

**NOTIFICATION UNDER ARTICLE 5 OF THE AGREEMENT ON
IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES FROM VENEZUELA¹**

Replies of Venezuela to Questions from Uruguay²

The following communication, dated 18 October 2000, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Venezuela.

Question 1:

1(a) What is the period of validity of import licences once they have been issued by the competent body?

Import licences are valid for three months, with no possibility of extension. However, the system is administered flexibly with ample facilities for importers, including licence renewals with the aim of guaranteeing domestic market supplies and compliance with Venezuela's minimum access commitments.

1(b) Are there established periods for the submission of licence applications or for the granting of licences?

The administration issues public calls for the submission of licence applications by means of official notices. A period of 21 working days has been established for the submission of such applications and the granting of licences.

1(c) From what date does the import licensing system effectively come into operation?

From the date of publication of the official notice referred to in Article 3 of Official Gazette No. 36,831, dated 17 November 1999, on the documentation required for the licence application. The notice was published in the national press on 31 December 1999.

1(d) Is there any type of limitation or restriction, for licensing purposes, in respect of minimum or maximum import quantities of the products concerned?

No. The tariff quota is distributed as follows: 90 per cent for traditional importers and 10 per cent for new importers.

¹ G/LIC/N/2/VEN/1.

² G/LIC/4.

Question 2:

How are purchases of domestic raw milk linked to the possible issuing of import licences, as indicated in Section II.h.10 of Venezuela's notification?

The information referred to in this question is requested from importers for statistical purposes, with a view to evaluating production chains.

It should be pointed out that the documents requested from cheese importers are specified in the official notice published pursuant to the provisions of Article 3 of Official Gazette No. 36,831, dated 17 November 1999, concerning the adoption of the import licensing regime for dairy products. They include the requirement to submit a detailed list of purchases of domestic raw milk.

Question 3:

Does the non-automatic licensing procedure also apply to import volumes not covered by the tariff quotas negotiated by Venezuela during the Uruguay Round?

No.

If not, are imports outside the tariff quotas subject to any licensing procedure or mechanism?

The mechanism applied to out-of-quota volumes is one of automatic licensing.
