

REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE ON IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES¹

Notification under Article 7.3 of the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures

ZIMBABWE

The following communication dated, 4 October 2007, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of Zimbabwe.

Outline of system

1. Zimbabwe's imports are governed by the Open General Import Licence (OGIL) where imports and exports are exempted from licences. For certain products where import licences are required, the licensing system is administered by the Ministry of Industry and International Trade through the Control of Goods Act.

Purpose and coverage of licensing

2. Imports of certain agricultural products including live animals and fuel are subject to import licensing. Please refer to Statutory Instrument 350 of 1993.

Product description

- Maize grain and meal
- Maize seed
- Wheat
- Corn meal
- Corn soya meal
- Flour
- Barley
- Barley malt
- Sorghum grain, meal and malt
- Mhunga, meal and malg
- Poultry products
- Cotton lint, meal, seed and cake
- Soya beans, meal, cake
- Animal oils and fats (lard, tallow, dripping)
- Animal semen and animal embryo
- Apples
- Baby corn

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

- Bananas
- Beans
- Bean meal
- Beef, veal
- Bees
- Bones, bone meal
- Butter, ghee, cream
- Cattle, meat, hides, horns
- Cheese
- Citrus fruit
- Animal feed stuff
- Coffee beans
- Fertilizer
- Fish-fresh and dried
- Goats
- Grapes
- Groundnuts
- Hides and skins
- Honey
- Ice-cream
- Manure
- Meat meal, blood meal, carcass meal
- Milk, pasteurized milk, sterilized milk, UHT milk, lacto, or any liquid milk
- Oil seeds, oil cake, oilcake meal
- Offals and residues from oil seeds
- Pigs, live and dead
- Peaches
- Pears
- Plums
- Rice in the grain
- Potatoes
- Rapoko, rapoko meal and rapoko malt
- Seed for planting (grains)
- Seed for planting (trees, vegetables)
- Skimmed milk powder and full cream milk powder
- Sunflower
- Sugar, raw sugar and refined sugar
- Tea
- Vegetables
- Vegetable oils, vegetable fats and margarine
- Fuel

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

4. The purpose of licensing is for sanitary and phyto-sanitary requirements and statistical purposes.

5. The licensing system is governed by a Statutory Instrument namely SI 350 of 1993². It is not possible for the Government to abolish the system without legislative approval.

6. There are no products under quantitative and value restrictions.

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

- 7.(a) Application for a licence must be made before the goods arrive into the country.
- (b) A licence may be granted immediately upon 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) For fuel licences, prior recommendation is required from the Ministry of Energy and Power Development and the Ministry of Industry and International Trade issues the permits. For agricultural products, the Ministry of Agriculture issues the permits.

8. An application for a licence for fuel may be refused if the importer does not have proper storage facilities. For agricultural products, a licence may not be granted if the products are coming from disease prone zones. The reasons for any refusal are given to the applicant. In the event of refusal to issue a licence, the applicant can appeal to the Ministry for reconsideration of the application.

Eligibility of importers to apply for licence

9. All persons, firms and institutions are eligible to apply for licences. There is no list of authorized importers.

Documentational and other requirements for application for licence

10. Applicants are required to include information and documents on quantity of products, value of products, Certificate of Incorporation, CR14, Tax Clearance Certificate and application for import licence.

11. Upon actual importation, the importer is required to submit the approved import licence, the Certificate of Origin and other customs related documentation.

12. A licensing fee of ZW\$500 000 for individuals and ZW\$1 000 000 for companies is charged.

13. There is no deposit or advance payment requirement associated with the issuance.

Conditions of Licensing

14. A licence is valid for three months from the date of issue. The validity can be extended through a request for extension.

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 other conditions attached to the issuance of a licence.

Other procedural requirements

18. Apart from import licensing the importer has to comply with normal customs clearance procedures.

19. Importers apply for foreign currency form the Central bank.
