

REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE ON IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES

Notification under Article 7.3 of the
Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures

NEW ZEALAND

Addendum

The following communication, dated 13 March 1998, has been received from the Permanent Mission of New Zealand.

Background

As well as the formal import permit system operated under the Ozone Layer Protection Act notified in October 1996 (G/LIC/N/3/NZL/1) New Zealand has, since 1995, had a system of prior informed consent procedures implemented to meet obligations under the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal. Under regulations contained in the Import Control Act 1988, imports of a range of materials classed as hazardous wastes must be notified to the Ministry of Commerce and approved for importation prior to arrival. This process has recently been placed on a similar footing to ozone permits in that the Minister must, sometimes employing delegated authority, specifically permit each application.

Purposes and coverage

The coverage of the Convention is laid down in Articles 3-8 and Annexes 1-3, clarified by additional Annexes 8 and 9 as decided at the Fourth Conference of Parties in February 1998. The purpose of the New Zealand regulations is to ensure that the prior informed consent processes required by the Convention are implemented in a way that ensures that the materials concerned will be managed in an environmentally sound manner. The coverage of the relevant New Zealand regulation replicates the Convention's coverage (see attached¹).

¹ A copy of the Import Control (Wastes) Conditional Prohibition Order 1994 is available for consultation in the Secretariat (Market Access Division) (English only).

Procedures

Importers or others dealing with the range of materials possibly covered by the regulation can approach the Ministry of Commerce for clarification. If a permit is required this must be obtained (from the Ministry of Commerce, the designated Competent Authority) prior to the materials arriving. As exporting countries have the major obligations, including obtaining consent from any transit countries, import permits should preferably be obtained prior to shipping.

Decisions on applications to import can generally be made available within three working days. There are no quantitative limits. The sole criterion is whether the materials will be managed in an environmentally sound manner. Relevant insurance to cover the risk of the materials not completing their journey for some reason is requested. Permits covering multiple shipments can be granted.

Eligibility

All persons/firms may apply. No fees or charges are levied.

Documentation

Internationally agreed standard forms are used, one for approval and one to accompany the shipment.
