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Committee on Import Licensing

Original: English

REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE ON IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES¹

NOTIFICATION UNDER ARTICLE 7.3 OF THE AGREEMENT ON IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES (2021)

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

The following communication², dated 19 October 2021, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Korea.

Outline of the system

1. By embracing the principle of free trade, Korea has continued to reduce its trade-related regulations. In this context, restrictions on trade, if any, are limited to the very minimum necessary.

As a general rule, no licensing (since 1 July 1993), registration (since 1 March 1997) or notification (since 1 January 2000) is required for importers and exporters.

The Foreign Trade Act is the basic law that governs international trade between Korea and other countries. Specific items for which exports and/or imports are restricted are listed under the Export-Import Notice published by the Ministry of Trade, Industry & Energy (MOTIE). However, at present, no item is subject to import restrictions under the Export-Import Notice except aircraft parts³.

In addition to the Foreign Trade Act, **60** separate laws also stipulate approval or authorization requirements for certain items, and such items can be imported by obtaining certifications and approval. These requirements are in place mostly for the protection of morals, human health, hygiene and sanitation, animal and plant life, aquatic animal and aquatic plant health, environmental conservation or essential security interests in compliance with domestic legislation obligations or international commitments.

To enhance transparency and for the convenience of trading companies, MOTIE has updated the Consolidated Public Notice containing all export and import certification requirements covered by the **60** separate laws.

Purpose and coverage of licensing

2. As of September 2011, there are no quantitative import restrictions. In addition, rice has not been subject to quantitative import restrictions since 2015 due to "tariffication". Import-related requirements provided by the 60 separate laws pertain to petroleum, agricultural fertilizers, crop seeds, animals and animal products, nuclear materials, narcotics, foods and food additives, firearms and explosives, etc.

3. The system applies to goods originating in and coming from all countries.

¹ See document G/LIC/3, Annex, for the Questionnaire.

² New updates have been highlighted in bold in the text.

³ See Annex II.

4. No import-related regulations are intended to restrict the quantity or value of imports. Rather, they are maintained in order to protect national security, human, animal or plant life or health, and the environment, etc. in accordance with the provisions of Articles XX and XXI of GATT 1994, other WTO Agreements and other international rules or agreements.

5. The import approval system is enforced under the Foreign Trade Act, the Enforcement Decree of the Foreign Trade Act, the Foreign Trade Management Regulation and the Export-Import Notice. The import-related requirements are set forth in the **60** domestic laws in the Consolidated Public Notice. A list of these laws is attached in Annex I. The detailed conditions for approval are prescribed in enforcement decrees or regulations for the above-mentioned **60** domestic laws.

Procedures

6. Not applicable

7. (a) Please see Annex I for related Administrative Organizations.

8. An application for approval cannot be rejected if it satisfies the established criteria.

Eligibility of importers to apply for licence

9. (a, b) No licensing (since 1 July 1993), registration (since 30 December 1996) or notification (since 1 January 2000) is required to become an importer or exporter.

For statistical purposes only, the Korea International Trade Association (KITA), a private organization, assigns upon request a trade business number to anyone who wishes to carry out trade business.

Documentation and other requirements for licence applications

10. An offer sheet or a copy of the contract and other necessary documents must be submitted together with the application.

(a) Attachment: one set of sample forms⁴.

11. In the case of import-restricted items, the import declaration, import approval, commercial invoice, Bill of Lading and other necessary documents must be submitted.

12. There is no licensing fee or administrative charge.

13. There is no deposit or advance payment requirement associated with the issue of licences.

Conditions for licensing

14. In principle, the period of validity for import approval is one year. However, this period can be extended or shortened, depending on specific circumstances, when the approval is issued by the relevant administrative agency.

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

16. Licences are non-transferable between importers.

17. There are no other conditions associated with the issuing of a licence.

Other procedural requirements

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

⁴ In English and Korean only.

19. Foreign exchange is provided automatically for goods to be imported under the standard settlement method.

ANNEX I

The following tables briefly outline the items subject to import-related requirements and the administrative organizations under the **60** domestic laws. Each Ministry is responsible for the application of the laws whose procedures or requirements fall under its authority.

1. Ministry of Trade, Industry & Energy

Law	Product Covered	Related Administrative Organization
Petroleum and Alternative Fuel Business Act	Petroleum, Petroleum products	Ministry
High Pressure Gas Safety Control Act	High pressure gas, container and facilities	Korea Gas Safety Corporation
Safety control and Business of Liquefied Petroleum Gas Act	Gas appliances	Korea Gas Safety Corporation
Act on the Control, Etc. of Manufacture of Specific Substances for the Protection of the Ozone Layer	Controlled substances under the Montreal Protocol	Ministry
Electrical Appliances and Consumer Products Safety Control Act	Electrical appliances, consumer products, packaging for children's products	Korean Agency for Technology and Standards
Act on the Control of the Manufacture, Export and Import, Etc. of Specific Chemicals and Chemical Agents for the Prohibition of Chemical and Biological Weapons	Specific chemicals, Biological agents (Pathogens for Humans, Animals and Plants) and Toxins	Ministry
Special Act on the Safety of Products for Children	Children's products	Korean Agency for Technology and Standards
Measures Act	Legal measuring instruments	Korea Testing Certification Korea Testing Laboratory
Energy Use Rationalization Act	Efficiency Management Machinery, Equipment, or Materials	National Energy-Saving Promotion Committee

2. Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs

Law	Product Covered	Related Administrative Organization
Fertilizer Control Act	Agricultural fertilizer	Ministry
Pesticide Control Act	Pesticides	Rural Development Administration
Act on the Prevention of Contagious Animal Diseases	Animals and animal products	Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency
Seed Industry Act	Seeds	Rural Development Administration Korea Seed Association Korea Seed & Variety Service Korea Forest Service
Grain Management Act	Grain	Ministry
Control of Livestock and Fish Feed Act	Feed specified and publicly notified by the Ministry	Nonghyup Agribusiness Group Inc. Feed-related organization
Livestock Industry Act	Breeding stocks, Semen, ovum, fertilized egg for the purpose of artificial insemination	Ministry
Act on the Promotion of Environment-Friendly Agriculture and Fisheries and the Management of and Support for Organic Foods, Etc.	Certified products labelled as organic, Organic processed foods that have obtained equivalency recognition	Ministry National Agricultural Products Quality Management Service
Agricultural Products Quality Control Act	Silkworm eggs	Local Sericulture Institution
Plant Protection Act	Plants, Pests, Containers and Packaging for Containing or Wrapping Plants, Soil	Ministry Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency

3. Korea Forest Service

Law	Product Covered	Related Administrative Organization
Act on the Sustainable use of Timbers	Raw Timbers, Timber Products	Korea Forest Service

4. Ministry of Science and ICT

Law	Product Covered	Related Administrative Organization
Radio Waves Act	Radio, Telecommunication, and EMC equipment	National Radio Research Agency (Communications Conformity Assessment Center)

5. Ministry of the Interior and Safety

Law	Product covered	Related administrative organization
Local Tax Act	Tobacco	Administrative local governments

6. Ministry of Employment and Labor

Law	Product Covered	Related Administrative Organization
Occupational Safety and Health Act	Harmful substances (e.g., yellow phosphorous matches, benzidine)	Local labour administration
	New chemical substances (e.g., chemical elements, radioactive substances)	Local labour administration
	Safeguarding measures (e.g., safeguarding measures against press)	Korea Occupational Safety & Health Agency
	Harmful or hazardous equipment (e.g., cranes, lifts)	Korea Occupational Safety & Health Agency
	Protective equipment (e.g., safety helmet)	Korea Occupational Safety & Health Agency

7. Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism

Law	Product Covered	Related Administrative Organization
Promotion of the Motion Pictures and Video Products Act	Film and video content	Korea Media Rating Board Local governments
Game Industry Promotion Act	Video game content	Game Rating and Administration Committee
Music Industry Promotion Act	Music, Music content, Records, Music files	Korea Media Rating Board

8. Ministry of National Defense

Law	Product Covered	Related Administrative Organization
Defense Acquisition Program Act	Defense materials	Defense Acquisition Program Administration

9. Korean National Police Agency

Law	Product Covered	Related Administrative Organization
Act on the Safety Management of Guns, Swords, Explosives etc.	Firearms, swords and explosives	Agency

10. Ministry of Economy and Finance

Law	Product Covered	Related Administrative Organization
Liquor Tax Act	Liquor	District tax offices

11. Ministry of Environment

Law	Product Covered	Related Administrative Organization
Chemicals Control Act	Chemical substances	Basin Environmental Offices or Regional Environmental Offices
Act on Registration, Evaluation, Etc. of Chemicals	Chemical substances	Korea Environment Corporation National Institute of Environmental Research
Wildlife Protection and Management Act	Animals and plants detrimental to the ecosystem	Basin Environmental Offices or Regional Environmental Offices
	Endangered wild animals and plants	Basin Environmental Offices or Regional Environmental Offices
	Wild animals	Local governments
	International trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora	Basin Environmental Offices or Regional Environmental Offices
Drinking Water Management Act	Bottled water, water treatment chemicals and containers	Local governments
Act on Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal	Wastes	Basin Environmental Offices or Regional Environmental Offices
Act on the Promotion of Saving and Recycling of Resources	Waste charge system Products and packing materials subject to recycling etc.	Korea Environment Corporation
Act on the Conservation and Use of Biological Diversity	Biological resources	Korea Biodiversity Resources System
Wastes Control Act	Wastes - garbage, burnt refuse, sludge, waste oil, waste acid, waste alkali, and animal carcasses	Korea Waste Association
Act on Resource Circulation of Electrical and Electronic Equipment and Vehicles	Resources used in electrical and electronic equipment and vehicles	Ministry
Noise and Vibration Control Act	Motor vehicles tire Motor vehicles, etc.	Korea Environment Corporation National Institute of Environmental Research
Sewerage Act	Kitchen waste grinders	Ministry
Clean Air Conservation Act	Motor vehicles, etc.	National Institute of Environmental Research
Persistent Organic Pollutants Control Act	Persistent organic pollutants	Ministry
Act on Chemical Products and Biocides	Chemical Products and Biocides	Korea Environmental Industry & Technology Institute National Institute of Environmental Research Basin Environmental Offices or Regional Environmental Offices
Act on Access to and Utilization of Genetic Resources and Benefit-Sharing	Genetic Resources -Bio-Resources -Agricultural bio-resources -Pathogenic organism resources -Biological resources in the field of wildlife and Biological resources -Marine and fisheries bio-resources	Ministry of Environment -Ministry of Science and ICT -Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs -Ministry of Health and Welfare -Ministry of Environment -Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries

12. Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries

Law	Product Covered	Related Administrative Organization
Aquatic Life Disease Control Act	Aquatic animals and their products, Aquatic plants	National Fishery Products Quality Management Service
Act on the Promotion of Environment-Friendly Agriculture and Fisheries and the Management of and Support for Organic Foods, Etc.	Certified products labelled as organic, Organic processed foods that have obtained equivalency recognition	Ministry National Agricultural Products Quality Management Service National Fishery Products Quality Management Service
Control of Livestock and Fish Feed Act	Feed specified and publicly notified by the Ministry	National Agricultural Cooperative Federation Feed-related organization
Agricultural Products Quality Control Act	Marine animals and marine animal products	National Fishery Products Quality Management Service

13. Nuclear Safety and Security Commission

Law	Product Covered	Related Administrative Organization
Nuclear Safety Act	Nuclear materials Radioactive isotope Radiation generating device	Nuclear Safety and Security Commission Korea Foundation of Nuclear Safety
Act on Protective Action Guidelines Against Radiation in the Natural Environment	Source material By-products from processing	Korea Institute of Nuclear Safety

14. Ministry of Food and Drug Safety

Law	Product Covered	Related Administrative Organization
Safety, Management, Etc. of Human Tissue Act	Human tissue	Ministry Regional office of Food and Drug Safety Korea Pharmaceutical Traders Association
Pharmaceutical Affairs Act	Drugs, Drug substances, Quasi-drugs	Ministry Regional office of Food and Drug Safety Korea Pharmaceutical Traders Association Korea Animal Health Product Association
Narcotics Control Act	Narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances Cannabis Precursors of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances	Ministry Korea Pharmaceutical Traders' Association
Cosmetics Act	Cosmetics	Ministry Korea Pharmaceutical Traders Association
Food Sanitation Act	Food, food additives, apparatus, containers and packages	Ministry Regional office of Food and Drug Safety
Medical Devices Act	Medical devices	Ministry Regional office of Food and Drug Safety Korea Medical Devices Industry Association
Health Functional Foods Act	Health functional foods	Ministry Regional office of Food and Drug Safety

Law	Product Covered	Related Administrative Organization
Livestock Products Sanitary Control Act	Livestock products	Ministry Regional office of Food and Drug Safety
Special Act on Imported Food Safety Control	Food, food additives, apparatus, containers and packages Health functional food Livestock products	Ministry Regional office of Food and Drug Safety
Hygiene Products Control Act	Hygiene products	Ministry Regional office of Food and Drug Safety
Advanced Regenerative Medicine and Advanced Biomedicine Safety and Support Act	Advanced Bio-medicine, Human cells	Ministry Regional office of Food and Drug Safety Korea Pharmaceutical Traders Association

15. Ministry of Land Infrastructure and Transport

Law	Product Covered	Related Administrative Organization
Motor Vehicle Management Act	Motor vehicles	Ministry
Construction Machinery Management Act	Construction machineries	Ministry

sample forms

수입승인(신청)서 **Import License (Application)**

처 리 기 간 : 1일
Handling Time: 1 Day

① 수입자 무역업 신고번호 (Importer) (Notification No.) 상호, 주소, 성명 (Name of firm, Address, Name of rep') (서명 또는 인) (Signature)		⑤ 송화인(Consignor) 상호, 주소, 성명 (Name of firm, Address, Name of rep')		
② 위탁자 사업자 등록번호 (Requester) (Business No.) 상호, 주소, 성명 (Name of firm, Address, Name of rep') (서명 또는 인) (Signature)		⑥ 금액(Total Amount) ⑦ 결제기간(Period of payment) ⑧ 가격조건(Terms of Price)		
③ 원산지(Origin)		④ 선적항(Port of Loading)		
⑨ HS부호 (HS code)	⑩ 품명 및 규격 (Description/Size)	⑪ 단위 및 수량 (Unit/Quantity)	⑫ 단가 (Unit Price)	⑬ 금 액 (Amount)
⑭ 승인기관 기재란(Remarks to be filled out by an Approval Agency)				
⑮ 유효기간(Period of Approval)				
승인번호(Approval No.)				
승인기관 관리번호(No. of Approval Agency)				

< 위의 신청사항은 대외무역법 제11조제2항 및 동법시행령 제18조제1항의 규정에 의하여 승인합니다.
(The undersigned hereby approves the above mentioned goods in accordance with Article 11(2) of the Foreign Trade Act and Article 18(1) of the Enforcement Decree of the said Act.)

20 년 월 일
승인권자 (인)

※ 승인기관이 2이상인 경우 ④ - 의 기재사항은 이면에 기재하도록 합니다.
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ANNEX II**APPLICABLE LIST ON AIRCRAFT PART ABOUT IMPORTED RESTRICTION**

HS CODE	HOW TO IMPORT
3920.99.1000	These items should be imported with an approval of Korea Aerospace Industries Association
4011.30.0000	
4012.13.0000	
4012.20.1000	
4012.90.1040	
4013.90.1000	
4016.99.1010	
7007.11.1000	
7007.11.2000	
7007.21.1000	
7007.21.2000	
8407.10.0000	
8409.10.0000	
8411.11.1000	
8411.12.1000	
8411.21.1000	
8411.22.1000	
8411.81.1000	
8411.91.1000	
8411.99.1000	
8412.10.1000	
8412.90.1010	
8412.90.1090	
8413.30.1000	
8414.10.1000	
8414.51.1000	
8802.20.9000	
8802.30.1000	
8802.30.2000	
8802.30.3000	
8802.30.9000	
8802.40.1000	
8802.40.2000	
8802.40.3000	
8802.40.9000	
8802.60.1010	
8802.60.1090	
8802.60.2000	
8802.60.3000	
8803.10.0000	
8803.20.0000	
8803.30.1000	
8803.30.2000	
8803.90.1000	
8803.90.2000	
8803.90.9000	
8804.00.1000	
8804.00.2000	
8804.00.9010	
8804.00.9020	
8805.10.1010	
8805.10.1090	
8805.10.2010	
8805.10.2090	
8805.10.9010	
8805.10.9090	
8805.21.1010	
8805.21.1090	
8805.21.2010	
8805.21.2090	

HS CODE	HOW TO IMPORT
8805.29.1010	
8805.29.1090	
8805.29.2010	
8805.29.2090	
9014.10.1010	
9014.10.2010	
9014.20.0000	
9014.90.1000	
8414.59.1000	
8414.60.1000	
8414.80.9110	
8421.23.2000	
8421.29.4000	
8421.31.2000	
8421.39.9030	
8466.20.1000	
8483.10.1000	
8483.20.1000	
8483.30.1000	
8483.40.1010	
8483.40.1090	
8483.50.1000	
8483.60.1000	
8483.90.1000	
8511.10.1000	
8511.20.1000	
8511.30.1000	
8511.40.1000	
8511.50.1000	
8511.80.1000	
8511.90.1000	
8526.10.1000	
8526.91.1010	
8526.91.2010	
8526.91.3010	
8526.91.9010	
8544.30.0000	
8801.00.1000	
8801.00.9010	
8801.00.9090	
8802.11.1000	
8802.11.9000	
8802.12.1000	
8802.12.9000	
8802.20.1000	
8802.20.2000	
8802.20.3000	
9032.10.1020	
9032.81.1010	
9032.81.2010	
9032.81.9010	
9032.89.2010	
9032.89.3010	
9032.89.9010	
9032.90.1000	
9401.10.0000	