

REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE ON IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES¹

Notification under Article 7.3 of the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures

SURINAME

The following communication, dated 2 October 2009, has been received from the delegation of Suriname.

Outline of Systems

1. The licensing regime is based on the Law Movement of Goods (S.B. 2003 No. 58²) and State Decree Negative List 2003 (S.B. 2003 No. 74³): which means that there are 3 categories of goods named:

- Prohibited
- Goods which need a license
- Goods which need a certificate

Purposes and Coverage of Licensing

2. The system applies to prohibited goods and to goods which require a certificate and goods which require licensing.

3. The system applies to goods originating in and coming from all countries.

4. The system is not intended to restrict the quantity, but its purposes refer to environmental issues, state security and public health. No alternative methods of accomplishing the purposes have been considered

5. Movement of Goods, State Decree Negative List 2003. The licensing is statutorily required. Legislation leaves designation of products to be subjected to licensing to administrative discretion; it is not possible for the government to abolish the system without legislative approval.

Procedures

6.I. Information is published in the newspapers. The overall amount is not published. In case of an emergency a request can be made for exceptions.

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

² Available for consultation in the Secretariat (Market Access Division) (English only).

³ Available for consultation in the Secretariat (Market Access Division) (Original language only).

- II. n/a
- III. No measures are taken to ensure that licences allocated are actually used for imports. The names of importers to whom licences have been allocated are not made known to governments and export promotion bodies of exporting countries upon request because up until now such requests have not been made.
- IV. n/a
- V. 1 or 2 days are the minimum and maximum lengths of time for processing applications.
- VI. Remaining time between the granting of licences and the date of opening of the period of importation depends on the shipment, from where it comes.
- VII. Licences are only issued by the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the division import, export and foreign exchange. However the application can sometimes also be passed to other organs such as the Ministry of Agriculture or the Ministry of Health. The importer has to approach more than one administrative organ.
- VIII. The allocation is based on first come first served practice. There is no maximum amount to be allocated. New importers have to register at the Chamber of Commerce. Applications are examined on receipt.
- IX. n/a
- X. The importing country is informed by the exporter and the Government.
- XI. There are no products for which licences are issued on condition that goods should be exported and not sold in the domestic market.
- 7.(a) Application for a licence must be made before the shipment. Licences can be obtained within a shorter time-limit or for goods arriving at the port without a licence
- (b) A licence can be granted immediately on request
- (c) Limitations as to the period of the year during which application for licence and/or importation may be made apply for the importation of fireworks (these products are only allowed to be imported in November and December)
- (d) Only the Ministry of Trade and Industry has to be approached but sometimes some advice from another administrative organ is needed, such as the Ministry of Agriculture, Public Health, Fishery, Husbandry.
8. A licence can only be refused if it does not meet the ordinary criteria. Applicants can submit an appeal to the President.

Eligibility of Importers to Apply for Licence

- 9.(a) All persons, firms and institutions are eligible to apply for licences but first they have to register themselves at the Chamber of Commerce.
- (b) Idem.

Natural persons are eligible. There is no registration fee. The Chamber of Commerce publishes a list of authorized importers.

10. Ho3 and an invoice or pro-forma invoice are required to apply for a licence.
11. A single document (ED), Ho3, invoice, bill of lading or airway bill are required upon importation.
12. There is no licensing fee or administrative charge
13. No.

Conditions of Licensing

14. The period of validity of a licence is 3 months and can be extended within 3 months.
15. No.
16. Licences are not transferable between importers.
17. (a) and (b) No.

Other Procedural Requirements

18. Apart from import licensing and similar administrative procedures an Import/Export Registration of non licensing products (S.B. 2003 No. 74) is required prior to importation.
 19. Foreign exchange is automatically provided by the banking authorities for goods to be imported and a licence is not required as a condition to obtaining foreign exchange. Foreign exchange is always available to cover licences issued. to obtain foreign exchange importers have to submit a request to the Foreign Currency Exchange by filling an international transaction form (IT form).
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