

**IMPORT LICENSING SYSTEM OF ARGENTINA**

**Questions to ARGENTINA from the UNITED STATES<sup>1</sup>**

The following communication, dated 2 April 2007, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the United States.

In response to Argentina's Questionnaire Reply dated 15 September 2006, G/LIC/N/3/ARG/3, the United States has the following questions:

- Argentina states that "footwear import licences are allocated to both foreign and domestic producers." Please describe how these licenses are allocated.
- Argentina also states that "certificates are issued and must be presented together with the rest of the documentation required for inward customs clearance." Please explain how these certificates are issued.
- In response to question 4 in this document, which asked whether import licensing is "intended to restrict the quantity or value of imports," Argentina answered "licensing does not restrict either the quantity or the value of imports." However, in reply to question 6.IV, Argentina stated "the current footwear quotas stem from the application of a safeguard measure." Does Argentina currently have a quota in place for footwear? Is this quota enforced through restricting the quantity of import licenses granted for footwear? Please identify the safeguards or any other quantitative restrictions applied in conformity with WTO rules that would justify Argentina's efforts to control these imports.
- Question 6.V asks Argentina to describe the lengths of time Argentina requires for processing applications; Argentina responds that import certificates for products including footwear and toys take "a maximum of 30 calendar days." However, U.S. exporters have reported that in practice, the processing time-period was between 60-90 days. Please describe how Argentina processes non-automatic import licenses to ensure that its system is WTO-compliant.

At this time, the United States requests the information identified above and asks that Argentinean authorities ensure that its import licensing regime for these products is fully consistent with WTO requirements.

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<sup>1</sup> G/LIC/Q/ARG/1.