

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

Responses by TURKEY to comments and requests from the UNITED STATES^{1,2}

The following communication, dated 8 October 2003, has been received from the delegation of Turkey.

Question: Any specific administrative requirements related to import licensing requirements for the number of agricultural products including wheat, corn, rice, pet foods, certain kinds of fruits contained in HS Chapter 8, and distilled spirits other than whiskey contained in HTS 2208, including any quantitative limitations on the amount of imports allowed with a single import licence.

Answer: There are no administrative import licensing requirements for the above-mentioned products. The document "Kontrol Belgesi" which is used for public health purposes is not an import licensing requirement. It is just an administrative document for customs purposes and food analysis, being administered by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs on a simple request by the importer indicating that the imported agricultural goods are fully in conformity with the SPS legislation. This document also shows the importer/exporter, country of origin, customs of entry, customs tariff statistical position of the imported item. In line with the published regulations, imported goods are being controlled and tested in laboratories and automatically released without any restrictions or limitations. Regarding the controls within the context of SPS measures, the quantity of the goods to be imported is determined by the importers since there are temporary constraints in the capacity of the laboratory infrastructure. However, these constraints will be eliminated soon since the Turkish Government has already started implementing a comprehensive laboratory modernization programme.

Question: 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.

Answer: As requested, statistical samples are provided below regarding some products.

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

² G/LIC/Q/TUR/1.

Year	Commodity	Number of documents	Quantity of imports (ton)	Quantity rejected
2001	Corn	59	535,254	-
2002	Corn	178	1,172,000	-
2001	Pet food	136	4,925	-
2002	Pet food	136	5,959	-

Question: *The Turkish Government agencies involved in administration of import licensing requirements for the above-mentioned products.*

Answer: The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs is involved in the administration and implementation of the "Kontrol Belgesi" document.

Question: *The legal authority under Turkish law for such an action.*

Answer: The legal basis of the "Kontrol Belgesi" is the decree concerning the Standardization of Foreign Trade No. 2003/5, published in the Official Gazette on 27 December 2002.
