WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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Committee on Import Licensing Original: English

REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE ON IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES[1]

NOTIFICATION UNDER ARTICLE 7.3 OF THE AGREEMENT ON IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES (2022)

EUROPEAN UNION

The following communication, dated 7 September 2021, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the European Union.

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[1] See G/LIC/3, Annex, for the questionnaire.

Introduction

The EU import licensing system is based on the general premise that no import licences are required. However, some exceptions are applicable; in particular: i) for products that may be subject to safeguard measures against injurious imports; ii) for a number of products subject to EU surveillance with the purpose of improving transparency of import trends of the products concerned, without limiting the access to the EU market; iii) for certain agricultural products imported under Tariff Rate Quotas (TRQs).

Furthermore, import licences may also be required for the importation of certain goods in compliance with international commitments (e.g., CITES, FLEGT, Kimberly certificate scheme).

Outline of system

Import licences are issued by the competent authorities in the EU Member States or by the European Commission and are valid for a certain period which varies depending upon the different products.

Licensing is statutorily required for the products listed in the relevant legislative texts that also define the product coverage without leaving any administrative discretion. Relevant regulations contain provisions relating to the duration and expiry of the licensing regime and a licensing system can only be abolished by legislative act.

Further detailed information as well as replies to the remaining questions have been organized by the different legislative instruments owing to the different products involved.

Purposes and Coverage of Licensing

Please refer to each section below.

1 TEXTILES

Outline of the system

1. The following import regime schemes are maintained:

- An autonomous regime governing imports from one non-WTO Member, namely Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), with which no bilateral agreements, protocols, other arrangements or specific EU import rules exist.

- A surveillance regime.

Purpose and coverage of licensing

Replies to questions 2 to 5:

1.1 An autonomous regime governing imports from other countries

The legal basis is Regulation (EU) No. 2015/936 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 160, 25.6.2015, p. 1) on common rules for imports of textile products from certain third countries not covered by bilateral agreements, protocols or other arrangements, or by other specific Union import rules and its amendments. This is the recast version of former Council Regulation (EC) No. 517/94 (OJ L 67, 10.3.94, p. 1). A consolidated version of Regulation can be consulted at the following address:

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:02015R0936-20180226.

The system establishes quantitative restrictions on imports of certain textile products originating in certain third countries, namely DPRK, to be allocated on a first come, first served basis. For 2021,

while the system is maintained, no quotas have been fixed. Further to UN Security Council Resolution No. 2375 (2017) of 11 September 2017, Council of the European Union adopted Regulation (EU) 2017/1836 amending Regulation (EU) 2017/1509 concerning restrictive measures against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (OJ L 261, 11.10.2017, p. 1). Regulation prohibits to import, purchase of transfer, directly or indirectly, textiles, <…> from the DPRK, whether or not originating in the DPRK. It can be consulted at the following address:

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L:2017:261:TOC.

1.2 A surveillance regime

A surveillance mechanism is in place in case textile imports from third countries threaten to cause damage to the EU production of like or directly competitive products. The Commission, at the request of a Member State or on its own initiative may decide to introduce retrospective surveillance or make certain imports subject to prior EU surveillance.

The legal basis is Regulation (EU) No. 2015/936 (OJ L 160, 25.6.2015, p. 1) on common rules for imports of textile products from certain third countries not covered by bilateral agreements, protocols or other arrangements, or by other specific Union import rules. A consolidated version can be consulted at the following address:

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:02015R0936-20180226.

Currently, no third country is under this surveillance mechanism.

As the above-mentioned, the two import regime schemes are currently not applied.

For details on the procedures applicable, the eligibility of importers to apply for a licence, the documentational and other requirements for application for a licence and the conditions of licensing, please refer to the previous EU notification (G/LIC/N/3/EU/10).

2 AGRICULTURE

Outline of system

1. The import licensing scheme for agricultural products serves statistical and quota management purposes and is an automatic licensing system. As a general rule, the competent authorities in the Member States issue import licences to any applicant, which is registered on their territory for the Value Added Tax (VAT) purposes. Import licences are subject to lodging a security and are valid in all the Member States of the EU. Import licences have to be submitted at the same time with the import declaration.

Purpose and coverage of licensing

Replies to questions 2 to 5:

The system applies in the EU to the agricultural products described below originating in third countries, notably for the administration of the relevant WTO tariff rate quotas. The EU considers the method adopted to be the most appropriate to administer these tariff rate quotas.

When agricultural tariff quotas are managed by import licences, the European Commission's Directorate-General responsible for Agriculture and Rural Development shares its management with Member States' licence issuing authorities.

These import licences allow the EU authorities to monitor trade flows and administer import tariff rate quotas. To obtain an import licence, importers must apply to the competent authorities of the EU Member State where they are registered for VAT purposes and lodge a security (returnable on giving proof of import).

The Common Market Organisation (CMO) Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council (cited below) and various EU Regulations contain the specific provisions for the management of these tariff quotas; some of them are general and other ones are specific to certain products.

The legal basis governing the import licences procedures in the agriculture sector is:

- Regulation (EU) No. 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 922/72, (EEC) No. 234/79, (EC) No. 1037/2001 and (EC) No. 1234/2007 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p.671), the so-called CMO Regulation.

  Article 176 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 lists the agricultural sectors that may be subject to the presentation of a licence. A consolidated version of the Regulation can be consulted at the following address: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02013R1308-20201229.

- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/1237 of 18 May 2016 supplementing Regulation (EU) No. 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to the rules for applying the system of import and export licences and supplementing Regulation (EU) No. 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to the rules on the release and forfeit of securities lodged for such licences, amending Commission Regulations (EC) No. 2535/2001, (EC) No 1342/2003, (EC) No. 2336/2003, (EC) No. 951/2006, (EC) No. 341/2007 and (EC) No. 382/2008 and repealing Commission Regulations (EC) No. 2390/98, (EC) No. 1345/2005, (EC) No. 376/2008 and (EC) No. 507/2008 (OJ L 206, 30.7.2016, p.1–14). A consolidated version of the Regulation can be found at the following address: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1593518863142&uri=CELEX:02016R1239-20191020.

- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/1239 of 18 May 2016 laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) No. 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to the system of import and export licences (OJ L 206, 30.7.2016, p.44). A consolidated version of the Regulation can be found at the following address: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:02016R1239-20191020.

  The aim of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/1239 is to simplify and adapt the provisions applicable to the system of import (and export) licences to the legal framework set by Regulation (EU) No. 1308/2013:

  - Reduction of the number of products subject to an import (or export) licence;
  - Priority for electronic application and issuing procedures; paper copies as second option;
  - Using electronic customs procedures for proof of release for free circulation;
  - Absorbing existing specific rules on hemp and garlic.

Subject to an import licence:

A.	Rice;
B. C. and D.	Hemp seeds for sowing, raw hemp, hemp seeds not for sowing;
F.	Ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin.

For details, please see Annex, Part I to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/1237.

Note: While a general import licence obligation applies only to a couple of products as above, the system of import licences continues to apply for certain products where a Tariff Rate Quota is applied for. The following Regulations govern tariff rate quotas managed with a system of licences:

- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/760 of 17 December 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) No. 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the rules for the administration of import and export tariff quotas subject to licences and supplementing Regulation (EU) No. 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the lodging of securities in the administration of tariff quotas (0.J. L 185, 12.06.2021, p.1). It can be consulted at the following address: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32020R0760.

- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/761 of 17 December 2019 laying down rules for the application of Regulations (EU) No. 1306/2013, (EU) No. 1308/2013 and (EU)

No. 510/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the management system of tariff quotas with licences (OJ L 185, 12.6.2020). A consolidated version of the Regulation can be found at the following address: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02020R0761-20210601.

Procedures

6. The EU does not apply restrictions on the imports of agricultural products. However, imports of agricultural products at a lower duty rate than the EU bound rate is possible under Tariff Rate Quotas (TRQs). Imports under tariff rate quotas may be subject to an import licence.

I. Article 184 of Regulation (EU) No. 1308/2013 (the CMO Regulation) lists the three main management methods for tariff rate quotas:

a. First come first served.
b. Simultaneous examination method (licences).
c. Traditional/newcomer method (licences).

The above-mentioned Regulations, governing the import licences procedures in the agriculture sector, as well as the sector-specific Regulations bear information on formalities and filing in applications for licences; they are all published in the Official Journal. Information concerning allocation on the basis of licence applications is published in aggregated format on the official website CIRCABC and on "Europa" website (https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/market-measures/trqs_en) which is publicly accessible for any interested party. Amounts allocated to each importer are not published or communicated to external parties, as this concerns commercial confidentiality. Exceptions or derogations from the licensing requirement are not systematic, and if required they could be arranged by Regulation through the Committee procedure (Article 187 of Regulation (EU) No. 1308/2013).

II. The tariff quotas are opened on a yearly basis and their administration may differ, depending upon the product. For details, please refer to the specific products below. There are cases where the total quantity of the quota is divided in sub-periods. Import licences under tariff rate quotas are however issued on a monthly basis.

III. Licences are allotted to any applicant irrespective of their place of establishment in the EU. To ensure that allocated licences are actually used, a system of securities applies. If imports are not or partially not realised, the licence holder's security is forfeited or partially forfeited.

IV. The minimum time for applying for an import licence for a certain tariff rate quota is usually one week after publication of the opening of the quota. For import licences issued within the framework of TRQs see reply VIII.

V. After the closing hour for application for an import licence for a quota, the licensing authorities issue an import licence usually within 24 days maximum (see reply VIII).

VI. The time between granting an import licence and the date of opening of the period of importation is usually one week.

VII. Licence applications fall under the responsibility of a single competent authority without passing via other authorities. However, some EU Member States have different competent licence issuing authorities depending on their sectoral or regional organisation. The addresses and competences of the competent authorities issuing import licences are published on the official website of those authorities, or on the official website dealing with agricultural trade of each Member State.

VIII. Within the tariff rate quotas managed by import licences, the allocation to applicants is normally made by simultaneous examination. The Member States communicate a few days after the application closing date on aggregate basis to the Commission the total quantity under licence applications received. Operators lodge applications on a monthly basis. If the demand for licences cannot be fully satisfied, the Commission calculates to what extent the total quantity can be allocated and fixes a uniform allocation coefficient valid for each import

licence (Article 188 of Regulation (EU) No. 1308/2013). For tariff rate quotas managed by traditional/newcomer method (Article 184(2)(c) of Regulation (EU) No. 1308/2013) the eligibility of applicants is fixed in advance for a percentage to newcomers and for a percentage to traditional importers (with distinct allocation coefficient). To date, though, there are no more tariff rate quotas where traditional and new importers are distinguished.

IX. When export permits are issued by exporting countries, the tariff rate quotas are primarily managed by the exporting country. In this case the competent EU authority needs proof of the products being subject to the issuing of export licence or document by the exporting country authority. Therefore, the importer when applying for the import licence must submit the respective export licence or document to the competent authority as a condition for issuing the EU import licence. The import licences are issued automatically.

X. There are no cases where imports are allowed on the basis of export permits only.

XI. There are no products for which licences are issued on condition that goods should be exported and not sold in the domestic market.

7. N/A

8. The legislation does not give arguments for refusal of an application for a licence other than failure to meet the ordinary criteria.

Eligibility of importers to apply for licence

9. Import licences are issued without discrimination to any importer in the EU wherever the place of his establishment may be in the EU, without prejudice to compliance with the other conditions required under current rules. Anybody is eligible to become importer. For some tariff quotas, however, operators may be required to prove that they imported a minimum quantity of eligible products in the past.

Documentational and other requirements for application for licence

Replies to questions 10 to 13:

In the agricultural field the application for an import licence has to be forwarded to or lodged with the competent authorities in the Member States conforming to the specimen set out in Annex I of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/1239.

In general, there is no deposit or advance payment required associated with the issue of import authorisations. However, in the agricultural field the issuance of import licence is subject to a security in order to guarantee that commitment to import will be fulfilled during the period of validity of the licence, in case of tariff quotas also contributing to the enforcement of the quota fill in the interest of the exporting country. The amount of the security depends on the products and is laid down in the specific EU provisions applicable to the relevant product/sector. The security is released when the obligation to import is considered to have been fulfilled and the right to import under the licence is considered to have been exercised on the day the import declaration is accepted and the product concerned is put into free circulation. Specific rules are set in Article 4(1) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/1237 and specific amounts for each product are set in Annex II of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/1239.

Conditions of licensing

14. For agricultural products the period of validity of the import licences depends on the product subject to licensing. General periods of validity are set in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/1239, in its Annex II. The validity of a licence can only be extended in case of "*force majeure*".

15. There is no penalty for the non-utilisation of an import authorisation/surveillance document or a portion of it. However, for a licence in the agricultural field, the security is forfeited in whole or in part if import is not carried out, or only partly carried out during the period of validity of the licence.

16. Import authorisations are only once transferable between importers. Import licences constitute a right and give rise to an obligation to import under the licence during its period of validity. As a general rule, rights deriving from licences are transferable once by the titular holder of the licence during the period of its validity[2], but obligations deriving from licences are not transferable. The transfer of a licence is laid down in Article 11 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/1239.

17. No other conditions are attached to the issuance of an import authorisation for products subject to or not subject to quantitative restrictions.

Other procedural requirements

18. No other administrative procedures, apart from import licensing and similar administrative procedures are required prior to importation.

19. The banking authorities automatically provide foreign exchange for goods to be imported as well as to cover import licences. A licence is not required as a condition to obtaining foreign exchange.

Legal basis, coverage and specific procedures product by product

Remark on coverage: products listed hereafter are related to the specific sectorial Regulations mentioned for each product. For the overall list of products concerned by the EU licensing system, please refer to the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/1237 mentioned in the section above "Purpose and coverage of licensing in Agriculture".

2.1 Cereals and rice

Note: The import of cereals and rice is not generally subject to an import licence. However, for the management of certain tariff rate quotas, an import licence is required.

Legal basis:

- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/760 of 17 December 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) No. 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the rules for the administration of import and export tariff quotas subject to licences and supplementing Regulation (EU) No. 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the lodging of securities in the administration of tariff quotas (0.J. L 185, 12.06.2021, p.1). It can be consulted at the following address: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32020R0760.

- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/761 of 17 December 2019 laying down rules for the application of Regulations (EU) No 1306/2013, (EU) No. 1308/2013 and (EU) No. 510/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the management system of tariff quotas with licences (OJ L 185, 12.6.2020). A consolidated version of the Regulation can be found at the following address: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02020R0761-20210601.

- Commission Regulation (EC) No. 972/2006 of 26 June 2006 laying down special rules for imports of Basmati rice and a transitional control system for determining their origin (O.J. L 176, 30.6.2006, p.53) and its subsequent amendments. A consolidated version of the Regulation can be consulted at the following address: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1598952792640&uri=CELEX:02006R0972-20140901.

[2] For ease of reference, the following is an indicative summary of the various durations: Cereals and rice: until the end of the second month following the month of the actual day of issue of the licence; beef and veal: until the end of the third month following the month of the day of issue of the licence; milk and milk products: until the end of the third month following the month of the day of issue of the licence.

Coverage:

Product	CN codes
Spelt, common wheat and meslin other than seed, including products imported under tariff quotas	ex 1001 99 00
Barley, imported under tariff quotas	1003 90 00
Maize other than hybrid seed imported under tariff quotas	1005 90 00; 1005 10 90
Grain sorghum, imported under tariff quotas	1007 90 00
Husked (brown) rice	1006 20
Semi-milled or wholly milled rice, whether or not polished or glazed	1006 30
Broken rice	1006 40 00
Certain varieties of basmati rice in husked form	Certain products falling under 1006 20 17; 1006 20 98

Procedures:

Please refer to the above-mentioned regulation for details on the procedures to be followed.

2.2 Sugar (cane or beet)

Note: The import of sugar is not generally subject to an import licence. However, for the management of certain tariff rate quotas, an import licence is required.

Legal basis:

- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/760 of 17 December 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) No. 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the rules for the administration of import and export tariff quotas subject to licences and supplementing Regulation (EU) No. 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the lodging of securities in the administration of tariff quotas (0.J. L 185, 12.06.2021, p.1). It can be consulted at the following address: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32020R0760.

- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/761 of 17 December 2019 laying down rules for the application of Regulations (EU) No. 1306/2013, (EU) No 1308/2013 and (EU) No. 510/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the management system of tariff quotas with licences (OJ L 185, 12.6.2020). A consolidated version of the Regulation can be found at the following address: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02020R0761-20210601.

Coverage:

Product	CN codes
Raw cane sugar for refining	1701 13 10; 1701 14 10
Cane or beet sugar	1701

Procedures:

Please refer to the above-mentioned regulation for details on the procedures to be followed.

2.3 Milk and milk products

Note: The import of milk and milk products is not generally subject to an import licence. However, for the management of certain tariff rate quotas, an import licence is required.

Legal basis:

- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/760 of 17 December 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) No. 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the rules for the administration of import and export tariff quotas subject to licences and supplementing Regulation (EU) No. 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the lodging of securities in the administration of tariff quotas (0.J. L 185,

12.06.2021, p.1). It can be consulted at the following address: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32020R0760.

- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/761 of 17 December 2019 laying down rules for the application of Regulations (EU) No 1306/2013, (EU) No. 1308/2013 and (EU) No. 510/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the management system of tariff quotas with licences (OJ L 185, 12.6.2020). A consolidated version of the Regulation can be found at the following address: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02020R0761-20210601.

Coverage:

Product	CN codes
Butter, at least six weeks old, of a fat content by weight of not less than 80% but less than 85%, manufactured directly from milk or cream without the use of stored materials, in a single, self-contained and uninterrupted process	ex 0405 10 11; ex 0405 10 19
Butter, at least six weeks old, of a fat content by weight of not less than 80% but less than 85%, manufactured directly from milk or cream without the use of stored materials, in a single, self-contained and uninterrupted process which may involve the cream passing through a stage where the butterfat is concentrated and/or fractionated (the processes referred to as "Ammix" and "Spreadable")	ex 0405 10 30
Cheese for processing	0406 90 01
Whole Cheddar cheeses (of the conventional flat cylindrical shape of a net weight of not less than 33kg but not more than 44kg and cheeses in cubic blocks or in parallelepiped shape, of a net weight of 10kg or more) of a fat content of 50% or more by weight in the dry matter, matured for at least three months	ex 0406 90 21
Skimmed-milk powder	0402 10 19
Butter and other fats and oils derived from milk	0405 10 11 0405 10 19 0405 10 30 0405 10 50 0405 10 90 0405 90 10 0405 90 90
Processed Emmentaler	ex 0406 30 10
Emmentaler	0406 90 13
Processed Gruyère	ex 0406 30 10
Gruyère, Sbrinz	0406 90 15
Cheddar	0406 90 21
Pizza cheese, frozen, cut into pieces each weighing not more than 1g, in containers of a net content of 5kg or more, of a water content, by weight, of 52% or more, and a fat content by weight in the dry matter of 38% or more	ex 0406 10 30 ex 0406 10 50 ex 0406 10 80
Fresh (unriped or uncured) cheese including whey cheese, and curd, other than pizza cheese Grated or powdered cheese Other processed cheese, not grated or powdered	ex 0406 10 30 ex 0406 10 50 ex 0406 10 80 0406 20 00 0406 30 31 0406 30 39 0406 30 90
Blue-veined cheese and other cheese containing veins produced by *Penicillium roqueforti* Bergkäse and Appenzell Fromage fribourgeois, Vacherin Mont d'Or and Tête de Moine Edam Tilsit Kashkaval Feta Kefalo-Tyri	0406 40 10 0406 40 50 0406 40 90 0406 90 17 0406 90 18 0406 90 23 0406 90 25 0406 90 29 0406 90 32 0406 90 35
Finlandia Jarlsberg Cheese of sheep's milk or buffalo milk in containers containing brine, or in sheepskin or goatskin bottles	0406 90 37 0406 90 39 0406 90 50

Product	CN codes
Pecorino	ex0406 90 63
Other	0406 90 69
Provolone	0406 90 73
Maasdam	0406 90 74
Caciocavallo	ex0406 90 75
Danbo, Fontal, Fynbo,Havarti, Maribo, Samso	ex0406 90 76
Gouda	0406 90 78
Esrom, Italico, Kernhem, Saint-Paulin	ex0406 90 79
Cheshire, Wensleydale, Lancashire, Double Gloucester, Blarney, Colby, Monterey	ex0406 90 81
Camembert	0406 90 82
Brie	0406 90 84
Other cheese of a fat content, by weight, not exceeding 40% and a water content, by weight, in the non-fatty matter, exceeding 47% but not exceeding 52%	0406 90 86
Other cheese of a fat content, by weight, not exceeding 40% and a water content, by weight, in the non-fatty matter, exceeding 52% but not exceeding 62%	0406 90 89
Other cheese of a fat content, by weight, not exceeding 40% and a water content, by weight, in the non-fatty matter, exceeding 62% but not exceeding 72%	0406 90 92
Other cheese of a fat content, by weight, not exceeding 40% and a water content, by weight, in the non-fatty matter, exceeding 72%	0406 90 93
Other cheese of a fat content, by weight, exceeding 40%	0406 90 99

Procedures:

Please refer to the above-mentioned regulation for details on the procedures to be followed.

2.4 Beef and veal

Note: The import of beef and veal is not generally subject to an import licence. However, for the management of certain tariff rate quotas, an import licence is required.

Legal basis:

- Council Regulation (EC) No. 1149/2002 of 27 June 2002 opening an autonomous quota for imports of high-quality beef (OJ L 170, 29.6.2002, p.13): http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1406122170876&uri=CELEX:32002R1149.

- Council Regulation (EC) No. 1532/2006 of 12 October 2006 on the conditions for certain import quotas of high-quality beef (OJ L 283, 14.10.2006, p. 1): http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1406122268070&uri=CELEX:32006R1532.

- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/760 of 17 December 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) No. 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the rules for the administration of import and export tariff quotas subject to licences and supplementing Regulation (EU) No. 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the lodging of securities in the administration of tariff quotas (0.J. L 185, 12.06.2021, p.1). It can be consulted at the following address: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32020R0760.

- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/761 of 17 December 2019 laying down rules for the application of Regulations (EU) No. 1306/2013, (EU) No. 1308/2013 and (EU) No. 510/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the management system of tariff quotas with licences (OJ L 185, 12.6.2020). A consolidated version of the Regulation can be found at the following address: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02020R0761-20210601.

Coverage:

I. (a) Meat of bovine animals, frozen - Boneless -- Buffalo meat	 ex 0202 30 90
II. (a) Meat of bovine animals, fresh or chilled Meat of bovine animals, frozen	ex 0201 ex 0202

Edible offal - Of bovine animals, fresh or chilled -- Thick skirt and thin skirt - Of bovine animals, frozen --Thick skirt and thin skirt II.(b) Boneless meat of bovine animals, fresh or chilled Edible offal of bovine animals: thick skirt and thin skirt, fresh or chilled	 ex 0206 10 95 ex 0206 29 91 ex 0201 30 00 ex 0206 10 95
II.(c) Boneless meat of bovine animals, fresh or chilled Boneless meat of bovine animals, frozen: - Other Edible offal of bovine animals: - Thick skirt and thin skirt, fresh or chilled - Thick skirt and thin skirt, frozen	ex 0201 30 00 ex 0202 30 90 ex 0206 10 95 ex 0206 29 91
II.(d) Boneless meat of bovine animals, fresh or chilled Boneless meat of bovine animals, frozen: - Other Edible offal of bovine animals: - Thick skirt and thin skirt, fresh or chilled - Thick skirt and thin skirt, frozen	ex 0201 30 00 ex 0202 30 90 ex 0206 10 95 ex 0206 29 91
II.(e) Meat of bovine animals, fresh, chilled or frozen Meat of bovine animals, fresh or chilled: - Other cuts with bone in, other - Boneless Meat of bovines animals, frozen: - Other cuts with bone in, other - Boneless Thick and thin bovine skirt, fresh or chilled Thick and thin bovine skirt, frozen	 ex 0201 20 90 ex 0201 30 00 ex 0202 20 90 ex 0202 30 ex 0206 10 95 ex 0206 29 91
II.(f) Meat of bovine animals, fresh, chilled or frozen Meat of bovine animals, fresh or chilled: - Other cuts with bone in, other - Boneless Meat of bovine animals, frozen: - Other cuts with bone in, other - Boneless Thick and thin bovine skirt, fresh or chilled Thick and thin bovine skirt, frozen	 ex 0201 20 90 ex 0201 30 00 ex 0202 20 90 ex 0202 30 ex 0206 10 95 ex 0206 29 91
Meat of bovine animals, frozen Edible offal: - Of bovine animals, frozen: -- Thick skirt and thin skirt	ex 0202 ex 0206 29 91
Meat of bovine animals, frozen -Unseparated or separated forequarters - Boneless Edible offal: - Of bovine animals, frozen: -- Thick skirt and thin skirt	 ex 0202 20 30 ex 0202 30 ex 0206 29 91
Edible offal: - Of bovine animals, frozen: -- Thin skirt (whole)	 ex 0206 29 91

Procedures:

Please refer to the above-mentioned regulation for details on the procedures to be followed.

2.5 Pig meat

Note: The import of pig meat is not generally subject to an import licence. However, for the management of certain Tariff Rate Quotas, an import licence is required.

Legal basis:

- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/760 of 17 December 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) No. 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the rules for the administration of import and export tariff quotas subject to licences and

supplementing Regulation (EU) No. 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the lodging of securities in the administration of tariff quotas (0.J. L 185, 12.06.2021, p.1). It can be consulted at the following address: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32020R0760.

- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/761 of 17 December 2019 laying down rules for the application of Regulations (EU) No. 1306/2013, (EU) No. 1308/2013 and (EU) No. 510/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the management system of tariff quotas with licences (OJ L 185, 12.6.2020). A consolidated version of the Regulation can be found at the following address: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02020R0761-20210601.

Coverage:

Product	CN codes
Cuts of domestic swine, fresh, chilled or frozen, with or without bone, excluding tenderloin presented alone	ex 0203
Loins and hams boneless, fresh, chilled or frozen	ex 0203 19 55; ex 0203 29 55
Tenderloins, fresh, chilled or frozen	ex 0203 19 55; ex 0203 29 55
Meat of swine, fresh, chilled or frozen: - Fresh or chilled: --- Of domestic swine: ---- loins and cuts thereof, bone-in - Frozen: ---Of domestic swine: ----Bellies (streaky) and cuts thereof	 0203 19 13 0203 29 15

Procedures:

Please refer to the above-mentioned regulation for details on the procedures to be followed.

2.6 Poultry meat

Note: The import of poultry meat is not generally subject to an import licence. However, for the management of certain Tariff Rate Quotas, an import licence is required.

Legal basis:

- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/760 of 17 December 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) No. 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the rules for the administration of import and export tariff quotas subject to licences and supplementing Regulation (EU) No. 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the lodging of securities in the administration of tariff quotas (0.J. L 185, 12.06.2021, p.1). It can be consulted at the following address: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32020R0760.

- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/761 of 17 December 2019 laying down rules for the application of Regulations (EU) No 1306/2013, (EU) No 1308/2013 and (EU) No 510/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the management system of tariff quotas with licences (OJ L 185, 12.6.2020). A consolidated version of the Regulation can be found at the following address: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02020R0761-20210601.

Coverage:

Product	CN codes
Chicken carcass, fresh, chilled or frozen	0207 11; 0207 12
Chicken cuts, fresh, chilled or frozen	ex 0207 13; ex 0207 14
Turkey meat, fresh, chilled or frozen	0207 24; 0207 25; ex 0207 26; ex 0207 27
Poultry meat, salted or in brine	ex 0210 99 39
Preparations of chicken meat	1602 32 11; 1602 32 19; 1602 32 30; 1602 32 90

Preparations of turkey	1602 31
Preparation of poultry meat other than chicken and turkey	1602 39 21; 1602 39 29; ex 1602 39 85, 1602 39 85

Procedures:

Please refer to the above-mentioned regulations for details on the procedures to be followed.

2.7 Eggs and products in the egg sector and egg albumin

Note: The import of eggs and products in the egg sector and egg albumin are not generally subject to an import licence. However, for the management of certain Tariff Rate Quotas, an import licence is required.

Legal basis:

- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/760 of 17 December 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) No. 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the rules for the administration of import and export tariff quotas subject to licences and supplementing Regulation (EU) No. 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the lodging of securities in the administration of tariff quotas (0.J. L 185, 12.06.2021, p.1). It can be consulted at the following address: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32020R0760.

- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/761 of 17 December 2019 laying down rules for the application of Regulations (EU) No. 1306/2013, (EU) No. 1308/2013 and (EU) No. 510/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the management system of tariff quotas with licences (OJ L 185, 12.6.2020). A consolidated version of the Regulation can be found at the following address: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02020R0761-20210601.

Coverage:

Product	CN codes
Poultry eggs, for consumption, in shell	0407 21 00; 0407 29 10; 0407 90 10
Eggs yolks	0408 11 80; 0408 19 81; 0408 19 89
Bird eggs, not in shell	0408 91 80; 0408 99 80
Egg albumin	3502 11 90; 3502 19 90

Procedures:

Please refer to the above-mentioned regulation for details on the procedures to be followed.

2.8 Garlic

Note: The import of garlic is not generally subject to an import licence. However, for the management of certain tariff rate quotas, an import licence is required.

Legal basis:

- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/760 of 17 December 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) No. 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the rules for the administration of import and export tariff quotas subject to licences and supplementing Regulation (EU) No. 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the lodging of securities in the administration of tariff quotas (0.J. L 185, 12.06.2021, p.1). It can be consulted at the following address: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32020R0760.

- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/761 of 17 December 2019 laying down rules for the application of Regulations (EU) No. 1306/2013, (EU) No. 1308/2013 and (EU) No. 510/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the management system of tariff quotas with licences (OJ L 185, 12.6.2020). A consolidated version of the

Regulation can be found at the following address: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02020R0761-20210601.

Coverage:

Product	CN codes
Fresh and chilled garlic	0703 20 00

Procedures:

Please refer to the above-mentioned regulation for details on the procedures to be followed.

2.9 Preserved mushrooms

Note: The import of preserved mushrooms is not generally subject to an import licence. However, for the management of Tariff Rate Quotas, an import licence is required.

Legal basis:

- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/760 of 17 December 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) No. 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the rules for the administration of import and export tariff quotas subject to licences and supplementing Regulation (EU) No. 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the lodging of securities in the administration of tariff quotas (0.J. L 185, 12.06.2021, p.1). It can be consulted at the following address: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32020R0760.

- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/761 of 17 December 2019 laying down rules for the application of Regulations (EU) No. 1306/2013, (EU) No. 1308/2013 and (EU) No. 510/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the management system of tariff quotas with licences (OJ L 185, 12.6.2020). A consolidated version of the Regulation can be found at the following address: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02020R0761-20210601.

Coverage:

Product	CN codes
Preserved mushrooms of the genus *Agaricus* classifiable within CN codes	0711 51 00, 2003 10 20; 2003 10 30

Procedures:

Please refer to the above-mentioned regulation for details on the procedures to be followed.

2.10 Ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin

Legal basis:

As from 6 November 2016, with the entry into force of Commission Delegated and Implementing Regulations (EU) 2016/1237 and (EU) 2016/1239, the coverage is the following one:

Product	CN codes
Undenatured ethyl alcohol of an alcoholic strength by volume of 80% vol or higher obtained from the agricultural products listed in Annex I to the Treaty	ex 2207 10 00
Ethyl alcohol and other spirits, denatured, of any strength, obtained from the agricultural products listed in Annex I to the Treaty	ex 2207 20 00
Undenatured ethyl alcohol of an alcoholic strength by volume of less than 80% vol, obtained from the agricultural products listed in Annex I to the Treaty, in containers holding less than 2 litres	ex 2208 90 91
Undenatured ethyl alcohol of an alcoholic strength by volume of less than 80% vol, obtained from the agricultural products listed in Annex I to the Treaty, in containers holding more than 2 litres	ex 2208 90 99

Procedures:

Please refer to the above-mentioned regulation for details on the procedures to be followed.

2.11 Hemp

Legal basis:

- Article 9 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/1237.

Coverage:

Product	CN codes
Seed of the varieties of hemp, for sowing	ex 1207 99 20
Hemp seeds other than for sowing	1207 99 91
True hemp, raw or retted	5302 10 00

Procedures:

Please refer to the above-mentioned regulation for details on the procedures to be followed.

3 OZONE-DEPLETING SUBSTANCES – ODS – (CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES)

Outline of the system

1. The import of ozone-depleting substances (ODS) is subject to licensing. In the context of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on the substances that deplete the ozone layer, the European Commission issues ODS licences based on applications submitted via the ODS Licensing System. Imports (as well as exports) of controlled substances, referred to hereby as ozone depleting substances (ODS) and products and equipment containing or relying on ODS are prohibited. However, there are exemptions to this prohibition. Below, the responses to the questionnaire focus on the procedures in place for the importation of controlled substances.

Purpose and coverage of licensing

Replies to questions 2 to 5:

Legal basis:

- Regulation (EC) No. 1005/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 September 2009 on substances that deplete the ozone layer (OJ L 286, 31.10.2009, p.1). A consolidated version of the Regulation can be consulted at the following address:

  https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1566893918935&uri=CELEX:02009R1005-20170419.

For information on types of imports of ODS, which are exempted from the general prohibition in the European Union, see Article 15 of the Regulation. Article 15(2) outlines which types of ODS imports are allowed. The types are listed based on the use of the ODS. Furthermore, Article 15(3) of the Regulation indicates that a licence is required for activities listed in Article 15(2). The exemption to the licensing requirement is also outlined in Article 15(3). Four customs procedures are exempted from the licence requirement under the 45-day re-export rule.

Annex I to the Regulation outlines the controlled substances. The import of these substances is subject to licensing. Substances listed in Annex II to the Regulation (i.e., new substances) are not controlled substances and are not covered under Article 15 of the Regulation; therefore, are not subject to licensing.

Although import for activities outlined in Article 15(2) are allowed under the condition of a licence, this may be overruled by Article 20(1) prohibiting the import of controlled substances and of products & equipment containing or relying on controlled substances from any State not party to the Montreal Protocol. Furthermore, Article 18(6) establishes that, in specific cases, the European Commission

may share the licence application data with competent authorities of the Parties concerned and may reject the import licence application, if the competent authorities from the exporting country reports that the exporter is not authorised. The Commission applies this Article for instance with the countries that participate in the so-called informal Prior Informed Consent (iPIC) procedure.

Licensing System:

A licence is required in case of import of ODS. Licences are issued by the European Commission with the use of a software called the ODS Licensing System. A licence is required for the import of the substance itself, a mixture containing ODS and a product or equipment containing or relying on ODS.

Coverage:

The following goods are covered by the ODS licensing system:

Substances (ODS)	**CN/TARIC code[3]**
CFC-11	2903 77 60 90
CFC-12	2903 77 60 90
CFC-113	2903 77 60 90
CFC-113a	2903 77 60 10
CFC-114	2903 77 60 90
CFC-115	2903 77 60 90
CFC-13	2903 77 90 60
CFC-111	2903 77 90 15
CFC-112	2903 77 90 20
CFC-211	2903 77 90 25
CFC-212	2903 77 90 30
CFC-213	2903 77 90 35
CFC-214	2903 77 90 40
CFC-215	2903 77 90 45
CFC-216	2903 77 90 50
CFC-217	2903 77 90 55
Halon-1211	2903 76 10 00
Halon-1301	2903 76 20 00
Halon-2402	2903 76 90 00
Carbon tetrachloride	2903 14 00 00
1,1,1-trichloroethane	2903 19 00 10
Methyl bromide	2903 61 00 00
HBFC-21 B2	2903 79 30 90
HBFC-22 B1	2903 79 30 90
HBFC-31 B1	2903 79 30 90
HBFC-121 B4	2903 79 30 90
HBFC-122 B3	2903 79 30 90
HBFC-123 B2	2903 79 30 90
HBFC-124 B1	2903 79 30 90
HBFC-131 B3	2903 79 30 90
HBFC-132 B2	2903 79 30 90
HBFC-133 B1	2903 79 30 90
HBFC-133a B1	2903 79 30 90
HBFC-141 B2	2903 79 30 90
HBFC-142 B1	2903 79 30 90
HBFC-151 B1	2903 79 30 90
HBFC-221 B6	2903 79 30 90
HBFC-222 B5	2903 79 30 90

[3] Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1832 of 12 October 2021 amending Annex I to Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2658/87 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff, as modified through the corrigendum published in the EU Official Journal L 414, 19.11.2021.

Substances (ODS)	CN/TARIC code[3]
HBFC-223 B4	2903 79 30 90
HBFC-224 B3	2903 79 30 90
HBFC-225 B2	2903 79 30 90
HBFC-226 B1	2903 79 30 90
HBFC-231 B5	2903 79 30 90
HBFC-232 B4	2903 79 30 90
HBFC-233 B3	2903 79 30 90
HBFC-234 B2	2903 79 30 90
HBFC-235 B1	2903 79 30 90
HBFC-241 B4	2903 79 30 90
HBFC-242 B3	2903 79 30 90
HBFC-243 B2	2903 79 30 90
HBFC-244 B1	2903 79 30 90
HBFC-251 B1	2903 79 30 90
HBFC-252 B2	2903 79 30 90
HBFC-253 B1 (CAS: 421-46-5)	2903 79 30 90
HBFC-253 B1 (CAS: 460-32-2)	2903 79 30 90
HBFC-261 B2	2903 79 30 90
HBFC-262 B1	2903 79 30 90
HBFC-271 B1	2903 79 30 90
HCFC-21	2903 79 30 90
HCFC-22	2903 71 00 00
HCFC-31	2903 79 30 90
HCFC-121	2903 79 30 90
HCFC-121a	2903 79 30 90
HCFC-122	2903 79 30 90
HCFC-123	2903 72 00 00
HCFC-123a	2903 72 00 00
HCFC-124	2903 79 30 90
HCFC-124a	2903 79 30 90
HCFC-131	2903 79 30 90
HCFC-132	2903 79 30 90
HCFC-133	2903 79 30 90
HCFC-133a	2903 79 30 90
HCFC-141	2903 73 00 00
HCFC-141b	2903 73 00 00
HCFC-142	2903 74 00 00
HCFC-142b	2903 74 00 00
HCFC-151	2903 79 30 90
HCFC-221	2903 79 30 90
HCFC-222	2903 79 30 90
HCFC-223	2903 79 30 90
HCFC-224	2903 79 30 90
HCFC-225	2903 75 00 00
HCFC-225ca	2903 75 00 00
HCFC-225cb	2903 75 00 00
HCFC-226	2903 79 30 90
HCFC-231	2903 79 30 90
HCFC-232	2903 79 30 90
HCFC-233	2903 79 30 90
HCFC-234	2903 79 30 90
HCFC-235	2903 79 30 90
HCFC-241	2903 79 30 90
HCFC-242	2903 79 30 90
HCFC-243	2903 79 30 90
HCFC-244	2903 79 30 90
HCFC-251	2903 79 30 90

Substances (ODS)	CN/TARIC code[3]
HCFC-252	2903 79 30 90
HCFC-253	2903 79 30 90
HCFC-261	2903 79 30 90
HCFC-262	2903 79 30 90
HCFC-271	2903 79 30 90
Bromochloromethane	2903 79 30 20

Mixtures of substances containing ODS	CN/TARIC code
Deuterium and compounds thereof; ...; mixtures and solutions containing these products	2845 90 10 00
Isotopes other than those of heading 2844; ...other, other	2845 90 90 90
Preparations and charges for fire-extinguishers … for use in certain types of aircraft	3813 00 00 10
Preparations and charges for fire-extinguishers … other	3813 00 00 90
Diagnostic or laboratory reagents ...; certified reference materials, for SARS-CoV virus species	3822 19 00 10
Diagnostic or laboratory reagents ...; certified reference materials, Other; Other	3822 19 00 90
Diagnostic or laboratory reagents ...; certified reference materials, Other	3822 90 00 00
Mixtures containing chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), whether or not containing (HCFCs), (PFCs) or (HFCs)	3827 11 00 00
Mixtures containing hydrobromofluorocarbons (HBFCs)	3827 12 00 00
Mixtures containing carbon tetrachloride	3827 13 00 00
Mixtures containing 1,1,1-trichloroethane (methyl chloroform)	3827 14 00 00
Mixtures containing bromochlorodifluoromethane, bromotrifluoromethane or dibromotetrafluoroethanes (Halons)	3827 20 00 00
Mixtures containing hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), ..., but not containing chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), containing hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) of subheadings 2903 41 to 2903 48	3827 31 00 00
Mixtures containing hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), ..., but not containing chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), other, containing substances (HCFCs) of subheadings 2903 71 to 2903 75	3827 32 00 00
Mixtures containing hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), ..., but not containing chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), other	3827 39 00 00
Mixtures containing bromomethane (methyl bromide) or bromochloromethane	3827 40 00 00

Products & equipment containing or relying on ODS	CN/TARIC code
Medicaments (excluding goods of heading 3002, 3005 or 3006) ... put up in measured doses... Containing corticosteroid hormones, their derivatives or structural analogues	3004 32 00 00
Medicaments (excluding goods of heading 3002, 3005 or 3006) ... put up in measured doses... Other	3004 90 00 00
Mechanical appliances... - Fire extinguishers, whether or not charged - for use in civil aircraft	8424 10 00 10
Mechanical appliances... - Fire extinguishers, whether or not charged - other	8424 10 00 90
Mechanical appliances ... Parts...Of fire extinguishers, for use in certain types of aircraft	8424 90 80 20
Mechanical appliances ... Parts…other	8424 90 80 80
Tanks and other armoured fighting vehicles, motorised, whether or not fitted with weapons, and parts of such vehicles	8710 00 00 00
Other aircraft…Helicopters... of an unladen weight not exceeding 2,000kg…for civil use	8802 11 00 10
Other aircraft…Helicopters... of an unladen weight not exceeding 2,000kg…other	8802 11 00 90
Other aircraft... helicopters... of an unladen weight exceeding 2,000kg…for civil use	8802 12 00 10
Other aircraft... helicopters... of an unladen weight exceeding 2,000kg…other	8802 12 00 90
Other aircraft... aeroplanes... of an unladen weight not exceeding 2,000kg…for civil use	8802 20 00 10
Other aircraft... aeroplanes... of an unladen weight not exceeding 2,000kg…other	8802 20 00 90

Products & equipment containing or relying on ODS	CN/TARIC code
Other aircraft... aeroplanes... of an unladen weight exceeding 2,000kg but not exceeding 15,000 kg…for civil use	8802 30 00 10
Other aircraft... aeroplanes... of an unladen weight exceeding 2,000kg but not exceeding 15,000 kg…other	8802 30 00 90
Aeroplanes and other aircraft, of an unladen weight exceeding 15,000 kg but not exceeding 38,000 kg	8802 40 00 11
Aeroplanes and other aircraft, of an unladen weight exceeding 38,000 kg but not exceeding 100,000 kg	8802 40 00 13
Aeroplanes and other aircraft, of an unladen weight exceeding 100,000 kg but not exceeding 124,000 kg	8802 40 00 15
Aeroplanes and other aircraft, of an unladen weight exceeding 124,000 kg but not exceeding 132,000 kg	8802 40 00 17
Aeroplanes and other aircraft, of an unladen weight exceeding 132,000kg but not exceeding 140,000 kg	8802 40 00 19
Aeroplanes and other aircraft, of an unladen weight exceeding 140,000 kg	8802 40 00 21
Aeroplanes and other aircraft, of an unladen weight exceeding 15,000 kg…For civil use…other	8802 40 00 29
Other aircraft... aeroplanes of an unladen weight exceeding 15,000 kg…other	8802 40 00 90
Cruise ships, excursion boats and similar vessels principally designed for the transport of persons; ferry-boats of all kinds - seagoing	8901 10 10 00
Refrigerated vessels other than those of 8901 20 - seagoing	8901 30 10 00
Fishing vessels; factory ships and other vessels for ... fishery products - seagoing	8902 00 10 00
Floating or submersible drilling or production platforms	8905 20 00 00
Warships	8906 10 00 00
Instruments and apparatus for physical or chemical analysis… Spectrometers	9027 30 00 00

Customs procedure:

The licensing requirement does not apply in rare cases when the ODS goods remain in the EU no longer than 45 days and are not subsequently presented for release for free circulation in the European Union, destroyed or processed. Four customs procedures are exempted from the licensing requirement under the 45-day re-export rule.

The customs procedures exempted under the 45-day re-export rule are:

- Transit;
- Temporary storage;
- Customs warehousing;
- Free zone procedure.

Country restrictions:

An ODS licence will not be issued in cases of import of certain substance groups from certain countries as a consequence of an exclusion defined in the Regulation: the Regulation under Article 20(1) prohibits the import of ODS and of products and equipment containing or relying on ODS from any country not party to the Montreal Protocol.

Restrictions in ODS trade are imposed by the Montreal Protocol and its amendments. The amendments to the Protocol provide specific limitations for different substance groups. A particular group of ODS can be imported from a country if this country has ratified the relevant amendment to the Montreal Protocol. It is possible that a country may be party to the Protocol for one substance group but not for another. This requirement is applicable to all Montreal Protocol signatories. In short, trade of a certain group of ODS with countries which have not ratified the amendment of the Montreal Protocol related to that group is not allowed.

Some territories of Member States of the EU are excluded from ratification of the Montreal Protocol or its amendments and therefore trade with these territories may be limited or prohibited.

Procedures:

6. An importer must hold quota for the import of the ODS in the case of some imports. Quota is allocated annually for the next calendar year.

Imports for the following uses require quota:

- Essential laboratory and analytical uses;
- Halons for critical uses;
- Feedstock uses;
- Process agent uses.

I. At the beginning of each year the Commission publishes a notice in the Official Journal of the European Union about the quota procedure for the following year. The notice informs about the relevant details of the quota application process for the following year including the deadline for applying for quota. Importers and producers request quota for the period from 1 January to 31 December of the following year.

II. Quota is determined on yearly basis.

III. The unused quota is not added to next quota period. The Commission notifies importers of the quantity of the ODS and the use for which the import is authorised for the following year. The competent authorities of Member States also receive this information.

IV. Usually, it is about one month where companies can apply for quota. The exact timeframe is defined annually and notified in the notice in the Official Journal of the European Union.

V. The Commission processes the applications in about five-ten working days.

VI. It is usually approximately a three-month period between the vote of the Member States on allocating quota and the beginning of the quota year.

VII. The importer must approach only one institution which is the European Commission.

VIII. The decision on how much quota an importer or producer receives is made in accordance with the quota allocation procedure set out in Regulation (EC) No. 1005/2009, Article 10 and Commission Regulation (EU) No. 537/2011.

IX. Export licences are not issued automatically if import licence is required.

X. Not applicable.

XI. Licences for imports of HCFC for uses other than laboratory and analytical uses, feedstock or destruction were issued until end of 2019 under the condition that the good was later re-exported. The imported good was to be re-packaged and re-exported. Such type of import is not anymore allowed. More detail is provided in Regulation (EC) No. 1005/2009, Article 15(2)(e).

7. Applications for licences can be made all year long. The Commission must take a decision whether or not to issue a licence no later than 30 days after having received a correct application. Yet, in urgent cases the Commission endeavours processing the licences upon request.

8. The reason for rejection is always provided in the licence application form and it is the failure to meet ordinary criteria.

Eligibility of importers to apply for licence

9. Any undertaking which is defined as natural or legal person can register in the ODS Licensing System and after verification apply for ODS licences. This service is free of charge.

Documentational and other requirements for application for licence

10. The general content of a licence form is the following:

- Consignee;
- Country of destination;
- Consignor/Exporter;
- Country of export;
- Customs of entry;
- Customs of import;
- Customs procedure;
- Commercial description;
- Substance name;
- Use;
- CN code;
- CAS-number;
- GROSS mass;
- NET mass;
- Number of units;
- Nature of substance.

Licences for import (and export) of fire extinguishers containing halon for use on aircrafts do not contain information on the gross mass and net mass.

11 to 13: Not applicable.

Conditions of licensing

14. The licence cannot be extended or transferred. The undertaking must cancel an expired licence and apply for a new licence.

Most import licences have a maximum validity of 28 days (seven days before and 21 days after the estimated date of import). In cases where this validity period exceeds the licensing year (before 1 January and after 31 December), the validity period is cut accordingly. The validity of the licence is also cut when the date of issue is less than seven days before the estimated date of import or if the licence is issued after that date.

Different rules apply to the validity period for the import (and export) licences for fire extinguishers containing halon for use on aircrafts. Such licence is valid from the day it is issued until the end of the calendar year for which it was issued. In cases where the application proceeds the licensing year (i.e., it is issued before 1 January), the validity period starts 1 January of the following year. Such licences can be used multiple times during their validity period, unlike all other licence types that can be used only once.

15. Not applicable.

16. Not applicable.

17. Not applicable

Other procedural requirements

18. Not applicable.

19. Not applicable.

4 FLUORINATED GASES INCLUDING HYDROFLUOROCARBONS (HFCS)

Outline of system

Companies must have a prior valid registration in the F-Gas Portal and HFC Licensing System (the registry) to import and export fluorinated gases (f-gases) into and from the European Union above

the quantities set out under Article 19 of the F-gas Regulation. A valid registration equals to a licence to import and export these gases, as required under the Montreal Protocol. In addition, for import of bulk hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) it is a requirement that the quantity of HFCs placed on the market are covered by quota on an annual basis.

Furthermore, importers placing on the market (e.g., import released for free circulation) refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pump equipment charged with HFCs must also be registered and the quantities of HFCs must be accounted for within the quota system at the time of import. This must be documented, and a declaration of conformity must be drawn up in this respect.

Also, the placing on the market of certain products and equipment containing f-gases with a certain global warming potential are prohibited and the placing on the market of non-refillable containers of fluorinated gases for certain uses is forbidden. Equipment, products and containers with fluorinated gases must be labelled appropriately.

The replies below focus on the procedures in place for import of bulk HFCs and HFCs imported refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pump equipment pre-charged with HFCs.

Purpose and coverage of licensing

Replies to questions 2 to 5:

Legal basis:

- Regulation (EU) No. 517/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 on fluorinated greenhouse gases (OJ L 150, 20.5.2014, p.195) ("the F-gas Regulation"):

  https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32014R0517.

- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 1191/2014 of 30 October 2014 determining the format and means for submitting the report referred to in Article 19 of Regulation (EU) No. 517/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council on fluorinated greenhouse gases (OJ L 318, 5.11.2014, p.5) and its subsequent amendments. A consolidated version of the Regulation can be consulted at the following address:

  https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1566894158913&uri=CELEX:02014R1191-20190417.

HFCs are together with perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF6) a fluorinated greenhouse gas (F-gas). F-gases are powerful greenhouse gases, with a global warming effect up to 23,000 times greater than carbon dioxide (CO2). HFC is the most relevant F-gases from a climate perspective. Reducing emissions from fluorinated greenhouse gases is a part of EU's effort to implement the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Articles 17 and 19 of the F-gas Regulation together with Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 1191/2014 establish an obligation for actors in the HFCs market to register in the F-gas Portal – an electronic registry for quotas for placing HFCs on the market and for reporting. Only companies with a prior valid registration can import and export HFCs into and from the European Union.

Article 15 of the F-gas Regulation establishes the quota requirements regarding bulk HFCs, applicable since 1 January 2015.

The quota requirement do not apply to the placing on the market of quantities of less than 100 tonnes of CO2 equivalent of HFC by a producer or an importer per year. They also do not apply to the following categories of HFCs:

a) imported into the Union for destruction;

b) used by a producer as feedstock;

c) supplied directly by a producer or an importer to undertakings, for export out of the Union, where those HFCs are not subsequently made available to any other party within the Union, prior to export;

d) supplied directly by a producer or an importer for use in military equipment;

e) supplied directly by a producer or an importer to an undertaking using it for the etching of semiconductor material or the cleaning of chemicals vapour deposition chambers within the semiconductor manufacturing sector;

f) supplied directly by a producer or an importer to an undertaking producing metered dose inhalers for the delivery of pharmaceutical ingredients (only as from 1 January 2018).

However, registration requirements remain for companies importing for the exempted uses listed above (except for the amounts <100t CO2).

The licence registration and the quota system implements the requirements related to HFCs under the Montreal Protocol on the substances that deplete the ozone layer, and in particular its so-called Kigali Amendment that added HFCs to the list of controlled substances and agreed to a global phase-down of production and consumption of HFCs and required the implementation of a licensing system for import and export of HFCs.

Pursuant to Article 16 of the F-gas Regulation, the quotas of HFCs are allocated to the undertakings annually by the European Commission based on a system that takes into account amounts historically placed on the market by certain companies and declarations made by any undertaking intending to place HFCs on the market. The phase-down steps are defined in accordance with Annex V of the F-gas Regulation and the mechanism to calculate the size of the quotas is laid down in Annex VI.

Undertakings can be EU and non-EU companies. Non-EU companies must nominate an only representative established in the EU for the purpose of compliance with the requirements of the F-gas Regulation.

Article 14 of the F-gas Regulation establishes the requirements related to the placing on the market of refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pump equipment charged with HFCs, inter alia the link to the quota system and the declaration of conformity to this end. These conditions apply to all placing on the market, including for imported equipment released for free circulation. The purpose of this provision is to safeguard the environmental integrity of the phase-down of bulk HFCs.

Coverage:

The following HFC's are listed in Annex I, Section 1, of the F-gas Regulation:

Substances (HFCs)	**CN/TARIC code**
HFC-23 - trifluoromethane (fluoroform)	2903410000
HFC-32 – difluoromethane	2903420000
HFC-41 - fluoromethane (methyl fluoride)	2903430010
HFC-125 – pentafluoroethane	2903430020
HFC-134 - 1,1,2,2-tetrafluoroethane	2903450020
HFC-134a - 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane	2903450010
HFC-143 - 1,1,2-trifluoroethane	2903440030
HFC-143a - 1,1,1-trifluoroethane	2903440020
HFC-152 - 1,2-difluoroethane	2903430020
HFC-152a - 1,1-difluoroethane	2903430030
HFC-161 - fluoroethane (ethyl fluoride)	2903499010
HFC-227ea - 1,1,1,2,3,3,3-heptafluoropropane	2903460010
HFC-236cb - 1,1,1,2,2,3-hexafluoropropane	2903460020
HFC-236ea - 1,1,1,2,3,3-hexafluoropropane	2903460030
HFC-236fa - 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoropropane	2903460040
HFC-245ca - 1,1,2,2,3-pentafluoropropane	2903470020
HFC-245fa - 1,1,1,3,3-pentafluoropropane	2903470010
HFC-365 mfc - 1,1,1,3,3-pentafluorobutane	2903480010
HFC-43-10 mee -1,1,1,2,2,3,4,5,5,5-decafluoropentane	2903480020

Customs procedure:

Normal customs procedures apply.

Country restrictions:

None

Procedures:

6. Guidance on procedures for quota allocation and licences can be found on the European Commission web page: https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/f-gas/reporting_en.

Companies intending to import in bulk or import refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pump equipment charged with HFCs can request registration (licence) in the registry. The detailed requirements for registrations are laid down in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 2019/661 of 25 April 2019 ensuring the smooth functioning of the electronic registry for quotas for placing hydrofluorocarbons on the market (OJ L 112, 26.4.2019, p.11).

At the beginning of each year the European Commission publishes a notice in the Official Journal of the European Union about the annual quota procedure for the following year. The notice is also posted on the HFC Registry information-board and on the European Commission's website. The notice informs about the relevant details of the quota application process including the deadlines.

Companies report on quantities imported and exported by 31 March in the year following the activity. The reporting is done directly in a reporting tool. The reporting format is based on Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 1191/2014.

I. Reference values for the quota allocation are published in a Commission Decision every three years and the quota is updated annually. The names of the undertakings having a reference value are publicly available, whereas the values are commercially confidential.

II. Quota is determined on a yearly basis. It is based on the account amounts historically placed on the market (tri-annual reference values) since 2015 and annual declarations made regarding the intention to place additional HFCs on the market. The quotas are calculated in accordance with the phase-down schedule in Annex V of the F-gas Regulation and by applying an allocation mechanism laid down in Annex VI to the F-gas Regulation.

III. Unused quota is valid only for the year it is allocated and can only be used for either import or production.

IV. The validity of the licence is in principle time unlimited. The timeframe for the licence registry can vary depending on information provided by the company but is usually completed within a few working days if the provided information is accurate and complete. Companies must be registered (have a licence) before they can get a quota.

V. Min and max length of licence registry requests – one day to a few months – depending on completeness and accurateness of information provided.

VI. Import may only occur when a company is having sufficient quota after having been licenced to import. Hence, it the annual quota allocation cycle that is decisive. Usually, the declaration deadline is in June/July in the year preceding the year where the quota is becoming valid.

VII. Only the European Commission is involved in the processes. Member States are involved via an implementing Committee as regards the determination of the tri-annual reference values.

VIII. Quota is allocated based on historic amounts placed on the market (tri-annual reference value) since 2015 and annual declarations on the intention to place on the market. The latter quotas are allocated on a pro rata basis. See Article 16 and Annex VI of the F-gas Regulation.

IX. Not applicable

X. Not applicable.

XI. Not applicable.

7. Registration in the F-gas Registry can happen all year long. Applications for quota can only be made during a declaration period to be determined annually by the Commission through a notice published in the Official Journal of the Commission.

8. Companies that meet the conditions set out in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 2019/661 ensuring the smooth functioning of the electronic registry for quotas for placing hydrofluorocarbons on the market are being registered (licenced). The Commission may refuse, suspend or cancel a registration if the conditions are not fulfilled.

Eligibility of importers to apply for licence

9. An undertaking that constitutes a natural or legal person can request registration in the registry and may after validation apply for HFC quota pursuant to Article 16(2) or 16(4) of Regulation (EU) No. 517/2014 for a given year. In order to be eligible for applying for quota, the deadlines for submitting and for completing an application to register in the registry are specified by the Commission in a notice published in the Official Journal.

Registration is compulsory for the following:

(a) producers and importers to which a quota for the placing on the market of hydrofluorocarbons has been allocated in accordance with Article 16(5);

(b) undertakings to which a quota is transferred in accordance with Article 18;

(c) producers and importers declaring their intention to submit a declaration pursuant to Article 16(2);

(d) producers and importers supplying, or undertakings in receipt of hydrofluorocarbons for the purposes listed in points (a) to (f) of the second subparagraph of Article 15(2);

(e) importers of equipment placing pre-charged equipment on the market where the hydrofluorocarbons contained in the equipment have not been placed on the market prior to the charging of that equipment in accordance with Article 14;

(f) any undertaking importing fluorinated gases needs to be registered before undertaking such activities in accordance with Article 19 and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 2014/1191.

This service is free of charge. The list of companies having quota reference values is being published in tri-annual Commission Decisions.

Documentational and other requirements for application for licence

10. The general information requirements for a registration licence is laid down in Article 3 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 2019/661.

For undertakings established in the Union:

a) name and legal form of the undertaking;

b) full address;

c) telephone number;

d) VAT number;

e) Economic Operators Registration and Identification (EORI) number;

f) the name and e-mail address of a contact person who is either a beneficial owner or an employee of the company, authorised to perform legally binding activities on behalf of the company;

g) a description of the undertaking's business activities;

h) written confirmation of the undertaking's intention to register in the registry signed by a beneficial owner or employee of the undertaking;

i) bank account details – and validated.

For undertakings established outside the Union (and that have mandated an only representative as referred to in Article 16(5) of the F-gas Regulation):

(a) the information listed in points (a), (b) and (c) above, but with respect to both the undertaking and the only representative, and accompanied, in the case of the information listed in point (a), a relevant official document on which the name and legal form appears in each case, together with a certified translation of that document in English;

(b) the information listed in points (d), (e) and (i) above, but with respect to the only representative rather than the undertaking;
(c) the full name of one contact person who is either a beneficial owner or an employee of the only representative of the company authorised to perform legally binding activities on behalf of the only representative and the company;

(d) an electronic address for the only representative;

(e) a description of the undertaking's business activities;

(f) the written confirmation listed in point (h) above but signed additionally by a beneficial owner or employee of the only representative.

11. Upon importation of bulk HFCs no additional documents are required under the F-Gas Regulation. Upon importation of refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pump equipment charged with HFCs a declaration of conformity must be available.

12 to 13. There is no fee.

Conditions of licensing and quota allocation

14. Registration licence is valid until cancelled or suspended by the Commission in line with Article 6 of Commission Implementing Regulation No. 2019/661, or until cancelled upon a request submitted by the company. Bulk quotas are valid only for the year for which they are allocated.

15. There is no penalty for unused licences or quota. Undertakings that have exceeded their quota are allocated a reduced quota allocation for the allocation period after the excess has been detected. The amount of reduction is calculated as 200% of the amount by which the quota was exceeded.

16. According to Article 18 of the F-gas Regulation bulk quota allocated can be transferred to other bulk importers or producers. Only importers and producers that have received a reference value can transfer their quota. This is to prevent declarations for quota with the sole purpose of selling the quota. In addition, penalties for exceeding the quota are laid down in the legislation of the EU Member States in accordance with Article 25.

17. Not applicable.

Other procedural requirements

18. Not applicable.

19. Not applicable.

5 IMPORT OF ROUGH DIAMONDS

Outline of system

1. The EU as a whole is a single Participant in the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme. The Kimberley Process establishes minimum requirements for an international scheme of certification for rough diamonds with a view to breaking the link between armed conflict and the trade in rough diamonds.

The system applies to rough diamonds originating in and coming from a participant. A participant is defined as a State, international organization of States or dependent territory of a State, or a customs territory.

Rough diamonds may legally be imported to or exported from any of the Member States. Every person who imports rough diamonds must ensure that the diamonds are in a tamper-resistant container that meets the requirements of the regulations and are accompanied by a valid Kimberley Process Certificate that was issued by a participant, has not been invalidated by the participant and that contains accurate information. In-transit rough diamonds are deemed not to be imported or exported. Since 30 March 2014, Greenland, one of the overseas countries and territories participates in the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme through its cooperation with the EU.

Purpose and coverage of licensing

Replies to questions 2 to 5:

Legal basis:

- Council Regulation (EC) No 2368/2002 of 20 December 2002 implementing the Kimberley Process certification scheme for the international trade in rough diamonds. (OJ L 358, 31.12.2002, p. 28) and its amendments. The latest consolidated version of the Regulation can be consulted at the following address:

  https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02002R2368-20210101

The Regulation provides for controls on the import, export or transit across the EU of rough diamonds in order to meet the EU's obligations under the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme.

Article 3 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 2368/2002 provides that the import of rough diamonds into the EU shall be prohibited unless all of the following conditions are fulfilled:

(a) The rough diamonds are accompanied by a certificate validated by the competent authority of a participant (i.e., of the Kimberley Process);

(b) The rough diamonds are contained in tamper-resistant containers, and the seals applied at export by that participant are not broken;

(c) The certificate clearly identifies the consignment to which it refers.

Importers or economic operators can freely choose a point of entry at an external border of the EU for the import of rough diamonds. However, every import of rough diamonds must first be verified by an EU authority, including those destined to Greenland. An EU authority is a competent authority designated by a Member State and agreed by the Commission to fulfil certain tasks in connection with the implementation of the KPCS, namely the verification of incoming shipments and KP certificates for conformity with KP rules.

Acceptance of a customs declaration for release for free circulation of rough diamonds pursuant to Regulation (EU) No. 952/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council can only happen after the containers and certificates had been verified by an EU authority.

Article 4 of the Regulation provides:

1. Containers and the corresponding certificates shall be submitted for verification, together and at the earliest opportunity, to a Union authority either in the Member State where they are imported or in the Member State for which they are destined, as indicated in the accompanying documents.

2. In cases where rough diamonds are imported into a Member State where there is no Union authority, they shall be submitted to the appropriate Union authority in the Member State for which they are destined. If a Union authority exists neither in the importing Member State nor in the Member State of destination, or with regard to rough diamonds coming from/destined to Greenland, they shall be submitted to an appropriate Union authority in another Member State.

3. The Member State where the rough diamonds are imported shall ensure their submission to the appropriate Union authority provide for in paragraphs 1 and 2. Customs transit may be granted to that effect. If such customs transit is granted, the verification provided for by this Article shall be suspended until arrival at the appropriate Union authority.

There are currently Union Authorities in: Antwerp (Belgium); Idar-Oberstein (Germany); Prague (Czech Republic); Bucharest (Romania); Lisbon (Portugal); Dublin (Ireland); Torino (Italy).
Contact details are available in Annex III of Council Regulation (EC) No 2368/2002.

Licensing System:

An administrative procedure used for the operation of import of rough diamonds, i.e., the act of the verification of a KP certificate is required. Some EU member states with Union authorities also require that diamond traders be licenced.

Coverage:

A rough diamond is defined as a diamond that is unsorted, unworked or simply sawn, cleaved or bruted, and that falls under subheading 7102 10 00, 7102 21 00 or 7102 31 00 of the Combined Nomenclature (Council Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff (OJ L 256, 7.9.1987, p. 1) and its subsequent amendments. A consolidated version of the Regulation can be consulted at the following address:

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1566901287584&uri=CELEX:01987R2658-20190101

Procedures

6. Not applicable. There are no quantity and value restrictions.

7. The Kimberley Process Certification Scheme is implemented through the national legislation of the respective participants. The European Commission represents the European Union and Greenland in the Kimberley Process certification scheme. All imports of rough diamonds entering the European Union shall without delay be submitted for verification to a Union authority either in the Member State where they are imported or in the Member State for which they are destined, as indicated in accompanying documents. Containers destined for Greenland shall be submitted for verification to one of the Union authorities, either in the Member State where they are imported, or in one of the other Member States where a Union authority is established.

8. If an application for an EU licence for imports does not meet the criteria for import, each EU Member State imposes its own sanctions. If a Union authority finds that the failure to fulfil the conditions is not made knowingly or intentionally or is the result of an action by another authority in the exercise of its proper duties, it may proceed with the confirmation and release the shipment, after the necessary remedial measures have been taken to ensure that the conditions are met.

9. Import licences are issued by an EU authority by means of verification. Some Member States require that rough diamond traders be registered.

Documentational and other requirements for application for licence

10. The Kimberley Process Certificate means a forgery resistant document with a particular format which identifies a shipment of rough diamonds as being in compliance with the requirements of the Certification Scheme and is issued by the competent authority of a participant of the Kimberley Process.

11. The import of rough diamonds into the Union shall be prohibited unless all of the following conditions are fulfilled: a) the rough diamonds are accompanied by a certificate validated by the competent authority of a participant (*i.e. of the Kimberley Process*); b) the rough diamonds are contained in tamper-resistant containers and the seals applied at export by that participant are not broken; c) the certificate clearly identifies the consignment to which it refers. Every import must be verified by a Union authority, which fulfils the task of verifying incoming shipments and Kimberley Process Certificates for conformity with the Kimberley Process requirements.

12. Not applicable. However, it is to be noted that Union Kimberley Process authorities may charge fees for issuing export certificates.

13. Not applicable.

Conditions of licensing

14. Authentic KP certificate accompanying the Kimberley Process certificate, within the period of validity; this may vary depending on the issuing country. The certificate must be valid for the shipment to be accepted in the EU. The Union authority shall keep the originals of certificates submitted for verification for at least three years.

15. Not applicable.

16. Not applicable.

17. Tamper resistant container with unbroken seals.

Other procedural requirements

18. Not applicable.

19. Not applicable.

6 IMPORT OF WASTE SHIPMENT

Outline of system

1. This section provides a description of the EU waste shipment notification scheme as established by the EU rules and procedures for the transboundary shipments of waste.

The import of waste into the EU is for some waste controlled under a permit system[4] administered by the national competent authorities. Its requirements are tied in with those of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal.

Purpose and coverage of licensing

2. In accordance with the EU's obligations under the Basel convention and in the organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the regulation applies to hazardous wastes and other wastes as listed in the schedules of the Basel Convention.

[4] Procedure of 'prior written notification and consent' pursuant to Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No. 1013/2006 on shipments of waste.

3. The system applies to hazardous wastes and other wastes as listed in the schedules of the Basel Convention originating in and coming from all countries that are a party to the Basel Convention or OECD[5].

4. The notification system ensures that the EU's commitments as a party to the Basel Convention are upheld. To that effect, transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and other wastes is to be reduced to the minimum consistent with the environmentally sound and efficient management of such wastes and to be conducted in such a manner which will protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects which may result from such movement. The EU procedures applicable for the shipment of hazardous wastes are not intended to restrict the quantity or value of imports.

5. The internal EU legal framework for this scheme is Regulation (EC) No. 1013/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 June 2006 on shipments of waste (OJ L 190, 12.07.2006, p. 1). A consolidated version of the Regulation can be consulted at the following address:

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02006R1013-20210111

Licensing is a statutory requirement for the import of any hazardous waste listed in schedules to the Basel Convention or OECD Council Decisions.

Procedures

6. The wastes concerned are not under restriction as to the quantity or value of imports. Replies from I to XI below are therefore not pertinent.

7.(a) Permit[6] applications should be lodged in advance of the importation to allow for sufficient time for the competent authorities to produce a response. Deadlines to be respected are laid down in the EU legislation. Within these time constraints still, the processing time for a notification varies from case to case, depending primarily on the time taken by the competent authorities of the exporting economies concerned to provide feedback for the application, and on whether the application form is duly completed and lodged with all the required supporting documents.

(b) The planned shipment of waste may take place during the period of validity of written consent of competent authority of dispatch and written consent of competent authority of destination and written or tacit consent(-s) of competent authority (-ies) of transit. The decisions of competent authorities regarding planned shipments need to be duly reasoned.

(c) There are no limitations as to the period of the year during which permit application may be made.

(d) For notifiable shipments of waste, the submission of a notification is made by the notifier to the competent authorities of the country of dispatch and a prior consent for the shipment needs to be obtained from the competent authorities of all countries concerned (dispatch, transit and destination). The competent authorities in the EU Member states are listed here: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/shipments/links.htm.

8. Apart from statutory requirements, there are requirements under the Basel Convention for all States of Transit to control the trans-boundary movement of hazardous waste. Refusal to accept the movement by any such state shall cause the State of export to deny a permit. According to Regulation (EC) No. 1013/2006 on shipments of waste, the reasons for objection to shipments for disposal and for recovery are listed in Articles 11 and 12 of the Regulation, respectively.

Eligibility of importers to apply for licence

9.(a) Not applicable.
(b) Any natural or legal person, firm or institution may apply for a permit.

[5] This system applies also for the import of all non-hazardous wastes which are destined for a disposal operation in the EU and some waste destined for a recovery operation in the EU.

[6] As permit it should be understood the "procedure of prior written notification and consent".

Documentational and other requirements for application for licence

10. In accordance with Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 1013/2006 on shipments of waste, the notification shall be effected by means of the notification document set out in Annex IA and the movement document set out in Annex IB of the Regulation. Together with Annex IA and IB, the notifier shall also supply the information listed in Annex II, Part 1 and Part 2 of the Regulation, respectively. Competent authorities may require additional information and documentation as listed in Annex II, Part 3 of the Regulation.

11. The import permit is required and a valid export permit from the country of origin may be required as a condition of this permit.

12. In accordance with Article 29 of Regulation (EC) No. 1013/2006, appropriate and proportionate administrative costs of implementing the notification and supervision procedures and usual costs of appropriate analyses and inspections may be charged to the notifier.

13. A financial guarantee, or equivalent insurance, shall be established by the notifier or by another natural or legal person on its behalf and shall be effective at the time of the notification or, if the competent authority which approves the financial guarantee or equivalent insurance so allows, at the latest when the shipment starts, and shall apply to the notified shipment at the latest when the shipment starts. This financial guarantee or equivalent insurance shall cover: (a) costs of transport; (b) costs of recovery or disposal, including any necessary interim operation; and (c) costs of storage for 90 days pursuant to Article 6 of Regulation (EC) No. 1013/2006 on shipments of waste.

Conditions of licensing

14. Under the Regulation the import permit is valid for a period of up to 12 months, with the possibility of an extension up to 36 months and covers the amount and number of shipments of the hazardous waste as noted in the application.

15. In case a permit to ship waste is granted, there is no obligation to make use of this.

16. Permits/licences are not transferable between importers.

17. All applications must identify the maximum amount of the hazardous wastes that is intended to be covered by the permit. This limit cannot be exceeded. In addition, the applicant is provided with specific conditions that form part of the permit that usually relate specifically to the transport, treatment and/or disposal of the hazardous waste.

Other procedural requirements

18. None (the EU Waste Shipment Regulation does not allow additional requirements at national level).

19. Not applicable.

7 IMPORT OF HARVESTED TIMBER

Outline of system

1. This section provides a description of the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade licensing scheme (FLEGT licensing) scheme as established under the EU FLEGT Regulation.

The FLEGT licensing scheme is a voluntary scheme to ensure that only legally produced timber products are imported into the EU from countries with which the EU concludes bilateral FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs). Under an operational FLEGT licensing scheme, a partner country issues FLEGT licences for every shipment of timber products covered by the VPA, exported to the EU. The release for free circulation in the EU of such shipments is conditional on the acceptance by EU FLEGT competent authorities of the FLEGT licence. EU FLEGT competent authorities may verify the authenticity of the FLEGT licence and its conformity with the shipment that it covers.

Purposes and coverage of licensing

2. Under the FLEGT licensing scheme the EU has concluded FLEGT VPAs with a number of countries. Timber products (defined in the Agreements by HS codes) exported from FLEGT VPA partner countries to the EU are covered by a FLEGT licence issued by the licensing authority (-ies) of that country. The FLEGT licence demonstrates that the timber products have complied with relevant legislation as set out in the corresponding bilateral FLEGT VPAs. Once operational the implementation of the licensing scheme requires that imports of relevant timber products into the EU be made subject to a system of checks and controls so that only FLEGT licenced timber will be imported to the EU.

3. The FLEGT licensing scheme applies only to imports from partner countries with which the EU has concluded FLEGT VPAs. These agreements place a legally binding obligation on the EU and on the partner country to implement the licensing scheme as set out in each VPA. To date, the EU has concluded FLEGT VPAs with: Cameroon; the Central African Republic; Ghana; Liberia; Indonesia; the Republic of Congo; and Viet Nam. The EU has concluded negotiations and initialled a VPA with Honduras and Guyana. In order for a partner country to be able to issue FLEGT licences, it must put in place a timber legality assurance system and other measures outlined in the VPA. As of 15 November 2016, the FLEGT licensing scheme has become operational between the EU and Indonesia. The scheme is not yet operational for other VPA countries.

4. The FLEGT licensing system has been put in place so that countries exporting to the EU can demonstrate that their exports of timber products to the EU are legally produced. The scheme does not impose any restrictions neither in terms of quantity nor in terms of volumes to the imported goods. While the CITES Convention regulates trade in endangered species, including certain timber species, it does not cover the bulk of the timber trade. In the light of public concerns about imports of illegally harvested timber and products derived from such timber and the negative impact on perceptions of the timber sector a bilateral approach to address the issue together with interested countries, accompanied by capacity building measures, was considered appropriate. The EU also adopted a horizontal approach to the issue of illegal logging and associated trade through adoption of Regulation (EU) No. 995/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 October 2010 laying down the obligations of operators who place timber and timber products on the market (OJ L 295, 12.11.2010, p. 23), also known as the EU Timber Regulation or EUTR. The EUTR and the VPAs are key elements of the FLEGT Action Plan. Valid FLEGT licences (and CITES permits) are considered to automatically comply with the requirements of the EUTR.

5. The internal EU legal framework for the FLEGT licensing scheme is:

- Council Regulation (EC) No. 2173/2005 of 20 December 2005 on the establishment of a FLEGT licensing scheme for imports of timber into the European Community (OJ L 347, 30.12.2005, p. 1) and its subsequent amendment. A consolidated version of the Regulation can be consulted at the following address:

  https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:02005R2173-20200101

- Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1024/2008 of 17 October 2008 laying down detailed measures for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No. 2173/2005 on the establishment of a FLEGT licensing scheme for imports of timber into the European Community (OJ L 277, 18.10.2008, p. 23):

  https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1566906359238&uri=CELEX:32008R1024

The licensing is statutorily required for those countries that enter into bilateral FLEGT VPAs, once the parties have decided to make the scheme operational and the legislation does not leave designation of products to be subjected to licensing to administrative discretion. Furthermore, it is not possible for the government (or the executive branch) to abolish the system without legislative approval.

Procedures

6. The products concerned are not under restriction as to the quantity or value of imports. Replies from I to XI below are therefore not pertinent.

7.(a) Under the agreements a FLEGT licence is issued when a shipment is exported from the partner country to the EU. An EU importer of such a shipment does not need to apply for an import licence from an EU competent authority. An EU importer shall lodge the original FLEGT licence, as issued at the time of export of the shipment from the partner country, for acceptance and verification with the competent authority of the EU Member State in which the shipment covered by that licence is declared for release for free circulation. An EU importer of such a shipment does not need to apply for an import licence from an EU competent authority but must present a copy of the FLEGT licence as issued at the time of export of the shipment from the partner country. If justified and subject to verification that the shipment meets the relevant conditions it is generally possible for a FLEGT licence to be re-issued by the partner country in case of unforeseen circumstances.

(b) The procedures established by the partner country determine whether a licence can be granted immediately upon request or not.

(c) There are no limitations as to the period of the year during which application for licence and/or importation may be made.

(d) As indicated above, licences are issued by the exporting country and not by the EU.

8. The issuance of a licence is the responsibility of the partner country; the procedures in case of refusal are therefore subject to the partner countries' rules.

Eligibility of importers to apply for licence

9. All persons, firms and institutions are eligible to apply for licences.

Documentational and other requirements for application for licence

10. The information required to apply for a FLEGT licence is set out in the FLEGT VPA and is subject to the rules of the partner country. The format of the FLEGT licence is set out in an Annex of each FLEGT VPA but follows the general format set out in the Annex to Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1024/2008. An EU importer needs to lodge the original of the FLEGT licence to the competent authority and the relevant copy with the customs authority of the EU Member State in which the shipment covered by that licence is declared for release for free circulation.

11. A FLEGT licence is cross referenced to the customs declaration for release for free circulation.

12. EU Member States have discretion on whether to charge any administrative fee and the amount of the fee arising from official acts by competent authorities required for control purposes.

13. Not applicable as the EU does not issue the licences.

Conditions of licensing

14. The period of validity of FLEGT licences from a given partner country is set out in the corresponding bilateral FLEGT VPA. The validity can be extended by the issuing country upon request if adequately justified.

15. There is no penalty for the non-utilization of a licence or a portion of a licence.

16. The licences may be not transferable between importers, subject to each VPA requirements. The name of the importer on the FLEGT licence can however be amended by the issuing country upon request if adequately justified.

17. Evidence of compliance with relevant legislation, as set out in the relevant FLEGT VPA.

Other procedural requirements

18. No other administrative procedures, apart from import licensing and similar administrative procedures, required prior to importation.

19. Not applicable.

8 IMPORT OF ENDANGERED SPECIES (CITES)

Outline of system

1. This section provides a description on the EU legislation regulating the imports of certain endangered species of animals and plants (or parts or derivatives made thereof). Documents are required for the import (and (re-)export as well as intra-EU trade) of endangered species listed in Appendices I, II and III of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), whether alive, dead, parts or derivatives, as well as a number of non-CITES species covered by the relevant EU legislation.

Purpose and coverage of licensing

2. The EU Wildlife Trade Regulations are based on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and comprise a double-checking system involving export and import controls both at the country of origin and at EU level.

The EU Wildlife Trade Regulations and CITES cover trade in, by default, all specimens, whether alive or dead, including parts and derivatives, from animal and plant species listed in the Annexes (EU Regulation)/Appendices (CITES). The term "trade" (in CITES "trade" refers to all cross-border movements of CITES specimens) encompasses not only trade in a commercial sense but also, for example, imports and (re-)exports for personal use. The species covered by Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97 – the "Basic Regulation" which together with several Implementing Regulations constitute the "Wildlife Trade Regulations" - are listed in four Annexes (A to D).

The EU Regulation lays down different requirements and procedures for each of the groupings of species listed in its Annexes A, B, C and D.

Species listed in Annex A: Any transaction with commercial purposes involving specimens of the species listed in this Annex is prohibited. Exemption from this prohibition can be granted on a case-by-case basis, by issuance of a special certificate by the management authority of the Member State in which the specimens are located, provided the specimens:

a. are captive-born and bred (animals), or artificially propagated (plants); or
b. are required, under exceptional circumstances, for the advancement of science or biomedical purposes; or
c. are intended for breeding or propagation purposes; or
d. are intended for research or education aimed at the preservation of the species.

Species listed in Annex B, i.e. most species concerned by the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations: transaction with commercial purposes involving specimens of these species listed in this Annex are possible under a number of strict conditions. Exemptions from this permit requirement can be granted on a case-by-case basis.

Species listed in Annexes C and D need also to meet a number of documentary requirements.

The EU may determine to prohibit the importation of certain specimens or species, either globally or originating from specific third countries. These suspensions are published periodically and affect imports into all EU Member States. The latest list of restrictions is laid down in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 2019/1587 of 24 September 2019 prohibiting the introduction into the Union of specimens of certain species of wild fauna and flora.

3. The import licensing requirement applies to traders as well as individuals importing these items from all countries and territories outside the EU.

4. The licensing is not intended to restrict the quantity or value of imports. The approval system aims at protecting endangered species from over-exploitation through trade in accordance with CITES. Management authorities of the EU Member States verify the following conditions for all imports of the covered species:

A. For all species:
   a. whether or not the trade will be harmful to the survival of the species in the wild,
   b. whether or not the specimen was legally acquired.
B. Additional requirements, for live specimens:
   c. whether or not the specimen is properly prepared for transportation,
   d. whether or not the importer has the suitable facilities to house and care for live specimens.
C. Besides, the authority must verify that specimens of species listed in Annex A to Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97 are not imported to be used for primarily commercial purposes.

5. The EU implements CITES through a set of Regulations collectively known as the "EU Wildlife Trade Regulations".

Currently, these are:

- Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97 of 9 December 1997 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein (OJ L 61, 03.03.1997, p. 1) and its subsequent amendments. A consolidated version of the Regulation can be consulted at the following address:

  https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:01997R0338-20200101

- Commission Regulation (EC) No 865/2006 of 4 May 2006 laying down detailed rules concerning the implementation of Regulation (EC) No. 338/97 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein (OJ L 166, 19.06.2006, p. 1) and its subsequent amendments. A consolidated version of the Regulation can be consulted at the following address:

  https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1566906766279&uri=CELEX:02006R0865-20190227

- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 792/2012 of 23 August 2012 laying down rules for the design of permits, certificates and other documents provided for in Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein and amending Commission Regulation (EC) No. 865/2006 (OJ L 242, 07.09.2012, p.13) and its subsequent amendments. A consolidated version of the Regulation can be consulted at the following address:

  EUR-Lex - 02012R0792-20220119 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu)

- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1587 of 24 September 2019 prohibiting the introduction into the Union of specimens of certain species of wild fauna and flora (248, 27.9.2019, p. 5):

  https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32019R1587

The legislation does not leave designation of products to be subjected to licensing to administrative discretion and it is not possible for the government (or the executive branch) to abolish the system without legislative approval.

Procedures

6. Not applicable.

7.(a) Import permits shall be applied for in good time to allow for their issue prior to the introduction of specimens into the EU. The issue of a licence is not automatic and shipments should not be

effected unless and until the licence has been issued. EU Member States Management authorities shall decide on the issue of permits and certificates within one month of the date of submission of a complete application.

(b) No, see above.

(c) No.

(d) Permits and certificates are issued exclusively by Member States Management Authorities, upon advice of their national Scientific Authority and taking into account the opinion of Scientific Review Group (SRG), when such an opinion has been issued. CITES authorities of exporting countries or of other importing Member States may need to be consulted in some cases. In a very limited number of cases the CITES Secretariat should be consulted.

8. Licensing policy follows closely the provisions and spirit of CITES, and an application for a licence can only be refused in case of failure to meet the conditions posed by the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations.

Eligibility of importers to apply for licence

9. Any person can lodge an application.

Documentational and other requirements for application for licence

10. The standard model forms that must be used for permits, certificates, notifications and applications for these documents, as well as labels for scientific specimens, are contained in Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 792/2012 as regards the rules for the design of permits, certificates and other documents provided for in Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein and in Commission Regulation (EC) No. 865/2006 laying down detailed rules concerning the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97.

11. Under the scheme, different types of documents are required for trade into (and from) the EU:

- an import permit for the import of specimens of Annex A- or B-listed species;
- an import notification for the import of Annex C- or D-listed species, which is to be completed by the importer.

12. Certain EU Member States apply licensing fees. The amount depends on each Member State.

13. Neither a deposit nor an advance payment is required.

Conditions of licensing

14. The maximum validity of an import permit is six or 12 months. However, in the case of caviar of sturgeon and paddlefish species (Acipenseriformes) that originated from shared stocks that are subject to export quotas, the permit ceases to be valid at the latest on the last day of the year to which the quota applies (i.e., the quota year in which the caviar was harvested and processed). An import permit shall, however, not be valid in the absence of a valid corresponding document from the country of export or re-export (the maximum validity of these documents is six months).

15. No penalty for non-utilization.

16. Not transferable.

17. Not applicable.

Other procedural requirements

18. No other administrative/procedural requirements prior to importation.

19. No foreign exchange control.

9 IMPORT IN THE FIELD OF DRUG PRECURSORS

Outline of system

1. This section provides a description on the EU legislation regulating the imports of drug precursors. Drug precursors are chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs such as cocaine, ecstasy and amphetamines. However, these chemicals have primarily large and varied legitimate uses such as in the production of plastics, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, perfumes, detergents and aromas. A control and monitoring system has been put in place therefore to avoid their 'diversion' to illegal channels. This system implements article 12 of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substance.

Purpose and coverage of licensing

2. The EU legislation provides for licensing and registration of operators and users, the obligation to notify suspicious orders and transactions by operators and import (and export) authorisations.

3. The import licensing requirement applies to any natural or legal person engaged in import of Category 1 substances from all third countries and territories.

4. The licensing is not intended to restrict the quantity or value of imports. The approval system aims at monitoring trade and authorization of imports of drug precursors.

5. The legal basis is:

- Council Regulation (EC) No. 111/2005 of 22 December 2004 laying down rules for the monitoring of trade between the Community and third countries in drug precursors (OJ L 22, 26.1.2005, p. 1) and its subsequent amendment. A consolidated version of the Regulation can be consulted at the following address:

  https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1566907038515&uri=CELEX:02005R0111-20180707

- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No. 2015/1011 of 24 April 2015 supplementing Regulation (EC) No. 273/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on drug precursors and Council Regulation (EC) No. 111/2005 laying down rules for the monitoring of trade between the Union and third countries in drug precursors and repealing Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1277/2005 (OJ L 162, 27.6.2015, p. 12) and its subsequent amendment. A consolidated version of the Regulation can be consulted at the following address:

  https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1566907099640&uri=CELEX:02015R1011-20150627

- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 2015/1013 of 25 June 2015 laying down rules in respect of Regulation (EC) No. 273/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on drug precursors and of Council Regulation (EC) No. 111/2005 laying down rules for the monitoring of trade between the Union and third countries in drug precursors (OJ L 162, 27.6.2015, p. 33):

  http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1469794642923&uri=CELEX:32015R1013

An import authorization, as defined in Article 20 of Regulation (EC) No. 111/2005, is required.

The legislation does not leave designation of products to be subjected to licensing to administrative discretion and it is not possible to abolish the system without legislative approval.

Procedures

6. Not applicable.

7.(a) Import authorizations shall be applied for in sufficient time. The issue of an authorisation is not automatic. EU Member States competent authorities shall decide on the granting of authorizations within 15 working days from the date of receipt of a complete application.

(b) No, see above.

(c) No.

(d) The issuance of import authorizations is exclusively done by Member States competent authorities.

8. Licensing policy follows closely the provisions and spirit of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. Failure to meet the criteria specified in the regulation will result in an application being refused. The relevant legislation does not explicitly describe the detailed procedures applicable in case of refusal of an application, but they are in line with the overall administrative practices applicable in the EU. Thus, it is ensured that the reasons for a refusal will be given to the applicant and that the applicants have the right of appeal in the event of refusal to issue a licence.

Eligibility of importers to apply for licence

9. Any person holding a valid licence or registration can lodge an application.

Documentational and other requirements for application for licence

10. The standard model forms that must be used for the authorisation are contained in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/1013 of 25 June 2015 laying down rules in respect of Regulation (EC) No. 273/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on drug precursors and of Council Regulation (EC) No. 111/2005 laying down rules for the monitoring of trade between the Union and third countries in drug precursors.

11. An import authorisation as presented in Annex I of the Regulation (EU) 2015/1013.

12. Certain EU Member States apply authorization fees. The amount depends on each Member State.

13. Neither a deposit nor an advance payment is required.

Conditions of licensing

14. The maximum time validity of an import permit is 6 months.

15. No penalty for non-utilization.

16. Not transferable.

17. Not applicable.

Other procedural requirements

18. Importers also need a permanent "registration" (defined as a "licence" in the legislation).

19. No foreign exchange control.