from the least-developed countries (LDCs) and low-income countries (LICs) with less than 75 million inhabitants. The products covered by this regulation were listed in Annex 2 to Norway's 2008 notification.<sup>3</sup>

3. The licensing system for grains, flour and feedproducts originating in LDCs and LICs with less than 75 million inhabitants applies only to products originating in these countries.

4. The intention of the system is, as described under the outline of the system, to prevent serious market disturbances. In case of an expected serious market disturbance caused by a major increase in import of grains, flour or feed-products from LDCs and LICs with less than 75 million inhabitants, the duty- and quota-free import of such products from these countries might be suspended.

5. Regulations pursuant to the introductory provisions to the customs tariff lay down provisions for the security mechanism and surveillance system for duty- and quota-free import of grains, flour and feedproducts from least-developed countries (LDCs) and low-income countries with less than 75 million inhabitants. The General System of Preferences is adopted by the Parliament (Stortinget).

### **Procedures**

6. There are no quantity or value restrictions, as the licence is issued at the volume applied for, as long as the security mechanism is not activated.

7.(a) The licences are given for the following periods: 1 August–7 November, 8 November–24 April and 25 April–31 July. The application must be made at least 10 days before the period starts.

(b) See 7(a).

(c) See 7(a).

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<sup>3</sup> Available for consultation in the Secretariat (Market Access Division), English only.

(d) The application is considered by the Norwegian Agricultural Authority.

8. N/A.

#### **Eligibility of importers to apply for licence**

9. All persons, firms and institutions are eligible to apply for licences as long as they are registered in the Register of Business Enterprises in Norway.

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

10. The following information is required in the application: Name and address of applicant, item number according to the Norwegian customs tariff, description of goods, expected import date, country of origin, and other relevant information (such as date, signature, telephone number, reference). In addition the agricultural authority might require a contract (or a confirmation) as to ensure that the import materializes.

11. At the actual time of importation, the original invoice must be presented along with a plant disease certificate and/or a veterinary certificated where this is required.

12. There are no charged levies or other licensing fees.

13. No deposit or advance payment is required for licensing.

#### **Conditions of licensing**

14. The licences are given for the following periods: 1 August – 7 November, 8 November-24 April and 25 April–31 July.

15. There is no penalty for non-utilization of a licence or a portion of a licence.

16. The licence is not transferable.

17. There are no other conditions attached to the issue of a licence except as described in replies two to nineteen.

#### **Other procedural requirements**

18. There are no other administrative procedures required prior to importation apart from veterinary, phytosanitary and quality regulations.

19. Foreign exchange is automatically provided.

## **II. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**

#### **Outline of system**

1. Alcoholic beverages may only be imported by parties who are authorised to engage in wholesaling, hold a production licence, an extended retail licence or a serving licence extended to cover imports. Alcoholic beverages may also be imported by Vinmonopolet. Private persons may, for their personal use, import alcoholic beverages without a licence. This is regulated by Act No. 27 of 2 June 1989 on the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages (Alcohol Act).

When a private person imports alcoholic beverages the Directorate of Health and the Customs and Excise Authorities may require documentation that the alcoholic beverage is for personal use, if the quantity, or other circumstances, give reason to believe that it is not. If such documentation cannot be submitted, the goods cannot be imported without authorization or licence mentioned above. This is regulated by Regulation No. 538 of 8 June 2005 on the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages (Alcohol Regulation).

### **Purposes and coverage of licensing**

2. The types of licensing systems that gives the right to import alcoholic beverages:

#### Trading activity

- (a) Authorised to engage in wholesaling (registered with the Customs and Excise Authorities (the Customs Region), as liable for excise duties).
- (b) Production licence in Norway.
- (c) An extended retail licence in Norway.
- (d) A serving licence extended to cover imports in Norway.
- (e) Imports by Vinmonopolet.

Private imports for personal use require no licensing, but documentation that the alcoholic beverage is for personal use may be required.

3. The systems apply to alcoholic beverages from all countries.

4. The purpose is to curb the harm to the society and the individual that may result from the consumption of alcoholic beverages.

5. Trading activities under letters (a)–(e) in answer 2 are regulated by Act No. 27 of 2 June 1989 on the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages (Alcohol Act), Chapter 2. Authorisation to engage in wholesaling is also regulated by Regulation No. 1451 of 11 December 2001 on special duties.

Private imports for personal use are regulated by Regulation No. 538 of 8 June 2005 on the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages (Alcohol Regulation), Chapter 15.

### **Procedures**

6. There are no restrictions regarding quantities or value of alcoholic beverages imported to Norway. However, authorisation/licence to import is required if the alcoholic beverage is not for personal use, cf. answer to question 1.

- 7.(a) Applications for authorisation to be engaged in wholesaling one month in advance.
- (b) Import licence is not required as long as the alcoholic beverage is for personal use.
- (c) No.
- (d) To obtain an authorisation to be engaged in wholesaling, approaches have to be made to the Customs and Excise Authorities (the Customs Region).

8. None. The applicant may appeal in accordance with Act 10 February 1967 on procedure in cases concerning the public administration.

#### **Eligibility of importers to apply for licence**

9. All persons over 18 years old (over 20 years old for alcoholic beverages containing more than 22 per cent alcohol by volume) are eligible to import alcoholic beverages for personal use.

To be authorised to engage in wholesaling you must be a registered firm (in your current Customs Region) of good repute in relation to several acts. There is a register of authorised firms. There is no registration fee. There is a public register: <http://www.helsedirektoratet.no/bevillingsregisteret>.

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

10. To be authorised to engage in wholesaling you have to provide the information described in Regulation no. 1451 of 11 December 2001 section 5-5 on special duties, including information about the stock, the warehouse, the account routines and turnovers.

11. When wholesalers import the registration number must follow the imported goods.

12. No administrative charges.

13. No deposit required, however Section 14-21 second paragraph of the Tax Payment Act provides that, at the time of registration or later, the Customs Region may require the undertaking to furnish security for excise duties that the entity becomes liable for in the future.

#### **Condition of licensing**

14. There is no validity period for the registration as liable for excise duties (wholesalers).

15. There is no penalty for non-utilisation.

16. The licence is not transferable.

17. There are no other conditions.

### **III. MEDICINAL PRODUCTS**

#### **Outline of system**

1. A licence is necessary for companies who want to import medicinal products for (whole)sale.

Personal imports from outside the EU/EEA-area are prohibited. However, the Norwegian Medicines Agency can permit an exception under special circumstances. In these cases a licence is necessary. An import licence has to be applied for. In practice such licences are given when a shipment is stopped by the Customs, not in advance.

#### **Purpose and coverage of licensing**

2. The licensing systems are the two mentioned above. The products covered are medicinal products.

3. Companies' imports: from all countries inside EU/EEA-area an import license is necessary. From countries outside this area a manufacturing–licence is necessary. Imports of medicinal product not intended for medical use can be imported from all countries. Personal imports: a licence after exception is needed from countries outside EU/EEA-area.

4. The overall purpose of the licensing system is to ensure that medicines sold on the Norwegian market have good quality, are effective and safe to use.

5. Medicinal Product Act (04/12/92 No. 132) §12 and §13, Regulation (21/12/93 No. 1219) regarding wholesaling, Regulation (02/11/04 No. 1441) regarding production and imports of medicinal products. The notion of a medicinal product is defined by the above regulation. A legislative approval is necessary to abolish the system.

### **Procedures**

6. There are no such restrictions.

7. (a) Applications from companies shall be handled within 90 days, but there is usually a much shorter time-limit. Goods arriving at the port without licence can under special circumstances be imported for the one case if it later will be given an import licence.

Applications from persons will be handled within one or a few days.

(b) Usually not, see 7(a).

(c) No.

(d) No, the permission is given by the Norwegian Medicines Agency. The Customs control the imports.

8. If the company is not registered in Norway, the application will be refused. The reason for a refusal will be given to the applicant. It is possible to appeal the decision to the Ministry of Health and Care Services under an administrative procedure. The applicant may also refer the matter to a court of law.

### **Eligibility of importers to apply for licence**

9. Everyone, both companies and individuals, are eligible to apply for an import licence. Companies have to be registered in Norway. There is no registration fee. The Norwegian Medicines Agency publishes a list containing the companies which have an import licence.

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

10. An application form is submitted at request. The company has to fill in the application form and eventually give additional information, if required.

11. The importer has to present the import licence to the Customs.

12. No.

13. No.

### **Conditions of licensing**

14. Normally the validity of a licence is five years. In certain cases the period can be shorter. The period of validity may be extended after an application for extension.

15. No.

16. No.

17. No.

## **IV. FIREARMS, FIREARM COMPONENTS AND AMMUNITION**

### **Outline of system**

1. Act No. 1 of 9 June 1961 relating to firearms and ammunition etc. and Regulation No. 904 of 25 June 2009 on Firearms, Firearm Components and Ammunition require a permit granted by the Chief of Police for commercial and non-commercial imports of firearms, firearm components and ammunition (not covered by Act No. 39 of 14 June 1974 relating to Explosive Goods (applies only to Svalbard) or the Fire and Explosion Prevention Act).

Commercial imports of ammunition from a member state covered by the EEA Agreement may only occur pursuant to Directive 93/15/EEC of 5 April 1993 on the harmonization of the provisions relating to the placing on the market and supervision of explosives for civil uses.

### **Purpose and coverage of licensing**

2. Permit for commercial and non-commercial imports of firearms, firearm components and ammunition.

3. The system regarding import licensing of firearms, firearm components and ammunition regulates imports from all countries.

4. The purpose of the permit is to ensure that only suitable persons imports firearms, firearm components and ammunition.

5. Act No. 1 of 9 June 1961 relating to firearms and ammunition etc. and Regulation No. 904 of 25 June 2009 on Firearms, Firearm Components and Ammunition. The permit is statutorily required. It is not possible for the government or the executive branch to abolish the system without legislative approval.

### **Procedure**

6. Not applicable.

7.(a) A person needs a permit granted by the Police for commercial and non-commercial imports of firearms, firearm components and ammunition before importation.

(b) No.

(c) No.

(d) Yes, the Chief of Police.

8. Police supervision of applications for commercial import permits:

In addition to check that a person who seeks an import permit is licensed to trade in firearms, firearm components and ammunition, and that the application meets the requisite formalities, the police evaluates whether the type and number of weapons the application concerns are defensible from policing, security and social points of view.

The reasons for any refusal shall be given to the applicant.

The applicant has a right to appeal to the National Police Directorate. The procedures are pursuant to Norwegian administrative law.

**Eligibility of importers to apply for licence**

9. Everyone is eligible to apply for a permit.

**Documentational and other requirements for application for licence**

10. The application for commercial imports of firearms, firearm components or ammunition and non-commercial imports of ammunition must contain information on:

- the applicant's (the firm's) full name and address;
- the number, nature or type, trademark, name of model, mechanism (type) and calibre, for imports of firearms/firearm components;
- the quantity and weight, for imports of ammunition;
- the name and address of the supplier;
- whether the consignment is expected to arrive in several consignments; and
- who has granted the applicant a permit to conduct trade in firearms etc.

The importer must also supply a copy of the document showing the purchase price.

The application for non-commercial imports of firearms, firearm components or ammunition must contain information on:

- the applicant's full name and address, date of birth and birthplace, and job or profession;
- mechanism (type) and calibre of firearms/firearm components;
- the applicant's potential use of the weapon; and
- the applicant's firearms permit, if he has one.

11. A permission granted by the Chief of police.

12. The fee for commercial imports of firearms, firearm components or ammunition is one per cent of the value, but minimum NOK 125 and maximum NOK 5160 (the court fee multiplied by six). The fee for non-commercial imports of firearms, firearm components or ammunition is minimum NOK 430 and maximum NOK 860.

13. For commercial imports of firearms, firearm components and ammunition the importer have to pay the fee either when an application is made or within 14 days after a permission is granted.

#### **Conditions of licensing**

14. The permit for commercial imports of firearms, firearm components or ammunition is valid for a period of three months. It may on application be extended for further three months.

The permit for non-commercial imports of firearms, firearm components or ammunition is valid for a period of six months. It may on application be extended for further six months.

15. No.

16. Transfer of an import permit is prohibited.

17. No.

#### **Other procedural requirements**

18. No.

19. N/A.

### **V. EXPLOSIVE SUBSTANCES INCLUDING PYROTECHNICAL ARTICLES**

#### **Outline of system**

1. Imports of explosive substances, including pyrotechnical articles, require an import licence. Explosives produced in conformity with international agreements are only subject to transfer approval.

Both import licence and transfer approval are regulated by Act no. 20 of 14 June 2002 on the Prevention of Fire, Explosion and Accidents involving Hazardous Substances and the Fire Services' duties in Rescue Operations, and the Regulation no. 922 of 26 June 2002 on handling Explosive Substances.

#### **Purposes and coverage of licensing**

2. Explosives covered by the Council Directive 93/15/EEC of 5 April 1993 on the harmonization of the provisions relating to the placing on the market and supervision of explosives for civil uses, transferred from a country within the EEA is regulated by the Regulation on handling Explosive Substances chapter 4, and according to Article 4-1 requires a transfer approval.

Imports of explosives, ammunition for technical use and signal devices, from a country outside of the EEA is subject to import authorization, cf. Regulation on handling Explosive Substances Article 5-1, as well as pyrotechnical articles not covered by Council Directive 93/15/EEC, also coming from countries within the EEA. Explosives and pyrotechnical articles are defined in Regulation on handling Explosive Substances Article 1-3. Fireworks class I, as defined in Article 1-3, and safety matches are exempted from import authorization.

3. The import licensing system applies to explosives coming from countries outside the EEA, and pyrotechnic articles from all countries. The system with transfer approval applies to explosives, but not to pyrotechnical articles, coming from countries within the EEA.

4. The purpose of the import licensing procedure is to ensure public safety and security, and not to restrict the quantity or value of imports.

5. See point no. 1 on under which law and regulation the licensing is maintained.

The above mentioned licensing is statutorily required, and it is not possible for the government to abolish the system without legislative approval.

Designation of products to be subject to licensing is not left to administrative discretion, but follows directly from the law. For certain reasons, exemption may be given for provisions in the Regulation on handling Explosive Substances, provided there is no conflict with international agreements entered into by Norway, cf. Article 17-3.

### **Procedures**

6. Not applicable (No quantity or value restrictions).

7.(a) Application for a licence must be made in time for the licence to be granted before actual importation. Applications for import licences are normally considered and replied to within one to two weeks. As an exception, a licence may be obtained within a shorter time-limit, provided that all the general conditions, i.e. documentation, are complied with, and the necessary administrative resources are available.

(b) No.

(c) No.

(d) Applications for an import licence are considered only by a single administrative organ, the Directorate for Civil Protection and Emergency Planning. Appeals, on the other hand, are passed on to a higher administrative organ.

8. There are no circumstances for an application to be refused other than failure to meet the general provisions. The reasons for a refusal are communicated to the applicant. Applicants have a right of appeal in the event of refusal to issue a licence. Appeals are passed on to a higher administrative organ, the Ministry of Justice and the Police. Appeals are sent to the first instance for a preliminary assessment, and are then passed on to the higher instance for final judgement.

### **Eligibility of importers to apply for licence**

9. Only firms registered as an Explosives company may be granted an import licence. Companies are registered in the National register of business enterprises, Brønnøysundregisteret. There is a registration fee. There is not a published list of authorized importers. The Regulation on handling Explosive Substances Article 5-3 requires importer course for companies that import fireworks in class II, III, and IV, and theatrical pyrotechnics.

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

10. Sample form was made available, as part of Norway's 2008 notification.<sup>4</sup>

The importer is also required to attach to the application the following information:

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<sup>4</sup>Available for consultation in the Secretariat (Market Access Division)(English only).

- Documentation on storage;
- Documentation on area for destruction;
- Documentation test area for initial inspection (applies only to pyrotechnical articles).

11. The import licence/transfer approval.

12. There is no licensing fee or administrative charge for imports, only value added tax.

13. No.

#### **Conditions of licensing**

14. Import authorization is valid for maximum three years, but only until the granted amount of explosives actually is imported. The validity of a licence may not be extended.

15. No.

16. No.

17. No.

#### **Other procedural requirements**

18. No.

19. N/A.

### **VI. ENDANGERED SPECIES**

#### **Outline of system**

1. By virtue of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), of which Norway is a member, import of such species that are covered by the Convention are subject to licensing. CITES aims to ensure that no species are threatened with extinction as a result of non-sustainable international trade. Species covered by the Convention are listed in Appendices I, II or III, according to how threatened each species are by international trade. Relevant for the purpose of this questionnaire are import of species listed under Appendix I of the Convention, as import of such species require an import licence.

The CITES convention is implemented in the Norwegian legal system through administrative order of November 15<sup>th</sup> 2002 No. 1276, with statutory authority by Law of June 6<sup>th</sup> 1997 No. 32 §§1 and 3 (act relating to the regulation of imports and exports, see [http://lovdata.no/cgi-wift/wiftdles?doc=/app/gratis/www/docroot/all/nl-19970606-032.html&emne=innf%F8rsle\\*&&](http://lovdata.no/cgi-wift/wiftdles?doc=/app/gratis/www/docroot/all/nl-19970606-032.html&emne=innf%F8rsle*&&))

Law of May 29<sup>th</sup> 1981 No. 38 § 26 No. 9 (act relating to wildlife and wildlife habitats, see [http://lovdata.no/cgi-wift/wiftdles?doc=/app/gratis/www/docroot/all/nl-19810529-038.html&emne=vilt\\*&&](http://lovdata.no/cgi-wift/wiftdles?doc=/app/gratis/www/docroot/all/nl-19810529-038.html&emne=vilt*&&)),

Law of June 15<sup>th</sup> 2001 No. 79 § 26 (2) (Svalbard Environmental Act, see [http://lovdata.no/cgi-wift/wiftdles?doc=/app/gratis/www/docroot/all/nl-20010615-079.html&emne=svalbardmilj%F8\\*&&](http://lovdata.no/cgi-wift/wiftdles?doc=/app/gratis/www/docroot/all/nl-20010615-079.html&emne=svalbardmilj%F8*&&),

Law of July 17<sup>th</sup> 1925 No. 11 § 4 (Act relating to Svalbard, see [http://lovdata.no/cgi-wift/wiftldles?doc=/app/gratis/www/docroot/all/nl-19250717-011.html&emne=svalbard\\*&&](http://lovdata.no/cgi-wift/wiftldles?doc=/app/gratis/www/docroot/all/nl-19250717-011.html&emne=svalbard*&&) and

Law of February 27<sup>th</sup> 1930 No. 2 § 2 (Act relating to Jan Mayen, see [http://lovdata.no/cgi-wift/wiftldles?doc=/app/gratis/www/docroot/all/nl-19300227-002.html&emne=jan\\*%20%2b%20mayen\\*&&](http://lovdata.no/cgi-wift/wiftldles?doc=/app/gratis/www/docroot/all/nl-19300227-002.html&emne=jan*%20%2b%20mayen*&&)

### **Purposes and coverage of licensing**

2. The Convention establishes a system for cooperation between all State parties to the Convention with regards to all import, export, re-export and introduction from the sea of species covered by the Convention to be authorized through a licensing system. Products included in the licensing system are the species (and their by-products) listed in one of the three Appendices. The purpose of this coverage is:

- a) To place a strict limitation on trade in wild specimens and by-products of species classified as endangered, cf. Appendix I;
- b) To establish a system of monitoring of specimens and by-products susceptible to becoming endangered through a licensing mechanism, cf. Appendices I and II;
- c) To allow individual countries to exercise surveillance on importation in other countries specimens and by-products of species which are considered endangered by the exporting country only, cf. Appendix III.

3. The system applies to endangered species originating in and exported from all countries.

4. See point 1 above. The licensing system allows importation in endangered species and their by-products in internationally agreed circumstances.

5. See point 1 above law and administrative order under which the licensing s maintained. Endangered species are placed in Appendices I, II and III. It is not possible either to make the regime more flexible or to modify the legal bases.

### **Procedures**

6. Not applicable (i.e. no quantitative restrictions).

7.(a) An individual import permit is normally granted after a review period of 1-4 weeks provided the criteria for issuing a permit are met. Therefore it is recommended that an application is submitted giving the CITES authorities reasonable time before the expected date of importation to review the application. Import licences are usually not granted retrospectively.

(b) See point 7A above.

(c) N/A.

(d) Permit applications are processed by the Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management, which is the single administrative organ that the applicant needs to contact.

8. An applicant for a licence may only be refused when the application fails to meet the ordinary criteria set out in the Convention. If the criteria have not been met, the applicant will be informed of the reasons for refusal. In such event, an appeal may be forwarded to the Ministry of the Environment.

**Eligibility of importers to apply for licence**

9. Citizenship and residency are not criteria.

**Documentational and other requirements for application for licence**

10. The applicant is required to provide information about the specific specimen of the species requested for import such as the origin of the specimen and the purpose for the request of import. The application form is to be found at <http://www.dirnat.no/content/431/Slik-soker-du> (go to "Søknadsskjema om eksport eller import av arter").

Documentation issued by the appropriate CITES authorities in the country of origin or in any subsequent re-exporting country authorizing export, must accompany all applications. A product arriving in Norway without a duly authentic CITES export permit will not be cleared by Norway Customs and is subject to seizure.

11. Documents required upon actual importation are both authentic CITES documents issued by the appropriate CITES authorities in the country of origin or in any subsequent re-exporting country authorizing export, and authentic CITES documentation issued by the Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management authorizing import.

12. No fees.

13. N/A.

**Conditions of licensing**

14. CITES import permits are valid for a maximum of 6 months from the date of issuance. The period of validity may be extended by replacement of the original permit.

15. No.

16. No.

17. No.

**Other procedural requirements**

18. No.

19. N/A.

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