

BRAZIL'S NON-AUTOMATIC IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES

Replies from BRAZIL to questions from the UNITED STATES¹

The following communication, dated 18 October 2009, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Brazil.

Brazil would like to provide information related to the questions posed by the United States in document G/LIC/Q/BRA/3 and its addenda, about Brazil's trade policy on lithium compounds.

Imports of lithium carbonate and lithium hydroxyde are subject to some controls in Brazil, since some lithium compounds have an application in the production of nuclear energy. Therefore, this is treated as a matter of national security. It is worth noting that controls on lithium compounds are not uncommon. Other countries also have controls on the production and trade of lithium products.

In Brazil, imports of lithium compounds depend on authorization by CNEN, the national agency responsible for nuclear energy issues. There is no discrimination against the country of origin of those products. Import licenses are granted on the basis of "first come, first served" criteria.

As any other operator, importers of lithium compounds have to be registered in SISCOMEX, the Brazilian system of foreign trade, which can be accessed with a proper software program and Internet connection. Each import request must be submitted to CNEN by means of a form that can be downloaded on the following web page:

www.cnen.gov.br/seguranca/requerimentos/sli_comap.pdf

With respect to information on the number of import licenses requested and the number of licenses actually granted, we note that from 2005 to date, less than 10% of the import license applications for lithium carbonate and lithium hydroxyde have been denied.

As Brazil had previously informed the Committee, an Interministerial Group was established to study the trade policy on lithium compounds. After some months of discussion, the Group decided to temporarily maintain the controls on lithium trade.

¹ See document G/LIC/Q/BRA/3 and addenda.