

NOTIFICATION OF REPLIES TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE ON IMPORT LICENSING
PROCEDURES UNDER ARTICLE 7.3 OF THE AGREEMENT¹

Replies of MAURITIUS to Questions from the UNITED STATES²

The following communication, dated 17 July 1996, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Mauritius.

Question

Provide the exact application procedure for import permits and the role of each and every Ministry involved in the process.

Reply

An application for import permit for the importation of an item which is subject to the authorization of another controlling agency is processed as follows:

- (i) the importer may be asked to contact the appropriate controlling agency (Ministry, Department, para-statal body, etc.) to obtain the relevant authorization for import; or
- (ii) the Ministry of Trade and Shipping may also communicate with the controlling agency concerned and obtain the authorization directly. However, with the proposed introduction of the E.D.I. (Electronic Data Interchange) System, the import section of the Ministry will act as a one-stop shop whereby direct contact will be established with all the controlling agencies through the system.

It should be noted that authorization from the Ministry or Department involved is required for the import of specific products as listed hereunder:

Ministry of Health - for pharmaceutical products, edible oil and dangerous chemicals;

Ministry of Works - for second-hand motor vehicles;

¹G/LIC/N/3/MUS/1.

²See Understanding reached by the Committee on Import Licensing (G/LIC/M/4, paragraphs 5, 6, 9 and 10).

Ministry of Industry - for raw materials and equipment which are found on the scheduled list of E.P.Z. companies. Control by the Ministry of Industry is exercised if these products are being imported duty-free;

Ministry of Agriculture - for all agricultural products and salted fish to ensure that they meet phytosanitary requirements;

Ministry of Tourism - for the registration of pleasure boats;

Ministry of Fisheries - for fishing vessels;

Ministry of Environment - for ozone-depleting substances;

Customs Department - the Ministry works in collaboration with Customs for verification purposes;

Pesticides Control Board - for herbicides, pesticides and insecticides;

Marketing Board - for pulses and spices;

Passport and Immigration Office - this Office certifies that returning residents from abroad with second-hand vehicles have stayed outside Mauritius for 10 out of 12 years, which factor determines that they are eligible for exemption from duty payable;

Police Department - for arms and ammunitions;

Mauritius Standards Bureau - issues certificates for such products as water heaters, fireworks, PVC pipes and corrugated iron sheets, determining their compatibility with required standards.

Question

How would an importer of a specific product know the various Ministries/Departments that need to be contacted?

Reply

Any control exercised on a specific item is communicated to the public as follows:

- (i) publication in the Government Gazette;
- (ii) a list of controlled items and the controlling agencies concerned is affixed at a prominent place in the Ministry for the attention of importers;
- (iii) an Enquiry Counter is available at the Import Section of the Ministry for any information which importers may seek with regards to controlled items and import procedures;
- (iv) the same arrangement is made at the Customs Department to inform importers on controlled items and import procedures as well.

Departments and Ministries concerned with the application for import permits

- (a) Ministry of Health

- (b) Ministry of Works
- (c) Ministry of Industry and Industrial Technology
- (d) Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources
- (e) Ministry of Tourism
- (f) Ministry of Fisheries
- (g) Ministry of Environment and Quality of Life
- (h) Customs Department
- (i) Pesticides Control Board
- (j) Agricultural Marketing Board
- (k) Passport and Immigration Office
- (l) Police Department
- (m) Mauritius Standards Bureau