

REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE ON IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES¹

Notification under Article 7.3 of the
Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures

UGANDA

The following notification, dated 17 June 1997, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Uganda.

Outline of system

1. Import licensing (or certification) system is regulated by the External Trade Act. The licensing (certification) system is administered by the Directorate of Foreign Trade in the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

Purposes and coverage of licensing

2. Imports of all categories are subject to automatic licensing and only those on the Negative List of Banned Imports are subject to non-automatic licensing. The Negative List of Imports has 11 items only and is subject to review from time to time.

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

4. Automatic import licensing (certification) is mainly for statistical and record purposes, handling of trade enquiries and guidance in decision-making. Non-automatic import licensing is for the purpose of administering import bans and restrictions maintained pursuant to the statutory instruments in force.

5. The licensing system is operated under the External Trade Act requirements. Authority exists to suspend the system whenever it is determined that such action is appropriate. Notice of such action has to be published in the Government Gazette.

Procedures

6. For products under restriction/ban:

- i. We do not operate any quota system, but can any time lift the ban on the items in the Negative List once deemed necessary.

¹Annex to document G/LIC/3.

- ii. There are no quota arrangements in the system.
 - iii. Licences are issued to importers regardless of whether they are producers of identical products. Once a licence has been issued it can be used for six months for any quantity and from any country.
 - iv. No quota system.
 - v. Applications for licences (import certificates) are processed within 2-3 hours of a working day.
 - vi. Import licences (certificates) are granted immediately on filling the simple application forms.
 - vii. Licence applications are considered by one administrative body (Ministry of Trade and Industry).
 - viii. Licences for items not on the Negative List are issued automatically and are not based on past performance.
 - ix. There are no bilateral quotas or export restraint arrangements. Export permits from exporting countries are not required.
 - x. No licences are issued on condition that goods should be exported and not sold in the domestic market.
7. Where there is no quantitative limit on importation of a product or on imports from a particular country:
- (a) Application for a licence can be made any time during a working day. Licences can be obtained within a shorter time-limit (2-3 hours) or for goods arriving at the port of entry without a licence.
 - (b) Licences are always granted immediately on request.
 - (c) There are no limitations as to the period of the year during which application for licence and/or importation may be made.
 - (d) An importer has to approach only one administrative organ in connection with an application.
8. None. The reasons for any refusal are given to the applicant in writing and normally relate to the goods on the Negative List.

Eligibility of importers to apply for licence

9. All persons, firms and institutions are eligible to apply for licences.

Documentational and other requirements for application for licence

10. A sample application form is available for reference in the Ministry. An importer is required to submit the following documents:
- Certificate of Registration or Incorporation of the company/firm.
 - A trade licence (wholesale or retail).

11. Upon actual importation (in the case of an item on the Negative List) an importer is required to submit the approved import licence or a copy thereof.
12. There is a licensing fee or administrative charge of U Sh 1,500 per licence (about US\$1.25).
13. There is no deposit or advance payment requirement associated with the issuance of licences.
14. A licence is valid for six months from the date of issue and is automatically extended for a further six months. Thereafter the validity can be extended as and when the applicant so wishes.
15. There is no penalty for the non-utilization of a licence or a portion of it.
16. Licences are not transferable between importers.
17. There are no special conditions attached to the issuance of a licence.

Other procedural requirements

18. There are no other administrative procedures, apart from import licensing requirements prior to importation.
19. Foreign exchange is automatically provided by the banking authorities for goods to be imported, on payment of local currency equivalent.