

BRAZIL'S IMPORT LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR LITHIUM COMPOUNDS

Questions from the UNITED STATES to BRAZIL

Addendum

The following communication, dated 21 December 2006, has been received from the delegation of the United States.

United States' Questions Regarding Certain Lithium Products in Brazil

The United States welcomes the notifications made by Brazil on 18 October 2006 under Article 5 (G/LIC/N/2/BRA/3), Article 7.3 (G/LIC/N/3/BRA/5), and Articles 1.4(a) and 8.2(b) (G/LIC/N/1/BRA/3) and while the documents provide general information about Brazil's import licensing regime they do not answer the questions the United States has submitted regarding certain lithium products, including lithium hydroxide and lithium carbonate.

For almost three years we have requested information on Brazil's import licensing requirements on certain lithium products. We are clearly requesting information on a commercially traded product. These lithium products are traded around the world and are important for manufacturing a number of ordinary commercial products. Natural lithium products such as lithium carbonate and lithium hydroxide are widely available on global markets. We are aware of no other countries, except Brazil, that restricts the import of natural lithium compounds.

At the June 2006 Committee, we asked for an update on the findings of the Inter-Ministerial Group and submitted additional written questions, as circulated in G/LIC/Q/BRA/3/Add.1. We request that Brazil provide the Committee with the findings of the Inter-Ministerial Group and respond to our written questions as soon as possible.

Brazil has not notified its restrictions on these products. Nor have our questions received response. The United States again requests that the Government of Brazil provide the information we have requested, both in this Committee and bilaterally, on its import licensing requirements for certain lithium products and that Brazilian authorities ensure that its import licensing regime for these products is fully consistent with WTO requirements.
