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Committee on Import Licensing

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REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE ON IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES

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

MAURITIUS

The following communication, of which the first draft was received on 22 November 2021, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Mauritius.

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1 MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Outline of system

1. Mauritius has successfully implemented its Chlorofluorocarbons (CFC) Phase out Management Plan since 2005 and importation of CFCs is completely banned. Presently, a Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) Phase out Management Plan (HPMP) has been developed in 2011 and importation of HCFC refrigerants is being controlled.

A quota system based on a baseline figure (the average amount of HCFC refrigerants imported in 2009 and 2010), has been set since 2013. In 2015, as required under the Montreal Protocol and

as provided in the HPMP, a 10% reduction was applied to the baseline import and a quota system worked out accordingly.

Following request from importers of refrigerants, the National Ozone Unit of the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change issue a clearance to the importers. The Customs Department of the Mauritius Revenue Authority and the Dangerous Chemical Control Board (DCCB) of the Ministry of Health and Wellness are informed of our no-objection and DCCB issues the import permit for importation under the Dangerous Chemical Control Act, 2004. The Customs Department enforce the latter legislation.

Additionally, importation of equipment containing HCFC as refrigerant is banned, under the Consumer Protection (Supplies and Control) Regulations, 2013.

Purpose and coverage of licensing

2. Importation of all HCFC refrigerants requires an import permit.

3. The system applies to goods originating from anywhere in the world.

4. The licensing system is to restrict the quantity of the HCFC refrigerants being imported based on the quota as defined in the HCFC Phase out Management Plan (HPMP).

5. The importation is controlled as per quota defined in the Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) Phase out Management Plan (HPMP). It is to be noted that a Regulation under the Dangerous Chemical Control Act, has been prepared and is expected to be promulgated/in force shortly.

Procedures

6.I All importers of refrigerants have been informed of the quota system.

II. Accordingly, the quota is allocated. However, importers have to make the request for clearance for a licence every time they intend to import. They need to indicate the amount as well as the country of origin.

III. Refrigerants are not produced locally. Unused allocations are not added to quotas for the succeeding period. No, names of importers have not been made known to export promotion bodies of exporting countries, as no such request has been made. However, there would be no problem to communicate these details if ever there is such a request.

IV. There are no specific conditions but preferably the importers should submit their request two working days beforehand.

V. There are no specific conditions but generally the requests are processed within two days.

VI. No restriction, subject to importation is done within the same calendar year.

VII. No. The National Ozone Unit (NOU) of the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change process only the no-objection and certifies that the refrigerant in question can be imported. It is the Dangerous Chemical Control Board of the Ministry of Health and Wellness which grants the licence.

VIII. It happens that some importers have exceeded their quotas and have made an additional request. Reallocation is done only if the other importers have not fully used their quotas. A quota system has been established as from 2013 based on the average import during 2009-2010 for those importers who were registered during the said two years. A quota has also been assigned for new importers while being within the allowable baseline figure of import. Applications are examined on receipt.

IX. For any importation of HCFCs an import licence is obligatory.

X. No such mechanism.

XI. No. The imported refrigerant can be re-exported, but the exporters need to again get the clearance from the NOU and licence from the DCCB.

7.(a)-(d) N/A.

8. Application for a licence may be refused if the quota has been met. The importer is informed accordingly. The importer may contact the NOU and confirm whether unused allocation for other importers can be reallocated.

Eligibility of importers to apply for a permit

9. All persons, firms and institutions are eligible to apply for licences. The NOU does not charge any registration fee. There is no published list of importers at the level of NOU.

Documentation and other requirements for applications for permits

10. The importer must send a letter to the NOU and copied to the DCCB and specify the following:

- Type of refrigerants.
- Type of container.
- Weight per unit.

Country from where it is imported.

Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) of the product can also be submitted by the importer, though not binding.

11. Production of clearance from DCCB is required prior to granting Customs release.

12. The NOU does not charge any registration fee.

13. No fees and deposit are applicable.

Conditions of licensing

14. The licence is valid as from the date of issue to the date the refrigerants are cleared from the Customs.

15. There is no penalty by the NOU in case of non-utilisation of the licence.

16. Licences are not transferable between importers.

17. While issuing the clearance by the NOU, the importers are requested to also seek clearance from the DCCB.

Other procedural requirements

18. No other administrative procedures.

19. N/A.

2 MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

The Consumer Protection (Control of Imports) Regulations 2017 regulates the importation of restricted goods, including motor vehicles and motorcycles in Mauritius. The system is administered by the Trade Division of the Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection.

2.1 Restricted goods (except motor vehicles and motorcycles)

Outline of system

1. The Consumer Protection (Control of Imports) Regulations 2017 regulates the importation of restricted goods in Mauritius. The system is administered by the Trade Division of the Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection.

Purposes and Coverage of Import Permits

2. Imports of restricted goods (except motor vehicles and motorcycles) under the Consumer Protection (Control of Imports) Regulations 2017 are subject to subject to automatic licensing through an import permit being issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection.

3. The system applies to goods originating from all countries.

4. Import permits are enforced for reasons of security, sensitivity, health and environment.

5. Import control is regulated under the Consumer Protection (Control of Imports) Regulations 2017 and approval from the Minister responsible for Commerce has to be sought for any change in the list of restricted goods.

Procedures

6. N/A.

7.(a) An application for an import permit has to be made prior to the importation of restricted goods and the import permit may be granted on the same day.

(b) The import permit may be granted on the same day.

(c) No.

(d) For some controlled goods, appropriate recommendations are sought by the concerned Ministry prior to approval of the permit.

8. The refusal to issue an import permit may occur where the importer fails to comply with any provision of the Consumer Protection (Control of Imports) Regulations 2017.

Eligibility of Importers to Apply for Permit

9. All applications are made through the TradeLink System via a customs broker. A firm is presently registered in the system, free of charge, prior to sending its application.

Documentation and Other Requirements for Application for Permit

10. The documents required upon applications are based on what are being imported. For some goods, only the application is required while for other goods, the pro-forma invoice and additional documents may be requested.

11. Upon actual importation, an importer is required to submit the bill of lading and invoice as well as additional documents depending on what is being imported and coming from which countries.

12. There is no import permit fee or administrative charge.

13. There is no deposit or advance payment requirement associated with the issuance of permits.

Conditions of Import Permits

14. An import permit is valid for a maximum period of 12 months.

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

16. The import permit is not transferable.

17. An import permit is subject to any conditions that the Permanent Secretary may impose.

Other Procedural Requirements

18. There are no other administrative procedures, apart from import permits required prior to importation of restricted goods specified in the Consumer Protection (Control of Imports), Regulations 2017.

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

2.2 Motor vehicles and motorcycles

Outline of System

1. The importation of motor vehicles and motorcycles in Mauritius is regulated by the Consumer Protection (Control of Imports) Regulations 2017.

Purposes and Coverage of Import Permits

2. Imports of motor vehicles and motorcycles are subject to licensing through an import permit being granted by the Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection.

3. The system applies to goods originating from all countries.

4. Import permits are enforced for reasons of security, sensitivity, health and environment.

5. Import control of motor vehicles and motorcycles is regulated under the Consumer Protection (Control of Imports) Regulations 2017.

Procedures

6. N/A.

7. An application for an import permit has to be made prior to the importation of motor vehicle and motorcycle and the import permit may be granted on the same day.

(a) An application for an import permit has to be made prior to the importation of motor vehicle and motorcycle and the import permit may be granted on the same day.

(b) The Import permit may be granted on the same day.

(c) No.

(d) No.

8. The refusal to issue an import permit may occur where the importer fails to comply with any provision of the Consumer Protection (Control of Imports) Regulations 2017.

Eligibility of Importers to Apply for Permit

9. All applications are made through the TradeLink System via a customs broker. With regards to an authorised dealer, the company must be a holder of a valid licence of an authorised dealer in importation and sale of second-hand motor vehicles as per the Consumer Protection (Importation and Sale of Second-hand Motor Vehicles) Regulations 2004.

It is to be noted that as per the GN 145 of 2020, no person, other than an authorised dealer or individual importer, shall import a second-hand motor vehicle. The authorised dealer, must be a holder of a valid licence of an authorised dealer in importation and sale of second-hand motor

vehicles as per the Consumer Protection (Importation and Sale of Second-hand Motor Vehicles) Regulations 2004

Documentation and Other Requirements for Application for Permit

10. The documents required upon applications are based on what are being imported, for some, only the application is required while for other goods, the pro-forma invoice and additional documents may be requested.

For second-hand cars originating from Japan an auction sheet is required for application of import permit.

11. Upon actual importation, an importer is required to submit the bill of lading and invoice as well as additional documents depending on what is being imported and coming from which countries.

12. There is no import permit fee or administrative charge.

13. There is no deposit or advance payment requirement associated with the issuance of permits.

Conditions of Import Permits

14. An import permit is valid for a maximum period of 12 months.

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

16. The import permit is not transferable.

17. An import permit is subject to any conditions that the Permanent Secretary may impose.

Other Procedural Requirements

18. There are no other administrative procedures, apart from import permits required prior to importation of restricted goods specified in the Consumer Protection (Control of Imports), Regulations 2017.

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

3 MINISTRY OF AGRO-INDUSTRY AND FOOD SECURITY

3.1 National Agricultural Products Regulatory Office (NAPRO)

Outline of System

1. The National Agricultural Products Regulatory Office (NAPRO) came into operation in November 2013. NAPRO controls and regulates the import, export, production, and sale of regulated products in Mauritius. The National Agricultural Products Regulatory Office Act 2013 defines regulated products in the First Schedule as including tea and tea products and tobacco and tobacco products. NAPRO does not issue licences for importation of regulated products but issues Clearance Certificates for regulated products already imported into Mauritius.

Purposes and coverage of licensing

2. Import of:

(i) Tea and tea products; and
(ii) Tobacco and tobacco products are subject to import clearance (similar to automatic licensing), and the system has no trade restricting effects.

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

4. The clearance system is for statistical purposes and to ensure that the products are in conformity with local regulations.

5. The system is under the National Agricultural Products Regulatory Office Act 2013, and the National Agricultural Products Regulations 2013.

Procedures

6. N/A.

7.(a) Applications may be made prior to import of goods. Applications are considered on receipt and information concerning filing of applications for clearances are provided at the Office, by phone and by mail upon request and usually processed on the same day or on the next working day.

(b) The application may be approved immediately on request but authorization to remove the goods from the port or bonded Warehouse is conveyed after inspection.

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

(d) Consideration of applications for tobacco products are effected by one administrative unit, NAPRO. However, for import of tea and tea products, the prospective importer must also apply for a Plant Import Permit (PIP) from the National Plant Protection Office (NPPO).

The consignment of tea and tea products should be accompanied by a Phytosanitary Certificate issued by the appropriate authority of the country of origin.

8. N/A.

Eligibility of Importers to Apply for Clearance

9. All persons, firms and institutions are eligible to apply. Clearance Certificates are issued to importers regardless of whether they are producers of like products or not. However, Clearance Certificates for import of black tea in bulk are issued only to producers of tea for blending purposes.

Documentation and Other Requirements for Application for Clearance

10. The application form is available at the office of NAPRO and can also be downloaded from the website of the NAPRO.

11. Upon importation, the importer is required to submit the approved application together with the invoice, packing list, bill of lading/airway bill and a Phytosanitary Certificate for tea products.

12. There is an application and a clearance fee. Different fees are charged for different products and depend on the quantity of products imported (As per Annex I)

13. No deposit or advance payment is required.

Conditions of Clearance

14. The Clearance Certificate for the import of tea and tea products is valid for one month and that for tobacco and tobacco products is valid for six months as from the date of issue. Request for extension may be considered on a case-by-case basis. In case the validity period has expired, another application fee will be payable.

15. There is no penalty for non-utilization of a clearance or part thereof, but the fee paid is not refundable.

16. Clearance Certificates are not transferable.

17. Conditions for clearance are listed in the application form which can be downloaded from the website of NAPRO

Other procedural Requirements

18. For tea and tea products, prior to importation, the prospective importer must be in possession of a Plant Import Permit issued by National Plant Protection Office (NPPO) which is delivered upon approval from NAPRO.

For tobacco and tobacco products imported for sale on the local market, approval should be obtained from the Ministry of Health and Wellness with respect to packaging and labelling requirements for the first-time importers and new products.

19. Foreign exchange is provided by banking authorities without impediments.

3.2 National Parks and Conservation Service (NPCS)

Outline of System

1. Mauritius together with Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands has been designated by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as a biodiversity hotspot. The majority of endemic Mauritian flora and fauna are considered threatened and with some 60 species of native plants believed to be already extinct.

Invasive Alien Species (IAS) which are introduced plants, animals and microorganisms represent the main threat to the biodiversity of Mauritius and its ecosystem. As a consequence, legislation and regulations have been enacted to control and monitor the entry of exotic wildlife.

Mauritius being party and compliant to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES) also regulates trade with respect to CITES listed species.

The National Parks and Conservation Service (NPCS) is responsible for regulating both importation of exotic wildlife and CITES listed (prescribed) species through provisions of the Native Terrestrial Biodiversity and National Parks Act 2015.

Purposes and coverage of licensing

2.(a) Import of CITES listed specimens

In accordance to the provision of the Native Terrestrial Biodiversity and National Parks Act 2015 (NTBNPA), an import permit is needed for the importation of prescribed wildlife under CITES for Appendix I and II. In that respect CITES import permits are issued by NPCS as the CITES Management Authority of Mauritius against payment of a prescribed fee. In addition, export and Re-export CITES permits are issued by NPCS against payment of a prescribed fee for export of prescribed wildlife and their derivatives.

(b) Import of exotic wildlife other than domestic, livestock and fish

"Exotic wildlife" is defined as any wildlife introduced in Mauritius as per NTBNPA 2015. In accordance to Section 35 of NTBNPA, a permit is needed for the importation of living animal other than domestic, livestock and fish. In that respect an Import Permit for Exotic Wildlife (IPEW) is delivered by the NPCS against payment of a prescribed fee.

3. The system applies to goods originating from all countries.

4. Yes, for CITES cases only.

5. The Native Terrestrial Biodiversity and National Parks Act 2015.

Procedures

6. N/A.

7.(a) Information concerning filing of applications for clearances are provided at the Office, on the Ministry's website, by phone and by mail upon request.

(b) Minimum time for processing applications:
(a) CITES permit - three working days.
(b) IPEW permit - ten working days.

Maximum time for processing applications:
(a) CITES permit -ten working days.
(b) IPEW permit - 90 working days in case applications should receive clearance of National Invasive Alien Species Committee.

(c) N/A.

(d) Written applications are submitted to Director (NPCS) for both categories of permits. Application forms for IPEW permit are also available at NPCS office.

8. Permits are refused in case of non-compliance of the NTBNPA 2015 and applicant is informed accordingly. In case of refusal of permits, the applicant can make an appeal to the Senior Chief Executive of Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security.

Eligibility of importers to apply for licence

9.(a) N/A.

(b) All persons or firms having the required facilities for the specific trade are eligible.

There is a system of registration for persons or firms to engage in importation. A registration fee as prescribed by the Native Terrestrial Biodiversity and National Parks Act 2015 (NTBNPA) applies for such registration.

There is no published list of authorised importers.

Documentation and other requirements for application for licence

10. General information requirements for CITES and IPEW are as follows: Details on importer, scientific name of imported wildlife, age, country of origin, source of wildlife, purpose of trade, sex of wildlife, quantity of wildlife imported.

11. Import permit from NPCS and Veterinary certificate.

12. A fee of Rs 300 is claimed for each CITES permit issued. A fee of Rs 50 is claimed for each IPEW permit issued.

13. Payment is made upon application of import permit.

Conditions of licence

14.(a) CITES Import permits are valid for one year.
(b) CITES Export and Re-export permits are valid for six months.
(c) Import Permit for Exotic Wildlife (IPEW) are valid for six months.

All permits are non-renewable. Applicants need to make fresh application against prescribed payment.

15. No penalty.

16. Non-transferrable.
17. Non-restrictive.

Other procedural requirements

18. Yes.

In case the application needs clearance from CITES Scientific Authority and/or Invasive Alien Species Committee and approval of Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security, the time for processing of permits is extended and applicant is informed accordingly.

19. N/A.

3.3 Veterinary Services

Outline of System

1. Import of all live animals (including pets), products of animal origin meant for human consumption and products of animal origin not meant for human consumption is regulated under the Animal Diseases Act 1925. Under regulations made under this Act, an importer must apply to the Livestock and Veterinary Division for an import permit prior to import. The Import Permit lays down all the animal health and veterinary public health conditions which need to be fulfilled and certified by official veterinary authorities of the exporting country prior to export.

Import permits are for delivered for domestic consumptions but in some cases they may be for transit purposes.

All import permits (except for live pets) are being issued online on the TRADENET (MNS system) according to the GN 186 of 2019.

Purposes and Coverage of Import Permit

2. Import of:

(a) live animals including pets;
(b) products of animal origin meant for human consumption; and
(c) products of animal origin not meant for human consumption.

3. The system applies to the above-mentioned goods originating from all countries.

4. The purpose of the Import Permit is to protect the country against sanitary threat in line with the WTO SPS Agreement.

5. Animal Disease Act 1925 and subsequent regulations (Government Notice 186 of 2019).

Procedures

6. N/A.

7.(a) (i) The importer should hold a valid import permit prior to import, hence it is the responsibility of the importer to organize for application of import permits. Import permits are issued within two days of application subject to all required information are submitted to the satisfaction of the LVD. In case of emergency, import permit may be granted in one day.

(ii) For applications concerning import of new products or import from countries with which no trade has occurred in the past, a risk analysis is carried out prior to determining the application.

For all consignments arriving at the port without a valid *import permit and an international veterinary* certificate*,* landing is not allowed and such products are not cleared by the LVD.

(b) Yes, an import permit may be granted immediately if all required information is submitted to the satisfaction of the LVD. Imports are allowed immediately upon the issue of permits.

(c) No.

(d) For most products mentioned under Number 2 above, a permit is delivered by the LVD. In the case of animal feed containing plant materials and fodder or fish and fish products, approval from the National Plant Protection Office and Ministry of Fisheries is also required respectively.

8. An import permit may be refused at any time in case of disease outbreak or suspicion of disease or veterinary public health issues in the country of export or in the country where the raw material originates or in the country where processing of the products has been carried out.

Applicants have the right of appeal and justifications are provided for any refusal in a transparent manner in the online system.

Eligibility of Importers to Apply for Import Permits

9. All persons are eligible to apply for import permits.

Documentation and Other Requirements for Application for Import Permits

10.(a)Live animals

At the time of application, the importer should submit the following information:

i. Description.
ii. Country of origin.
iii. Quantity.
iv. Common name.
v. Scientific name.
vi. Sex.
vii. Quarantine site.
viii. Purpose of import (for slaughter, qurbani etc.).

(b) Products of animal origin meant for human consumption:

i. Description (category, type, specific details of product etc.).
ii. Product technical details.
iii. Brand name.
iv. Country of origin.
v. Quantity.
vi. Name, address and storage capacity of cold storage/warehouse.
vii. Number and type of package.

(c) Products of animal origin not meant for human consumption:

i. Description (category, type, specific details of product etc.).
ii. Product technical details.
iii. Brand name.
iv. Country of origin.
v. Quantity.
vi. Name, address and storage capacity of warehouse.
vii. Number and type of package.

11. Arrival of all consignments should be notified to the LVD at least two days in advance by filling in and submitting the Veterinary Entry Document and supporting documents such as the international veterinary certificate issued by the exporting country, packing list, bill of lading/airway bill number, a copy of the import permit etc.

For the time being, live animals (except pets) and products of animal origin not meant for human consumption are being cleared online on Tradelink. For live animals, a certificate of entry is also being issued manually.

For products of animal origin meant for human consumption, clearance is being given manually on the Veterinary Entry Document.

12. Import Fees as per the Animal Disease Act 1925:

- Horses – Rs 1,000 per animal.
- Cats and dogs – Rs 500 per animal.
- Caged birds – Rs 100 for every 10 birds or less.
- Cattle, goats and sheep – Rs 10 per animal.
- Other live animals – Rs 200 per animal.
- Meat intended for human consumption - Rs 100 together with an additional sum of Rs 50 for each ton of meat or less.
- Other items – Rs 100 permit.

13. No deposit or advance payment.

Conditions of Licensing

14. Import Permit is valid for the following categories as follows:

- Live cattle and small ruminants: one month (live cattle, sheep and goat);
- Pets: six months;
- Day old chicks, horses, products of animal origin meant for human consumption and not meat for human consumption) – three months.

15. No penalty.

16. Not transferable.

17. No other conditions.

Other procedural Requirements

18. No other administrative procedures prior to importation.

19. N/A

3.4 National Plant and Protection Office (NPPO)

Outline of System

1. The National Plant Protection Office (NPPO) of the Ministry of Agro-Industry is a regulatory government plant protection body, mandated to protect the agricultural economy and biodiversity of Mauritius, from introduction of destructive exotic pests and diseases, through the Plant Protection Act (PPA), 2006.

Plants Import Permits (PIPs) are issued under section 19 of the Plant Protection Act (PPA) 2006. As per Paragraph 19 (1)(a) of PPA(2006), any person who imports or causes the importation of a plant, plant product or other regulated product shall apply for a plant import permit from the NPPO. PIP's are issued for importation of plants, plant parts and plants products. Currently, each importation requires importers to be in possession of a valid PIP.

Moreover, in line with Paragraph 19(4) of the PPA, a Plant Import Permit is also required for the Transiting and Landing/Shipping through the airport and seaport, of all items regulated under the PPA (2006) including fruits, vegetables, cut flowers, seeds, planting material.

All PIPs are delivered for goods intended for domestic market unless for transit consignments. PIPs are delivered electronically via the Tradenet portal.

Purposes and Coverage of Licensing

2. A PIP is required for importation of plants, plant parts and plants products. These include fresh, dried, frozen fruits, vegetables and aromatic herbs, timber, wooden, rattan, bamboo articles, pulses, selected cereals, animal feeds, cotton, furniture, planting materials (seeds, cuttings, young plants), fresh cut flowers, and selected plant-based fertilizers, bio-fertilizers and second-hand agricultural machinery.

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

4. PIP is delivered for phytosanitary reasons.

5. Plant Protection Act 2006.

Procedures

6. N/A.

7.(a) Application for PIP is made sufficient time in advance to allow the importer to transmit the Plant Import Permit to the exporter to ensure compliance with the import phytosanitary requirements of the NPPO of Mauritius. In case of inadvertency, permit may be delivered within shorter time limits. No Goods are allowed without a PIP.

(b) Yes, a Fast Track System exist at NPPO and upon request by importer and with proper justification an application is processed provided all relevant documents are submitted. Minimum time for processing application: five working days. For regular permit and may be extended for new and high-risk products. Imports are allowed immediately upon granting of permits.

(c) No.

(d) For most products mentioned under Number 2 above permit is delivered by NPPO. In the case of animal feed (containing plant materials) and fodder the clearance of the Veterinary Services is also required. A Biosecurity Technical Committee is set up to review issues where other agencies are involved. For other commodities recommendations from other Agencies may be required such as NAPRO for tea products, Division of Veterinary Services for animal feed (containing plant materials) and fodder and the Agricultural Marketing Board for controlled products like potatoes, onions and garlic.

8. Imports permits are only refused in case commodity to be imported represent phytosanitary threats to the country following a pest risk assessment being conducted.

Applicants have the right of appeal and justifications are provided for any refusal.

Eligibility of Importers to Apply for Clearance

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

Documentation and Other Requirements for Application for Clearance

10. Name and contact details of importer and exporter, product name (scientific name), HS code, the country of origin, the exporting country, quantity, the approximate shipment date, the purpose of the importation, the means of importation and the mode of transport. Additional documents can be uploaded on the Tradenet portal if required by NPPO. The application form is available on website of the NPPO.

11. Phytosanitary certificate issued by the exporting country, Bill of lading, the invoice and packing list

12. There is no application fee applicable. However, an administrative fee of MUR 100 is payable to the Mauritius Network Services Ltd (MNS).

13. No deposit or advance payment is required.

Conditions of Licensing

14. A PIP is usually valid for four months but can be also issued for a shorter period of time in exceptional cases.

15. No penalty.

16. Not transferable.

17. Conditions of PIP are based on phytosanitary reasons.

Other procedural Requirements

18. For the online permit system, importers need to register on the MNS.

19. Foreign exchange is automatically provided by banking authorities for goods to be imported (no license is required as a pre-requisite). Foreign exchange is always available for importers through direct application through the bank.

4 MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS

4.1 Dangerous Chemicals Control Board

Outline of System

1. The import licensing system is regulated by Section 11 of the Dangerous Chemicals Control Act 2004. The licensing system is administrated by the Dangerous Chemicals Control Board under the Ministry of Health and Wellness.

Purposes and coverage of licensing

2. Dangerous chemicals.

3. The system applies to goods originating from all countries.

4. To exercise control over import of dangerous chemicals.

5. Dangerous Chemicals Control Act 2004.

Licensing is statutorily required and is does not allow designation of products to be licensed to be subject to administration discretion. It is not possible to abolish the system without legislative approval.

Procedures

6. N/A.

7.(a) Yes, all applications should be done prior to import.

(b) Yes. However, the minimum time for processing an application is one week and the maximum time for processing an application is three weeks.

(c) Yes, there is no time limit for submitting an application.

(d) The Dangerous Chemicals Control Board is the sole authority for the issue of license under the Dangerous Chemicals Control Act 2004.

8. Yes. Issue of a licence may be refused if it is suspected that the import of the dangerous chemicals is not for legitimate use. There is no right of appeal in the event of a refusal of a licence.

Eligibility of importers to apply for licence

9. Only registered persons or companies.

Documentation and other requirements for application of licence

10. Yes. The application is available on the website of the Ministry of Health and Wellness.

11. Yes. A copy of the importing licence.

12. The fee for issue of import licence is MUR 6,000.

13. No deposit or advance payment is requested.

Conditions of licensing

14. Valid for 12 months.

15. No penalty.

16. Licences are not transferable between importers.

17. The issue of a licence is subject to any additional information which may be requested by the Board and any condition subsequently imposed by it.

Other procedural requirements

18. No other administrative procedures.

19. N/A.

4.2 Pharmacy Board

4.2.1 Import of Dangerous Drugs (Schedules II, III & IV)

Outline of the system

1. The Pharmacy Board is the regulatory body under the Pharmacy Act solely responsible for the issue of a licence/permit.

All medicines and pharmaceutical products must be registered with the Pharmacy Board prior to import and marketing in the country.

In addition, a certain specific category of medicines and pharmaceutical products as well as chemicals require a licence for their import. These include dangerous drugs as defined under Section 3 of the Dangerous Drugs Act 2000.

Purpose and coverage of licensing

2. As regards to dangerous drugs, it is mandatory under the International Conventions that a permit be issued by the regulatory authority for the import/export of substances listed in Schedules II and III of the Dangerous Drugs Act 2000.

The substances listed in Schedule IV of the Dangerous Drugs Act 2000 are used in the manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as classified by the 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, or otherwise, are included as precursors in Schedule IV.

3. The licensing system applies to goods coming from all countries.

4. Dangerous drugs are subject to regulatory control under the International Convention to prevent illicit trafficking and diversion to ensure that importation is for bona fide purposes

5. As mentioned above, they are governed by the provisions of the Pharmacy Act, 1983 and Dangerous Drugs Act 2000 as well as the respective regulations under the Acts. Being mandatory requirements, any amendments to the control measures will require amendments to the respective Acts.

Procedures

6. Import of Schedules II, III and IV dangerous drugs are, subject to a yearly quota which is established as follows:

I. At the end of every year, pharmaceutical wholesalers are required to submit a return of their transactions indicating opening stock, quantity purchased and sold during the current year and balance in hand.

II. They are also required to submit their request in respect of their requirements for the subsequent year. Quota is worked out on the basis of the data submitted. Adjustments, if any, to the quota are effected in the course of the year, however, full justifications must be provided.

III. The requirement at national level is worked out and submitted to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) in Vienna for the establishment of national quota especially for dangerous drugs Schedule II (narcotics) which, are recorded and published. Unused quotas cannot be carried forward for a succeeding year.

IV. Once a quota is established, the issue of the import permit/certificate is effected within a couple of days of submission of request. The importer will have to forward a copy of the import permit/certificate to the exporter who will forward a copy of same to the authority in the exporting country in view of obtaining an export licence to enable shipment of the consignment of the dangerous drugs.

Similarly, in the case of Schedule IV dangerous drugs (Precursor Chemicals), issue of a licence may be refused if it is suspected that the import of the chemicals is not for legitimate use. There is no right of appeal in the event of a refusal of a licence.

The application must be submitted at the beginning of the year when the yearly quota has been allocated. However, import may be effected in a staggered manner during the year.

7. N/A.

8. An application for clearance may be refused in the case of importation of pharmaceutical products including dangerous drugs (Schedules II, III and IV), if the applicant is not a registered importer.

Eligibility of importers to apply for licence

9.(a) Pharmaceutical products can only be imported by registered wholesale pharmacies under the supervision of pharmacists. A list of registered pharmaceutical wholesalers is available at the Ministry of Health and Wellness.

Documentation and other requirements for application for licence

10. The applicant is required to submit the required information as per international procedures as recommended by WHO.

11. A copy of the import licence must be submitted along with the invoice.

12. A processing fee of MUR 2,500 and a registration fee of MUR 5,000 per product (non-refundable). Fees are also applicable for extension in line and variations of imported pharmaceutical products as follows:

	MUR
– Change in shelf life	2,000
– Change in manufacturing site/distribution channel	2,000
– Extension in line of product	2,000
– Change in trade name	2,000
– Change in/additional pack size	1,000
– Change in pack design (primary pack)	1,000
– Change in design secondary pack)	1,000
– Change in packing material	1,000

– Change in label design 1,000

13. No deposit.

Conditions of licensing

14.The validity of a licence for pharmaceutical products is subject to renewable every year, upon payment of MUR 2,000.

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

16. The licence is not transferable between importers.

17. For dangerous drugs (Precursor Chemicals) (Schedule IV), the procedure for the issue of permit/certificate follows the same pathway as for schedule II and III dangerous drugs except that the authority in the exporting country will issue a Pre- Export Notification (PEN) certificate requesting for confirmation from the authority of the importing country on the authenticity of the import prior to shipment. There are no such conditions that licences are issued exclusively for export only.

Other procedural requirements

18. No.

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

4.2.2 Antibiotics, vaccines and therapeutic substances & Schedule I, Dangerous Drugs

Outline of the system

1. All medicines and pharmaceutical products must be registered with the Pharmacy Board prior to import and marketing in the country.

In addition, certain specific category of medicines and pharmaceutical products as well as chemicals require a licence for their import. These include:

- Antibiotics, vaccines and any therapeutic substance.
- Schedule I dangerous drugs.

The substances listed in Schedule I of the Dangerous Drugs Act are only meant for the use of Forensic Science Services in quantities not exceeding those strictly requested for the purpose in question. They are not subject to any quota.

Purpose and coverage of licensing

2. For each consignment of an antibiotic, vaccine and therapeutic substance imported, the importer (Pharmaceutical Wholesaler) is required to submit an application for a permit as specified under Section 25 of the Pharmacy Act indicating the name of the product(s) and quantity in respect of each product being imported. An import permit is then delivered to the importer accordingly.

As regards to dangerous drugs, it is mandatory under the International Conventions that a permit be issued by the regulatory authority for the import of substances listed in Schedule I of the Dangerous Drugs Act 2000.

3. The licensing system applies to goods coming from all countries.

4. The licensing process is intended to exercise control over import as per international requirements to ensure that the goods are destined for legitimate use (medicinal, scientific, and educational). They are also subject to regulatory control under the International Convention to prevent illicit trafficking and diversion to ensure that importation is for bona fide purposes.

5. As mentioned above, they are governed by the provisions of the Pharmacy Act, 1983 and Dangerous Drugs Act 2000 as well as the respective regulations under the Acts. Being mandatory

requirements, any amendments to the control measures will require amendments to the respective Acts.

Procedures

6. N/A.

7.(a) It is advisable to apply for the permit/licence prior to import.

(b) Licence/permit may be issued immediately upon request and at time when goods have arrived at the port only in the case of therapeutic substances including antibiotics and vaccines, on a consignment basis.

For Schedule I dangerous drugs, an import licence/permit is issued within a couple of days of submission of request.

(c) There is no time limit for submitting an application for permit/licence in the case of therapeutic substances including antibiotics and vaccines, as well as for chemicals and substances listed in Schedule I of the Dangerous Drugs Act. An application can be submitted any time an import is to be effected during the year.

8. An application for licence/permit may be refused in the case of importation of pharmaceutical products including Schedule I, dangerous drugs if the applicant is not a registered pharmaceutical wholesaler, laboratory or an educational institution.

Eligibility of importers to apply for licence

9. Any person, firm or institution is eligible to apply for licences. Issue of licence is applicable to both importers and producers of goods. Pharmaceutical wholesalers are registered entities with the Pharmacy Board. They also hold a trading licence from the local authorities. Similarly, the importers or dealers involved in the trade of chemicals need to be licenced by the local authorities.

Documentation and other requirements for application for licence

10. The applicant is required to submit the required information as per international procedures as recommended by WHO.

11. A copy of the import licence must be submitted along with the invoice.

12. A processing fee of MUR 2,500 and a registration fee of MUR 5,000 per product (non-refundable).

13. No deposit.

Conditions of licensing

14.(i) The validity of the licence for import of schedule I, dangerous drugs and chemicals is three months from the date of issue. It may be extended upon request if there is a delay in supply.

(ii) As regards import permit for vaccines, antibiotics, etc. the permit is issued on consignment basis at time of arrival of the goods.

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

16. The licence is not transferable between importers.

17. The issue of a licence is subject to any additional information or clarification that maybe required in respect of same.

For Schedule I, dangerous drugs, the importer will have to forward a copy of the import permit/ certificate to the exporter who will forward a copy of same to the authority in the exporting country in view of obtaining an export licence to enable shipment of the consignment of the dangerous drugs.

Other procedural requirements

18. All pharmaceutical products are required to be registered by the Pharmacy Board prior to import and marketing in Mauritius.

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

ANNEX I

NAPRO- CLEARANCE FEES

	FEE (Rs)	
Application fee for any import intended for commercial purposes	1,000	
Importation of –		
(a) Cigarettes –		
(i) exceeding 2,000 sticks	20	per thousand or part thereof
(ii) not exceeding 2,000 sticks	500	
(b) Cigarillos -		
(i) exceeding 1,000 units	20	per thousand or part thereof
(ii) not exceeding 1,000 units	500	
(c) Leaf tobacco, including cut-rag	1	per kg or part thereof
(d) Smoking tobacco	50	per kg or part thereof
(e) Cigars	50	per kg or part thereof
(f) Other tobacco products	110	per kg or part thereof
(g) black tea products for blending purposes	20	per kg or part thereof
(h) green tea products in packets of 1 kg or above		
(i) black tea products, green tea products and other tea products not exceeding 2 kgs and intended –	40	per kg or part thereof
(i) for own consumption;}		per tonne, or
(ii) for gift; or}		
(iii) to be used as sample}		
(j) other tea products	Nil	per kg or part thereof
(k) Instant tea mix, concentrates containing tea extract, concentrates for dilution containing tea extracts	300	% of tea content in the mix or concentrates per kg x Rs 300 per kg