

IMPORT LICENSING SYSTEM OF ARGENTINA

Replies by Argentina to Questions from Turkey¹

The following communication, dated 1 November 2010, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Argentina.

1. For a long period of time, the Turkish companies that have export interest to Argentina report significant delays, beyond hundreds of days in some cases, in obtaining import licences for refrigerators (HS Code 84.18), air conditioners (HS Code 84.15) and washing machines (HS Code 84.50).

This trade-restricting practice and issue of our concern has been brought to the attention of the Argentinean authorities on various occasions.

In the same manner, the WTO Report on the financial and economic crisis and trade-related developments (JOB(09)/62) pointed out the fact that such delays could reach up to 200-300 days. Likewise, some members raised similar concerns summarized in the official document G/LIC/Q/ARG/10.

The period for processing non-automatic import licences is consistent with Article 3.5(f) of the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures.

2. It is our understanding that prior to importing refrigerators, air conditioners and washing machines, importers must obtain a non-automatic import licence from the Ministry of Economy and Production in line with:

- Resolution No. 61 dated 4/III/09. Ministry of Production. Amended by Resolutions 121/09, 123/09, 139/09, 251/09 Ministry of Production: Resolution No. 24 of Ministry of Industry and Tourism-Effective Date: 26/03/2009 for HS 84.15 and HS 84.18;
- Resolution No. 444 of 5/VII/04. Ministry of Economy and Production. Amended by Resolution No. 177/04, 529/06; 181/08; 329/08, 61/09; 123/09; 251/09 - Effective Date: 07/07/2004 for HS 84.18 and HS 84.50.

However, in reviewing Argentina's most recent responses to the Questionnaire on Import Licensing Procedures (G/LIC/N/3/ARG/5) dated 10 September 2008, we were unable to find any specific references to any measures with respect to the products mentioned above.

¹ See document G/LIC/Q/ARG/10.

Argentina has updated the information in its replies to the annual questionnaire on import licensing procedures, pursuant to Article 7.3 of the Agreement; these measures have therefore been notified.

3. Argentina made the following notifications to the WTO Committee on Import Licensing in compliance with Article 5 of Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures:

- G/LIC/N/2/ARG/4 (5 March 1999)
- G/LIC/N/2/ARG/4/Add.1 (19 January 2009)
- G/LIC/N/2/ARG/4/Add.1/Rev.1 (29 April 2009)
- G/LIC/N/2/ARG/4/Add.2 (1 April 2009)

declaring that the products in question are only subject to automatic import licensing procedures.

4. With this background, Turkey would like to pose the following questions:

- (a) What is the current import licensing procedure applicable to refrigerators (HS Code 84.18), air conditioners (HS Code 84.15) and washing machines (HS Code 84.50)?

Tariff headings coming under the non-automatic licensing system are not covered by the automatic licensing system.

- (b) Can Argentina provide detailed information on the legislative framework adopted for import licensing procedures for each good concerned?

Argentina has notified all of the Resolutions establishing automatic and non-automatic licences.

- (c) Does Argentina intend to revise and/or make a new notification to the Committee on Import Licensing Procedures in line with her current applications?

Argentina has notified its replies to the annual questionnaire on import licensing procedures, pursuant to Article 7.3 of the Agreement, in which the information on current licences is updated for 2008 and 2009.

- (e) Please indicate if and how Argentina considers her import licensing practices comply with her WTO obligations.

- (f) Do the Argentinean authorities re-consider taking steps to align domestic practices with the WTO obligations of Argentina?

Reply to questions (e) and (f): The application of the licensing systems is consistent with the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures.

- (g) When could Argentina provide responses to the Questionnaire on Import Licensing specifically for the procedures for the listed products for 2009 and 2010?

Argentina has regularly notified its replies to the annual questionnaire on import licensing procedures, pursuant to Article 7.3 of the Agreement.
