

IMPORT LICENSING SYSTEM OF ARGENTINA

Replies by ARGENTINA to the Questions Posed by the UNITED STATES

The following communication, dated 9 May 2008, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Argentina.

Replies by Argentina at the meeting of 28 April 2008 to the questions posed by the United States at the meeting of 8 October 2007 on import licensing procedures in the footwear and toy sectors.

Import licences – Footwear

The requirements governing the allocation of footwear import licences are the same for both importers and domestic producers.

These requirements are laid down in Resolution No. 486/2005, which provides that such non-automatic licences "shall be granted to importers that have complied with Secretariat of Industry, Trade and Mining (SICyM) Resolution No. 508/1999". This Resolution provides that any footwear marketed in Argentina must comply with certain labelling requirements aimed at protecting the right of consumers to adequate and truthful information in order to ensure that they have freedom of choice in selecting their purchases.

The mechanism for the granting of footwear import licences is established in the Annex "Procedure for the issuance of the Footwear Import Certificate (CIC)" to Resolution No. 485/2005.

This Annex sets out the licence verification procedure to be followed by importers. The latter are required to submit an application for the import certificate to the Imports Department of the National Foreign Trade Management Directorate, which verifies, *inter alia*, the composition of the product (upper, insole and lining). The Imports Department also forwards the licence application to the Department of Fair Trade of the National Directorate of Domestic Trade for appropriate action.

Once issued, the import licence must be presented to the Directorate-General of Customs (attached to the Federal Public Revenue Administration), together with the rest of the supporting documentation normally required.

Finally, the period for processing licences does not exceed that provided for in Article 3.5(f) of the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures.

Import licences – Toys

The import licensing procedure for the toy sector is non-automatic.

The mechanism for the granting of import licences for toys is established in the Annex "Procedure for the issuance of the Toy Import Certificate (CIJ)" to Resolution No. 485/2005.

This Annex sets out the licence verification procedure to be followed by importers. The latter are required to submit an application for the import certificate to the Imports Department of the National Foreign Trade Management Directorate, which verifies, *inter alia*, the certificate demonstrating compliance with the Argentine Institute of Standardization and Certification (IRAM) toy safety standard, which is an essential requirement in order to guarantee consumer rights and protect human health.

The Imports Department also forwards the licence application to the Department of Fair Trade of the National Directorate of Domestic Trade for appropriate action.

Once issued, the import licence must be presented to the Directorate-General of Customs (attached to the Federal Public Revenue Administration), together with the rest of the supporting documentation normally required.
