

IMPORT LICENSING SYSTEM OF ARGENTINA

Questions to ARGENTINA from PERU

Addendum

The following communication, dated 19 October 2009, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Peru.

A. Peru wishes to put the following questions to Argentina in the light of Argentina's replies to the questions posed by Peru at the last meeting of the WTO Committee on Import Licensing (G/LIC/Q/ARG/9) on 30 April and the most recent notifications submitted by Argentina, in particular document G/LIC/N/2/ARG/18:

1. With regard to question 1(a) in document G/LIC/Q/ARG/9, Argentina states that the increased number of products covered by the non-automatic licensing mechanism is explained by the volatility of the international market. Could Argentina please explain the relationship between the volatility of the international market and the purpose of its non-automatic licensing procedure which is to establish a pre-release verification mechanism to monitor and control imports of certain goods (section (g) of notifications G/LIC/N/2/ARG/12, G/LIC/N/2/ARG/12/Add.1, G/LIC/N/2/ARG/16 and G/LIC/N/2/ARG/18)?

Does this relate to Argentina's reply to the question posed by the United States, the European Communities, Canada, China and Japan (G/LIC/Q/ARG/8), which referred to the need to extend the coverage of the system of non-automatic licences to certain tariff lines corresponding to products that were sensitive to the changes in trade flows caused by the world economic and financial crisis? Could Argentina please explain what specific criteria it uses to determine that a tariff line is "sensitive" to fluctuations?

2. With regard to question 1(c), could Argentina please explain what other procedures it has considered in order to achieve the objective of monitoring and controlling imports, and why it believes that non-automatic import licensing is the most appropriate and least trade-restrictive system?

3. Regarding question 2, why are applications for non-automatic import licences now examined simultaneously rather than on a first-come, first-served basis as before?

B. In some cases, the Ministry of Production of Argentina requires the following additional information in order to issue an import certificate for miscellaneous products (*Certificado de Importación de Productos Varios*, CIPV):

- (1) Brochures pertaining to and description of the goods that are the subject of the application.
- (2) Process diagram showing the entire production cycle of the goods referred to in (1).
- (3) Details of the inputs used.
- (4) The origin of the inputs used and their relative share in the final production cost.
- (5) Full list of the products manufactured by the producing/exporting company.

In this regard, Peru wishes to know how such additional information contributes to achieving import licensing objectives, taking into account that that this could run counter to Article 1.5 of the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures, which states that:

*"5. Application forms and, where applicable, renewal forms shall be as simple as possible. **Such documents and information as are considered strictly necessary for the proper functioning of the licensing regime may be required on application.**"*
