

BRAZIL'S IMPORT LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR LITHIUM COMPOUNDS

Questions from the UNITED STATES to BRAZIL

Addendum

The following communication, dated 2 April 2007, 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 three years we have consistently requested information on Brazil's import licensing requirements on certain lithium products. We are obviously requesting information on a commercially traded product. Natural lithium products such as lithium carbonate and lithium hydroxide are widely available on global markets. These lithium products are traded throughout the world and are important components in manufacturing a number of common commercial products. We are aware of no other countries, except Brazil, that restricts the import of natural lithium compounds.

At the October 2006 Committee, we again asked for an update on the findings of the Inter-Ministerial Group and again submitted written questions, as circulated in G/LIC/Q/BRA/3/Add.2. We request that Brazil provide the Committee with the findings of the Inter-Ministerial Group and respond to our written questions.

Brazil has neither notified its restrictions on these products, nor responded to our questions. The United States reiterates its previous request that the Government of Brazil provide the information we have asked for numerous times, 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.