

IMPORT LICENSING SYSTEM OF ARGENTINA

Questions to ARGENTINA from the UNITED STATES

Addendum

The following communication, dated 22 October 2008 is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the United States.

The United States thanks Argentina for its replies, provided in document G/LIC/Q/ARG/5. Based on Argentina's replies, as well as its recent replies to the Questionnaire on Import Licensing Procedures (provided in document G/LIC/N/3/ARG/5), we still have questions regarding Argentina's import licensing procedures for toys and footwear.

In its replies to the Questionnaire, Argentina states that the import licenses for toys and footwear are non-automatic import licenses, which are allocated on a first come, first serve basis. It also states that length of time for processing these applications is a minimum of ten days and a maximum of 30 days. However, the United States continues to receive reports from its exporters that they are encountering average processing times of 120 days. How does Argentina explain this apparent discrepancy between the timeframes it has identified, and those experienced by our exporters? While we have raised this issue several times, we have yet to receive an explanation from Argentina regarding this discrepancy.

Argentina has indicated that footwear imports are subject to certain labelling requirements, and toys importers must demonstrate compliance with the toy safety standards required by the Argentine Institute of Standardization and Certification. Are domestic producers subject to the same labelling and safety requirements?

Argentina explains that the import license requirement is intended to protect consumer rights. What consumer rights are protected by requiring import licenses for footwear and toys?
