

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/LIC/N/1/ISL/1
26 January 1999

(99-0295)

Committee on Import Licensing

Original: English

AGREEMENT ON IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES

Notification under Article 8.2(b)

ICELAND

The following communication, dated 8 January 1999, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Iceland.

The delegation of Iceland hereby submits copies of the full text of all relevant laws and regulations in Iceland regarding import licensing procedures. In most cases, the laws and regulations are available only in Icelandic. Therefore, a short description of the content of the relevant laws and regulations is also included. For more detailed information on the content of the laws and regulations the delegation wishes to refer to WTO document G/LIC/N/3/ISL/1 dated 14 September 1998 which contains replies to the Questionnaire on Import Licensing Procedures.

AGRICULTURAL GOODS

Animals (Including Birds, Fish and Insects) and Animal Products, Feedingstuff, Seeds, Fertilizers, Plants, Plant Products and Goods of General Quarantine Concern

1. Act No. 54/1990¹ on importation of animals

The Law prohibits importation to Iceland of any kind of animals, tamed or wild and their genetics. The Minister of Agriculture by recommendation of the Chief Veterinarian can authorize the importation on a given condition, such as certification from foreign authorities on disease-free status of the animals. All animals upon entry into Iceland are subject to quarantine measures.

2. Regulation No. 444/1982¹ on fur-bearing animals and their importation

In Articles 3-9 of this Regulation, the quarantine measures of fur bearing animals are described. The duration of quarantine measures is at least 16 months for minks and at least 12 months for foxes.

3. Act. No. 25/1993¹ on animal diseases and prevention thereof

The purpose of this Act is to promote sanitary condition of the animals in Iceland and prevent them from new diseases abroad. The Minister of Agriculture can impose import restrictions on various import items such as hay, helm, soil, manure, meat and bone meal, blood, and blood plasma, unpasteurized milk, uncooked eggs, wool, animal hair, feathers, eiderdown, etc.

These measures are imposed according to the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.

4. Regulation No. 479/1995¹ regarding preventive measures towards animal diseases and import restrictions of animal products containing hormones

The Regulation contains a detailed listing of all items subject to import prohibition in an effort to prevent importation of animal diseases. It also contains descriptions of the waivers the Minister of Agriculture can grant as well as detailed requirements of the origin and sanitary certificates the importers must submit from the foreign supplier and foreign authorities.

5. Notice No. 483/1995¹ regarding importation of agricultural goods

This Regulation lists import procedures for agricultural goods under HS nos. 0201-0210, 0401-0408, 1601 and 1602 covering goods that have not undergone heating treatment, and what certificates are needed. The Regulation also states that certificates from the EU countries as well as Norway, Switzerland, Cyprus and Malta are valid in Iceland.

6. Notice No. 525/1996¹ regarding importation of uncooked meat

6.(a) with amendments, Notice No. 665/1997¹

The Regulation authorizes importation of uncooked meat from Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland and Greenland only and describes procedures for the importation and what kind of certificates is required.

¹ Available for consultation in the Secretariat (Market Access Division) (in Icelandic only).

7. Act. No. 76/1970¹ on salmon and trout fishing

Articles 75-80 of this Law restrict importation of live freshwater fish as well as describe procedures for sanitation and quarantine measures for importation of roes and ornamental fish.

8. Act. No 22/1994¹ on control of feeds, fertilizers and seeds

9. Regulation No. 650/1994¹ on control of feedingstuff

10. Regulation No. 301/1995¹ on control of seed

11. Regulation on control of fertilizers¹

The Law and the Regulations describe in detail registration and notification procedures for importation of feeds, fertilizers and seeds.

12. Act. No. 51/1981¹ on protection against plant diseases and pests

The Law authorises the Minister of Agriculture to impose import restrictions and regulations in an effort to protect Icelandic flora against new diseases and pests that imported plants could possibly be infected with.

13. Regulation No. 189/1990¹ on import and export of plants and plant products

The Regulation describes control procedures for import and export of plants and plant products, what measures can be imposed, certificate requirements as well as lists the types of plants and pests under import prohibition.

14. Notice No. 117/1990¹ on protective measures for import of compost for mushroom growing

The Regulation restricts import of compost for mushroom growing in an effort to protect cattle from being infected by bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

THERAPEUTIC SUBSTANCES AND GOODS

15. The Pharmaceutical Act No. 93/1994²

16. Regulation on the Registration of Proprietary Medicinal Products and the Issuing of Marketing Authorizations, No. 465/1995²

17. Regulation on the Registration of Parallel Imported Medicinal Products and the Issuing of Marketing Authorization, No. 582/1995²

NARCOTIC DRUGS, PHYSIOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AND RELATED CHEMICALS

18. Act No. 65/1974 on Narcotic Drugs¹

The Law prohibits import, export, sale, production, stockpiling and distribution of narcotic drugs unless the Minister of Health has granted special licensing and authorization for such activities, mainly to pharmacies and pharmacists.

¹ Available for consultation in the Secretariat (Market Access Division) (in Icelandic only).

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

OZONE PROTECTION

19. The Radiation Protection Act, No. 117/1985²
20. Regulations relating to safety measures against ionizing radiation, No. 356/1986²

WEAPONS

21. Act No. 16/1998¹ on Weapons
22. Regulation No. 265/1997¹ on weapons and ammunition

Article 5 of the Law and Articles 21-28 of the Regulation control and regulate importation of weapons, ammunition, explosives and fireworks. Importation is prohibited without authorization from the State Chief of Police, who grants trade and import licensing for those products. It is prohibited to import weapons that do not bear factory serial number from the producer, unless the weapon is imported for private collection purposes or museum display. Importation of the following types of weapons is prohibited; automatic or semi-automatic handguns and rifles and automatic shotguns. Importation of weapons manufactured for military purposes is prohibited.

COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT

23. Act no. 143/1996¹ on Telecommunication
24. Regulation No. 322/1985¹ on subscriber equipment
25. Regulation No. 589/1994¹ on CE marking

The licensing system based on CE marking applies to equipment to be connected to public telecommunication networks including radio networks. The other licensing system with type approval based upon documentation from an approved external test laboratory or tests by the Post and Telecom Administration encompasses all types of telecommunication equipment including radio.

The systems apply to goods irrespective of country of origin.

The licensing is not intended to restrict the quantity and value of imports. The purpose of the Law and Regulations is to ensure that technical requirements are met including electromagnetic compatibility.

MACHINES FOR PUBLIC WORKS

26. Regulation No. 388/1989¹ on Registration and Inspection of Machines for Public Works
27. Regulation No. 580/1995¹ on Machinery and Technical Equipment

The Customs Directorate are unauthorized to clear through customs new or used mobile or other construction machinery, prior to a declaration in relation thereto issued by the Administration of Occupational Safety and Health. At present the process is as follows:

¹ Available for consultation in the Secretariat (Market Access Division) (in Icelandic only).

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

The importer shall apply for the registration of each mobile and the construction machinery he or she intends to import by filling in a special application form. The Administration of Occupational Safety and Health then allocates a specific registration number to the machinery, writes the number down on the application form which is then returned to the importer. By then the Administration of Occupational Safety and Health has fulfilled its task concerning the customs registration of the machinery. Subsequent to the registration of the machinery the Administration of Occupational Safety and Health will inspect all machinery subject to inspection in accordance with Regulation No. 388/1989, and at present this means that the machinery's compliance with the requirements of Regulation No. 580/1995 on Machinery and Technical Equipment will be checked.

HAZARDOUS AND HEALTH RELATED GOODS

28. Act No. 52/1988¹ on Toxic and Hazardous Chemical Substances

Articles 5 and 6 of this Law deal with importation of toxic and hazardous substances and list those permitted to import such substances subject to approval by the Minister of Environment. Those are: manufactures of toxic substances, chemical factories, pharmacies, and distributors of toxic substances.

29. Regulation No. 74/1983¹ prohibiting the import and use of asbestos

Import and use of asbestos is prohibited in Iceland. Waivers can be granted from this rule by recommendation from the Administration of Occupational Safety and Health and only in cases where there are no substitutes available for the matter.

30. Regulation No. 330/1989¹ on chrome content in cement

The Regulation requires that imported cement cannot contain more chrome than 2 mg/kg.

31. Regulation No. 690/1994¹ on cosmetics

The Regulation mainly deals with prohibition on import and production of cosmetics that contain certain dangerous substances listed in annexes to the Regulation.

32. Regulation No. 236/1990¹ on classification, labelling and handling of dangerous substances

32.(a) Regulation No. 766/1997¹ on Amendments of the Regulation No. 236/1990

The Regulation lists in detail dangerous substances and how they should be treated when imported, manufactured, packed, labelled and distributed in Iceland.

33. Regulation No. 520/1991¹ on importation, production and distribution of toys containing lead

The Regulation prohibits importation, production and distribution of toys containing lead, except authorized specially by the Environmental and Food Agency.

¹ Available for consultation in the Secretariat (Market Access Division) (in Icelandic only).

34. Regulation No. 84/1996¹ on import, use and disposal of PCBs, PCTs, and substitutes dangerous to the environment

The Regulation prohibits importation and use of PCB and PCT substances as well as manufactured goods containing these substances if the amount of the substances is lower than 0.005 per cent.

Waivers can be granted from this rule by the Administration of Occupational Safety and Health after consultation with the Environment and Food Agency and it is absolutely clear that there are no substitutes for these matters available.

35. Regulation No. 694/1994¹ on the restriction on production and import of toys, ornamental objects that contain certain chemicals

The Regulation prohibits import of toys and ornamental objects that contain poisonous and hazardous substances such as benzene if the amount of benzene is higher than 5 mg/kg.

36. Regulation No. 447/1996¹ on the use and prohibition of the use of cadmium and its compounds

The Regulation prohibits import of goods if they contain higher amount of cadmium than 0.01 per cent of their weight. A waiver can be granted from this rule if it is necessary to use cadmium as colouring substance or binding agent for security reasons.

37. Regulation no. 448/1996¹ on the use and the prohibition of use of certain chemical substances in the treatment of textile products

The regulation prohibits import of textile goods if they have been treated with the following chemicals:

2,3-dibromophenyl phosphate,	TRIS	CAS-no. 126-72-7
1-aziridinyle phosphate-oxide,	TEPA	CAS-no. 5455-55-1
Polybrombyphenile	PBB	CAS no. 59536-65-1

38. Regulation no. 571/1997¹ on batteries and accumulators that contain certain dangerous substances

Article 4 of this Regulation prohibits import and production of batteries and accumulators containing more than 0.025 per cent mercury and cadmium and more than 0.4 per cent lead.

SHIPS, BOATS AND FLOATING STRUCTURES

39. Act No. 35/1993¹ on control of ships

The Law applies to import of ships, boats and floating structures. The licensing is statutorily required. The legislation does not leave the designation of the ships to be subject to licensing to administrative description. It is prohibited to import fishing ships that are more than 15 years old.

¹ Available for consultation in the Secretariat (Market Access Division) (in Icelandic only).