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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

STATE OF KUWAIT

The following communication, dated 19 March 2013, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the State of Kuwait.

Outline of system

1. The Kuwait maintains non-automatic licensing system.

Purpose and coverage of licensing

2. General licence: it applies to all firms and institutions, but there are certain licenses that are not eligible for import license due the type of business and handicraft practiced see annex A

Temporary licence: it applies to all person, firms and institutions that not granted for General license

3. The system applies to goods originating in and coming from all countries.
4. The purpose of licensing is to ensure that goods that do not meet the requirements of different laws, regulations or decisions are not imported.
5. Licensing is maintained under Decision No. 43 of the PRESEDENT OF KUWAIT (1964). The legislation does not leave designation of products subject to administrative discretion. The government (or the executive branch) does not abolish the system without legislative approval.

Procedures

6. I-XI. There is no restrictions on the quantity or value of imports.
7.
 - a. 3 days.
 - b. Yes.
 - c. No.
 - d. Yes, by a single administrative body (MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY).

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

8. Yes.

Eligibility of importers to apply for a licence

9. Yes.

Documentation and other requirements for application for license

10. See Annex B*.

11. Documents required are: the import license, copy of invoice and certificate of origin.

12. There are no licensing fees or administrative charges.

13. There are no deposit or advance payment requirements associated with the issue of a license.

Conditions of licensing

14. The period of validity of a license is one year from the date of issue. Extension may be granted.

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

16. Licenses are not transferable between importers.

17. No other conditions are attached.

Other procedural requirement

18. No other administrative procedures.

19. Foreign exchange is automatically provided by the banking authorities for goods to be imported.

* Available for consultation (Market Access Division) in original language only.

ANNEX A**LICENSES NOT TO BE GRANTED IMPORT LICENSE**

Based on statement of commercial activities issued by ministry of commerce, there are certain licenses that are not eligible for import license due the type of business and handicraft practiced these license are the follows:

First: food meal segment:

- 1- preparation of fast food meals
- 2- restaurants and coffee shops of all types
- 3- bread oven and bakeries
- 4- sweets and pastries
- 5- beverages

Second: media &entertainment segment:

- 1- audio recordings
- 2- video recordings
- 3- art production

Third: commercial services segment:

- 1- land and real estates (lease and rent)
- 2- car lease
- 3- taxi
- 4- passengers transport abroad
- 5- goods transport
- 6- sea cargo
- 7- ships loading and unloading
- 8- vessels purveyance
- 9- vessel companies agents
- 10- travel and tourism
- 11- wedding parties equipment lease
- 12- publishing and distribution
- 13- issuance of land travel permits
- 14- precious materials and facilities guard
- 15- repairs of motorcycles and bicycles
- 16- vehicles scale
- 17- central air-conditioning and elevators maintenance
- 18- electrical appliances repair
- 19- fine appliances and devices repair
- 20- golden and silver jewelry repair
- 21- gas stoves repair
- 22- gas cylinders replacement
- 23- clothes receipt and delivery
- 24- typing on typewriter
- 25- photographer
- 26- women garments tailoring
- 27- women beauty salon
- 28- curtains tailoring
- 29- gardens landscaping and maintenance
- 30- clothes cleaning and ironing
- 31- calligrapher and painting
- 32- men clothes tailoring
- 33- men barbershop
- 34- vehicle seat upholstery
- 35- furniture and furnishings upholstery

- 36- butchery
- 37- fishery

Fourth: miscellaneous business segment:

- 1- exchange
- 2- grocery
- 3- refreshment
- 4- scrap

Fifth: provisions segment:

- 1- administrative consulting
- 1- economic consulting
- 2- industrial consulting
- 3- financial consulting
- 4- psychological and social consulting
- 5- computer consulting
- 6- customer consulting
- 7- translation

Sixth: service and handicraft segments:

- 1- health club
- 2- transactions processing
- 3- washing and lubricating station
- 4- vehicles electricity repair
- 5- vehicles exhaust repair
- 6- load weighing
- 7- boats repair and maintenance
- 8- heavy and light equipment repair and maintenance
- 9- electrical and electronic appliances repair sanitary ware repair and maintenance
- 10- shoes and bags repair
- 11- car driving learning

Licenses not to be granted import licenses

- 1- grocery
- 2- exchange
- 3- garage
- 4- survey
- 5- sign-writer and painter
- 6- travel agencies
- 7- tyre puncture repair
- 8- cleaning
- 9- real estates
- 10- vehicles electricity
- 11- insurers
- 12- scrap
- 13- consulting offices
- 14- vessels purveyance office
- 15- vehicles lease offices
- 16- vehicles washing and lubricating
- 17- tourism cheques offices
- 18- shares and documentation offices
- 19- transport and customer offices
- 20- recording shops (cassette)
- 21- maintenance and repair shops
- 22- wedding parties equipments leasing office
- 23- golden jewelry fabrication
- 24- restaurants off all types with foodstuff catering
- 25- curtains tailoring and furniture upholstery

26- All handicrafts (carpentry, ironing, photography and plants etc.)

Remarks:

GCC citizens shall not be granted general import licenses but this will be as per the license business, for example:

- 1- Ready made clothes only
- 2- Gift and accessories only
- 3- Foodstuffs only

Retail shall not be granted import license for all.
