

IMPORT LICENSING SYSTEM OF ARGENTINA

Questions to ARGENTINA from PERU

The following communication, dated 20 April 2009, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Peru.

Peru wishes to put the following questions to Argentina concerning the addendum to notification G/LIC/N/2/ARG/12 (of 6 July 2007), circulated on 19 January 2009 as document G/LIC/N/2/ARG/12/Add.1.

1. Resolution 343/2007 states that in order to evaluate import behaviour regarding certain textile products, it is necessary to establish a pre-release verification mechanism on a temporary basis to monitor and control imports of such goods, and it was therefore decided to establish the Textile Product Import Certificate (CIPT).

- (a) Would Argentina please explain why the number of tariff items subject to non-automatic licensing has increased pursuant to Resolution 330/2008, since the mechanism was established two years ago on a temporary basis?
- (b) Given the temporary nature of the mechanism, has Argentina determined how much longer it will apply?
- (c) Has the Argentine Government considered other more appropriate and less trade restrictive procedures than non-automatic import licensing in order to achieve the objective pursued by this mechanism (i.e. monitoring and control of import transactions)?

2. The Government of Peru has received reports from its export sector regarding the time it takes to issue CIPTs, which largely exceeds the periods laid down in Article 3.5(f) of the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures. Would Argentina please explain the reasons for the difference between the periods indicated and those which Peruvian exporters have experienced in practice in recent months? It is important to note Argentina's replies to the questionnaire on import licensing procedures (G/LIC/N/3/ARG/5, of 10 September 2008), which state that the minimum and maximum period for processing applications for import certificates is 10 and 30 calendar days, respectively. Argentina also reports that the allocation of all import licences to applicants is on a first-come, first-served basis. The application processing period should not, therefore, be more than 30 days.

3. Peru notes that Resolution 343/2007 has been amended once again by Ministry of Production Resolution 61/09 of 4 March 2009, which further extends the range of tariff items subject to non-automatic licensing. When will this be notified by Argentina?
