WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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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 (2022)

MAURITIUS

The following communication, received on 20 January 2023, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Mauritius.

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

1.1 Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC)

Outline of system

1. Mauritius has successfully implemented its Chlorofluorocarbons (CFC) Phase out Management Plan since 2005 and importation of CFCs have been completely banned. Presently, a Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) Phase out Management Plan (HPMP) has been developed/approved 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 up/implemented, 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 Office of the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change issues 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

Purpose and coverage of licensing

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

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

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 Dangerous Chemical Control Act, 2004. Additionally, importation of equipment containing HCFC as a refrigerant is banned, under the Consumer Protection (Supplies and Control) Regulations, 2013.

Procedures

6.I All the 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 licence every time they intend to import. They need to indicate the amount as well as country of origin.

III. Refrigerants are not produced locally. Unused allocations are not added to quotas for 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 before hand.

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 Office (NOO) of the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change processes 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 they made additional request. Then reallocation can be done if only 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 HCFC 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 NOO 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 NOO 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 NOO does not charge any registration fee. There is no published list of importers at the level of NOO.

Documentation and other requirements for applications for permits

10. The importer must send a letter to the NOO 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 NOO 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 NOO in case of non-utilisation of the licence.

16. Licences are not transferable between importers.

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

Other procedural requirements

18. No other administrative procedures.

19. N/A.

1.2 Biodegradable Single Use Products

Outline of System

1. The importation of the following biodegradable single use products are subject to registration and clearance:

- cutlery (forks, knives, spoons, chopsticks);
- plate;
- cup;
- bowl;
- tray;
- straw
- beverage stirrer;
- hinged container;
- cup lid; and
- receptacles of any shape, with or without lid, used to contain food which is intended for immediate consumption, either on the spot or takeaway and supplied by a food service business.

Purposes and Coverage of Licensing

2. The importation of the biodegradable single use products mentioned above are subject to registration and clearance under the Environment Protection (Control of Single Use Plastic Products) Regulations 2020.

3 The system applies to goods originating from all countries.

4. The objective for registration and clearance prior to the importation of biodegradable single use products is to ensure that the single use products are biodegradable or compostable.

5. The Environment Protection (Control of Single Use Plastic Products) Regulations 2020.

Procedures

6. There is no quota for the importation of biodegradable or compostable single use products.

7.(a) The regulation provides that an application for clearance is to be made 30 days prior to placing a shipment order

(b) No. Applications are processed on a first come first serve basis as per good governance protocol established. The minimum requirement time is about five working days.

(c) No.

(d) The Ministry is the sole authority for processing and delivering permits (Registration + Clearance).

8. The Director of Environment is empowered to reject an application not conforming to the regulations. In case of refusal the Director, notifies the applicant in writing, stating the reasons. The regulations do not provide restriction of appeal in the event a permit/clearance is refused. Section 54 of the Environment Protection Act provides for hearing and determination of appeals by the Environment and Land Use Appeal Tribunal (ELUAT). However, the refusal of a permit under the regulations is not covered under the jurisdiction of the ELUAT and the applicant may initiate civil proceedings before the Supreme Court.

Eligibility of Importers to Apply for Licence

9. There is no restriction and all persons wishing to import biodegradable or compostable single use products may apply for registration and clearance.

Documentational and Other Requirements for Application for Licence

10. Documents required are listed in the Third Schedule and Fifth Schedule of the Environment Protection (Control of single use plastic products) Regulations 2020.

Registration and clearance applications are as per the Third Schedule and Fifth Schedule of the Environment Protection (Control of single use plastic products) Regulations 2020.

11. Bill of Entry.

12. The application fee for registration is Rs 10,000. The renewal fee is also Rs 10,000. An application for an import clearance is free of charge.

13. No.

Conditions of Licensing

14. A Registration Certificate issued under the Environment Protection (Control of single use plastic products) Regulations 2020 is valid for a period of three years, and may be renewed upon request and would be subject to conditions applied therein.

15. No.

16. No. Licences are not transferable.

17. Failing to comply with conditions of a registration certificate may lead to revocation of the certificate.

Other Procedural Requirements

18. The importer has to notify the Ministry on the expected date of arrival of their consignment for verification.

19. N/A.

1.3 Exempt Plastic Bags

Outline of Systems

1. Registration for the importation of exempt plastic bags under the Environment Protection (Banning of Plastic Bags) Regulations 2020.

Purposes and Coverage of Licensing

2. The importation of exempt plastic bags is allowed subject to registration under Regulation 5. The types of exempt plastic bags are those designed to be used:

- for the disposal of waste, including quarantine and clinical waste;
- for the purpose of agriculture;
- for medical purposes;
- for sampling or analysis;
- as integral part of the packaging in which goods, materials or products are sealed prior to sale on the local market or for export; and
- transparent re-sealable bags with security tamper used by a passenger or carried by a passenger on transfer to carry liquids, aerosols, or gels at an airport or on board of an aircraft.

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

4. Registration only applies for the importation of exempt plastic bags provided that the bags imported display information pertaining to the importer's name and the intended purpose of exempt plastic bag with a view to ensure traceability.

There is no restriction on the quantity to be imported.

5. The Environment Protection (Banning of Plastic Bags) Regulations 2020.

Procedures

6. N/A. There is no quota for the importation of an exempt plastic bag.

7.(a) The regulations provide for registration prior to importation or otherwise this constitutes an offence.

(b) No. Applications are processed on a first come first serve basis as per good governance protocol established. The minimum requirement time is about five working days.

(c) No.

(d) The Ministry is the sole authority for processing and delivering permits (Registration).

8. The Director of Environment is empowered to reject an application not conforming to the regulations.

Regulation 12 stipulates: "where the Director rejects an application made under Regulations 5 and 6, he shall notify the applicant in writing, stating the reasons of the refusal." The regulations do not provide restriction of appeal in the event a permit/clearance is refused.

Section 54 of the Environment Protection Act provides for hearing and determination of appeals by the Environment and Land Use Appeal Tribunal (ELUAT). However, the refusal of a permit under the regulations is not covered under the jurisdiction of the ELUAT and the applicant may initiate civil proceedings before the Supreme Court.

Eligibility of Importers to Apply for Licence

9. There is no restriction and all persons wishing to import an exempt plastic bag may apply for registration accordingly.

Documentational and Other Requirements for Application for Licence

10. Documents required are as per the Second Schedule of the Environment Protection (Banning of Plastic Bags) Regulations 2020.

11. Bill of Entry from customs.

12. The application fee for registration is Rs 10,000. The renewal fee is also Rs 10,000.

13. No, the application fee for registration is not refundable.

Conditions of Licensing

14. A registration certificate issued under the Environment Protection (Banning of Plastic Bags) Regulations 2020 is valid for a period of three years and may be renewed upon request and would be subject to conditions applied therein.

15. No.

16. No. Licence are not transferable.

17. Failing to comply with conditions of a registration certificate may lead to revocation of the certificate.

Other Procedural Requirements

18. The importer to notify the Ministry on the expected date of arrival of their consignment for verification.

19. N/A.

1.4 Biodegradable or Compostable Plastic Bags

Outline of Systems

1. Importation of biodegradable or compostable plastic bags is subject to registration and clearance as per Regulation 6.

Purposes and Coverage of Licensing

2. Biodegradable or compostable plastic bags should conform to any standards provided in the Third Schedule of the regulations.

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

4. The objective for registration and clearance prior to importation of biodegradable or compostable plastic bags is to ensure that these products conform to one of the standards listed in the Third Schedule of the regulations.

5. The Environment Protection (Banning of Plastic Bags) Regulations 2020.

Procedures

6. There is no quota for the importation of biodegradable or compostable plastic bags.

7.(a) The regulation provides that an application for clearance is to be made 30 days prior to placing a shipment order.

(b) No. Applications are processed on a first come first serve basis as per good governance protocol established. The minimum requirement time is about five working days.

(c) No.

(d) The Ministry is the sole authority for processing and delivering permits (Registration + Clearance).

8. The Director of Environment is empowered to reject an application not conforming to the regulations.

As per Regulation 12 if the Director of Environment rejects an application made under Regulations 5 and 6, he shall notify the applicant in writing, stating the reasons of the refusal

The regulations do not provide restriction of appeal in the event a permit/clearance is refused. Section 54 of the Environment Protection Act provides for hearing and determination of appeals by the Environment and Land Use Appeal Tribunal (ELUAT). However, the refusal of a permit under the regulations is not covered under the jurisdiction of the ELUAT and the applicant may initiate civil proceedings before the Supreme Court.

Eligibility of Importers to Apply for Licence

9. There is no restriction and all persons wishing to import biodegradable or compostable plastic bags may apply for registration and clearance accordingly.

Documentational and Other Requirements for Application for Licence

10. Documents required for registration are listed in the Second Schedule of the Environment Protection (Banning of Plastic Bags) Regulations 2020 and for clearance application in the Fourth Schedule of the Environment Protection (Banning of Plastic Bags) Regulations 2020.

11. Bill of Entry from customs.

12. The application fee for registration is Rs 10,000. The renewal fee is also Rs 10,000. An application for import clearance is free of charge.

13. No.

Conditions of Licensing

14. A registration certificate issued under the Environment Protection (Banning of Plastic Bags) Regulations 2020 is valid for a period of three years and may be renewed upon request and would be subject to conditions applied therein.

15. No.

16 No. Licence are not transferable.

17. Failing to comply with conditions of a registration certificate may lead to revocation of the certificate.

Other Procedural Requirements

18. The importer to notify the Ministry on the expected date of arrival of their consignment for verification.

19. N/A.

2. MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

2.1 Restricted goods

Outline of system

1. The Consumer Protection (Control of Imports) Regulations 2017 regulates the importation of restricted goods in Mauritius. The process 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 under the Consumer Protection (Control of Imports) Regulations 2017 are subject to 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. 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. For some controlled goods, appropriate recommendations are sought by the 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. With regard to second hand motor vehicle, as per the Consumer Protection (Control of Imports) (Amendment) Regulations 2020, no person, other than an authorised dealer or individual importer, shall import a second hand motor vehicle.

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.

MINISTRY OF AGRO-INDUSTRY AND FOOD SECURITY

3.1 National Agricultural Products Regulatory Office (NAPRO)

3.1.1 Tea and tea products and tobacco and tobacco products

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, the National Agricultural Products Regulations 2013 and the Public Health (Restrictions on Tobacco Products) Regulations 2022.

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 tea and tobacco products are effected by one administrative unit, NAPRO. However, for import of tea and tea products, the prospective importer must apply for a Plant Import Permit (PIP) from the National Plant Protection Office (NPPO) through the online platform of Mauritius Networking System (MNS). A PIP is generally issued by NPPO upon approval from NAPRO for importation of tea and tea products. 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, bill of entry (customs declaration form) 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 date of issue. Request for extension may be considered on case-to-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 in the local market, first time importers must have the approval from the Ministry of Health and Wellness with respect to packaging and labelling requirements.

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

3.2 National Parks and Conservation Service (NPCS)

3.2.1 Endangered species of flora and fauna

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.

The CITES and Wildlife (Prescribed Species) Regulations 2022 has been promulgated under the Native Terrestrial Biodiversity and National Parks Act. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is an international agreement between governments to regulate international trade of threatened species. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species. The regulations are effective as from 16 August 2022.

Purposes and coverage of licensing

2.(a) Import of CITES listed specimens

In accordance with 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.

(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 with 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 the applicant is informed accordingly. In case of refusal of permits, the applicant can make an appeal to the Senior Chief Executive of Ministry of Agriculture 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 cases where an application needs clearance from CITES Scientific Authority and/ or Invasive Alien Species Committee and approval of Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, the time for processing of permits is extended and the applicant is informed accordingly.

19. N/A.

3.3 Veterinary Services

3.3.1 All live animals (including pets), products of animal origin meant for human consumption and products of animal origin not meant for human consumption

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.

All import permits (except for live pets) are being issued online through the TradeNet Portal 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) 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 working days of application subject to all required information are submitted to the satisfaction of the LVD.

The products shall be verified, tested or analysis of the goods is done, the authorised officer shall issue or refuse to issue the import permit, as the ease may be, not later than two working days:
(a) after verification of the goods; or
(b) on the basis of the test report,
as the case may be.

For all consignment 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 answer 2 above, an import 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 as a recommender in the TRADENET, 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. At the time of application, the importer should submit the following information:

(a) Live animals

i. Description;
ii. Country of origin;
iii. Quantity;
iv. Common name;
v. Scientific name;
vi. Sex;
vii. Quarantine site (if applicable) in country of export;
viii. Purpose of import (for slaughter, qurbani etc.);
ix. Test reports where applicable.

(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;
viii. Treatment attestation where applicable.

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. through the TradeNet Portal.

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

12. Import Fees:

- 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 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 animals including pets: one month.
- 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)

3.4.1 Plants, plant parts and plants products and other regulated articles

Outline of System

1. The National Plant Protection Office (NPPO) is the official regulatory agency of the Ministry of Agro Industry & Food Security that is mandated under the Plant Protection Act (PPA) of 2006 to protect the biodiversity and agricultural economy of Mauritius, from introduction of destructive exotic plant pests and diseases

The NPPO regulates the importation of plant, plant products and other regulated articles through Plants Import Permits (PIPs) under section 19, paragraph (1) (a) of the PPA which makes the provisions that 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. Currently, PIPs are issued on a consignment basis and a PIP is usually valid for four months for a shorter period in exceptional cases where importation is authorized for emergency situations (unavailability of certain agricultural products).

Moreover, in line with Paragraph 19(4) of the PPA, a PIP is also applicable for certain regulated products such as fresh fruits and vegetables, fresh cut flowers and planting materials that is subjected to landing/shipping activities in our territory through the airport and seaport.

The law makes provision for the issuance of PIPs electronically via the Tradenet portal.

Purposes and Coverage of Licensing

2. A PIP is required for importation of plants, plant parts and plants products and other regulated articles. These include but is not restricted to fresh, dried, frozen fruits, vegetables and aromatic herbs, timber, wooden, rattan and 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, planting media and second-hand agricultural machinery.

3. The system applies to goods originating in and coming from all countries based on the analysis of phytosanitary risk and import conditions.

4. The PIP is delivered for plant health protection.

5. The PIP is issued under the Plant Protection Act 2006.

Procedures

6.I. For locally produced fresh vegetables, PIPs are issued based on an evaluation of the demand and supply in the local market.

II. The PIPs are issued on a monthly basis.

III. PIPs issued are monitored electronically and the PIP is restricted to the period under review.

IV. The time for the submission of the request is one month.

V. The PIPs are issued within five days.

VI. Importation can be done as soon as PIPs are issued.

VII. The Ministry of Agro Industry & Food security is responsible for the overall evaluation of the demands and granting the permits.

VIII. System is demand driven and PIPs are issued on a monthly basis and new importers have to make requests just like the existing ones on a monthly basis.

IX. Not restricted to bilateral quotas.

X. Not applicable to imports based on export permits only.

XI. PIPs are issued for re-exports in case of unavailability of the goods in the local market.

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. A PIP is required in line with the PPA.

(b) 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. The processing time for an application is five working days for regular permit and may be extended for new and high-risk products. Imports can be made immediately upon granting of permits.

(c) There are limitations for granting permits for imports of certain off-season products.

(d) The NPPO is the sole entity for granting permits for plant and plant products and other regulated articles except for the following articles where other agencies are also involved either as lead agency or recommender in the online system: - For animal feed and fodder the Veterinary Services is the lead agency and the NPPO is the recommender

- For tea and tea products, the NAPRO is the recommender
- For potatoes, onions and garlic (for consumption and for planting), the Agricultural Marketing Board is the recommender.
- For other overlapping issues the recommendation of the Plant Biosecurity Technical Committee is sought.
- For Invasive Alien Species (IAS), the recommendation of the IAS Committee is sought.

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 and reason for refusal is normally provided.

Applicants have the right of appeal under the PPA.

Eligibility of Importers to Apply for Licence

9. All persons, firms and institutions are eligible to apply for PIP under (a) and (b).

For electronic application, the applicants must register in the system prior to making an application.

Documentation and Other Requirements for Application for Clearance

10. Information that must be provided for application for a PIP are:

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. Documents that must be provided for application for a clearance PIP are:

- Phytosanitary certificate issued by the exporting country;
- Bill of lading;
- Commercial invoice and packing list; and
- Bill of Entry.

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 for application for a PIP.

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 is applicable for non-utilization of a PIP.

16. PIPs are not transferable between importers.

17. Other conditions may be applicable to a PIP, such as validity period of permit and post import control and monitoring.

Other procedural Requirements

18. Administrative procedures required are:

- For online permit system, the importers need to register on the MNS.
- For new importers of planting materials such as ornamentals, vegetables and fruits, production (commercial) registration with the Research and Extension Department is required and approval of the post entry quarantine facility by NPPO.

19. Issuance of a PIP is not a prerequisite for obtaining foreign exchange.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS

4.1 Dangerous Chemicals Control Board

4.1.1 Dangerous chemicals

Outline of System

1. 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 application 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 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 licence/permit.

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 requires 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 and IV 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.

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.

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.

5. As mentioned above, they are governed by the provisions of the Pharmacy Act, 1983 and Dangerous Drugs Act 2000. 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 and companies dealing in precursors are required to submit a return of their transactions indicating opening stock, quantity purchased or imported, sold or utilised during the current year and balance in hand.

They are also required to submit their request in respect of their requirements for the subsequent year. Each company receives its annual quota which is controlled by the Regulatory unit of the pharmacy department under the supervision of the directorate.

II. Annual quota is worked out on the basis of the data submitted, i.e., their consumption and their forecasted projects. Adjustments (increase), 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 annual national quota especially for dangerous drugs Schedule II (narcotics) which, are recorded and published. Unused quotas cannot be carried forward for a succeeding year, i.e., the quota is valid from 1 January to 31 December.

IV. Once quota is established, import may be effected in a staggered manner during the year as per requirement of the company.

V-VI. The issue of the import permit/certificate is effected within a couple of days of submission of request (application).

VII. The import permit is issued by the Pharmacy Board of the Ministry of Health and Wellness.

VIII. N/A.

IX. N/A.

X. 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.

XI. No.

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 with the Pharmacy Board.

Eligibility of importers to apply for licence

9.(a) Pharmaceutical products can only be imported by wholesale pharmacies, registered by the Pharmacy Board, under the supervision of pharmacists. A list of registered pharmaceutical wholesalers is available at the Ministry of Health and Wellness. They also hold a trading licence from the local authorities. Similarly, the importers or dealers involved in the trade of chemicals (Precursors) need to be licenced by the local authorities and (Dangerous Chemicals Control Board which operates under the Ministry of Health and Wellness.

Documentational 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. A signed application, prescribed by regulations under the Pharmacy Act, accompanied by a proforma invoice should be submitted to the Regulatory Unit for request of an import permit.

11. A copy of the import licence must be submitted along with the invoice for release authorisation by the Regulatory Unit.

Release of any consignment is carried out under the supervision of a government pharmacist.

12. There is no processing fee applicable to the application for Import permit.

Wholesale pharmacies pay a registration fee for a licence to operate and an annual licence renewal fee.

Only pharmaceutical products registered with the Pharmacy Board are authorised to be imported and marketed in the country. A processing fee of MUR 2,500 and a registration fee of MUR 5,000 per product (non-refundable). Fees is 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. There is no deposit or advance payment for the issue of licences.

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 Schedule IV items of the Dangerous Drugs Act (Precursor Chemicals), 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. Yes.

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 a 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.

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.

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).

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.

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. A signed application, prescribed by regulations under the Pharmacy Act accompanied by a proforma invoice should be submitted to the Regulatory Unit for request of an import permit.

11. A copy of the import licence must be submitted along with the invoice for release authorisation by the Regulatory Unit. Release of any consignment is carried out under the supervision of a government pharmacist.

12. There is no processing fee applicable to the application for Import permit.

Wholesale Pharmacies pay a registration fee for a licence to operate and an annual licence renewal fee.

Only Pharmaceutical products registered with the Pharmacy Board are authorised to be imported and marketed in the country. A processing fee of MUR 2,500 and a registration fee of MUR 5,000 per product (non-refundable). Fees is 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 the licence for import of schedule I, dangerous drugs and chemicals is till 31 December. It may be extended upon request if there is a delay in supply. 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. Yes.

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 1kg or above	40	per kg or part thereof
(i) black tea products, green tea products and other tea products not exceeding 2kgs and intended –		per tonne, or
(i) for own consumption;}		
(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