

**NOTIFICATION BY TURKEY PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 5 OF
THE AGREEMENT ON IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES
(NEW IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES OR CHANGES)**

Comments and requests from the UNITED STATES to TURKEY¹

The following communication, dated 15 May 2002, has been received from the Permanent Mission of the United States.

Turkey maintains import licensing requirements (through the “control belgisi”) on a number of agricultural products, including wheat, corn, rice, pet foods, certain kinds of fruit contained in HTS Chapter 8, and distilled spirits other than whisky contained in HTS 2208. Although Turkey has previously notified import licensing requirements on a number of industrial products, it has never notified import licensing procedures on the agricultural products to the Committee on Import Licensing, as required under Article 5 of the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures. It is particularly important that Turkey provide such notification since issuance of import licences for the agricultural products in question has frequently been denied. We have attempted to address this issue bilaterally, without success.

Turkey’s policy of discretionary import licensing for these agricultural products has created considerable uncertainty on the part of interested traders, and has acted as a significant deterrent to imports. In the interest of bringing greater transparency to Turkey’s import licensing regime, as well as ensuring Turkey’s compliance with Article 5 of the Agreement on Import Licensing, we would therefore request that Turkey provide a comprehensive notification of all of its agricultural import licensing procedures.

We would also encourage Turkey to update its responses to the WTO Questionnaire on Import Licensing Procedures, at outlined in Article 3, Paragraphs 3 and 5 of the WTO Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures, to reflect current import licensing procedures for agricultural products.

Of particular interest would be:

- Any specific administrative requirements related to import licensing requirements for the commodities mentioned above, including any quantitative limitations on the amount of imports allowed with a single import licence.
- The number of import licences granted, the number rejected, and the quantity of product imported, for the above-mentioned products, by supplying country, over the last 24 months.

¹ See Understanding on Procedures for the Review of Notifications (G/LIC/4).

- The Turkish government agencies involved in administration of import licensing requirements for the above-mentioned products.
 - The legal authority under Turkish law for such actions.
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