

**IMPORT LICENSING SYSTEM OF THE PHILIPPINES**

Questions to the PHILIPPINES from the UNITED STATES

The following communication, dated 4 August 2008, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the United States.

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Questions from the United States to the Philippines concerning  
Import Licensing requirements on Telecommunications

We understand that the Philippines requires that imports of telecommunications equipment be accompanied by a licence or permit meeting the definition of an import licence in Article I of the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures. We would appreciate additional information from the Philippines on these requirements.

The Philippines' most recent responses to the Import Licensing Questionnaire (G/LIC/N/3/PHL/5), submitted on 21 September 2007, do not indicate that import licences are required for the importation of telecommunications equipment. In addition, G/LIC/N/3/PHL/5 states that all products subject to import licensing in the Philippines can be found in the Philippines Tariff and Customs Code of 1978 (Presidential Decree 1464), as amended, and the BSP Circular No. 1389 dated 13 April 1993, as amended.

- Have there been amendments to the list of products subject to import licensing requirements since the Philippines last submitted its Questionnaire in September 2007?
- Is the import licensing requirement for telecommunications equipment new, i.e., established after September 2007? Has it been notified to the WTO?
- What agency of the government of the Philippines issues import licences for these products? What is the rationale for these requirements and what are the criteria for granting or allocating import licences for telecommunication equipment?

At this time, the United States requests the information identified above. We would also strongly encourage the Philippines to update its notifications to the Committee to include any new licensing requirements not contained in its September 2007 submission.

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