

IMPORT LICENSING REGIME FOR ALCOHOL AND ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Questions from the UNITED STATES to TURKEY¹

The following communication, dated 25 January 2010, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the United States.

The United States would like to request additional information from Turkey regarding what requirements must be met to import alcohol and alcoholic beverages.

In reviewing Turkey's most recent response to the Questionnaire on Import Licensing Procedures (G/LIC/N/3/TUR/9), we were unable to find any reference to distilled spirits, alcohol, or alcoholic beverages.

However, it is our understanding that prior to importing distilled spirits, importers must first obtain a "Control Certificate" from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA). The application form for this certificate must also be accompanied by a considerable number of documents.

1. Can Turkey please confirm that such an import requirement exists? Are there any other import procedures that must be met to import distilled spirits?
2. Are domestic producers also required to obtain the same Control Certificate from MARA?
3. Based on our initial review of the requirement, it appears that this procedure should be notified to the Committee on Import Licensing. Does Turkey intend to notify this procedure to the Committee on Import Licensing Procedures?
4. We kindly request that Turkey could provide responses to each question contained in the Questionnaire on Import Licensing specifically for the procedures for distilled spirits.

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