

**IMPORT LICENSING REGIME FOR RICE AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS**

Questions from the UNITED STATES to TURKEY<sup>1</sup>

The following communication, dated 19 July 2005, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of the United States.

---

Three times last year - on 27 April 2004, 27 August 2004, and 8 September 2004 - Turkey published, in its Official Gazette, changes to its import licensing requirements for rice. None of these changes were notified to the Committee on Import Licensing, however, as required by Article 5 of the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures. Faced with these requirements, US producers continue to have problems securing import permits for rice, which has created a significant barrier to US exports. These restrictions raise serious WTO concerns and the United States reserves all of its rights under the WTO agreements.

- When will Turkey resume the year-round issuance of import licences for all rice imports without requiring the purchase of domestic rice?
- When will Turkey submit the required notifications of its import licensing regime for rice and other agricultural products to the Committee on Import Licensing?

---

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