WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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Page: 1/18

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 (2017)

MAURITIUS

The following notification, dated 18 September 2017, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Mauritius.

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1 MINISTRY OF SOCIAL SECURITY, NATIONAL SOLIDARITY AND ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DIVISION)

1.1 Refrigerants containing Hydro chlorofluorocarbons (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 Unit of the Ministry Of Social Security, National Solidarity and Environment and Sustainable Development (Environment and Sustainable Development Division) 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 Quality of Life 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 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 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 intends 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 Unit (NOU) of the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Environment and Sustainable Development (Environment and Sustainable Development Division) 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 Quality of Life 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 NOU and licence from the DCCB.

7.(a) Same as the above procedure.
(b) It is possible, but still two days advance request is preferred.
(c) No.
(d) Same as above procedure.

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 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.

A 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 charge any registration fee.

13. No fees and deposit is 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 at the level of NOU.

19. To be confirmed by banking authorities.

1.2 Permit system under the Environment Protection (Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) bottle Permit) Regulations 2001 to bottle beverage in a PET bottle.

Outline of System

1. PET bottles have over the past years become the container of choice in the beverage industry replacing substantial quantities of glass bottles. About 100 million PET bottles are generated annually from the Beverage industry. The rise in the one-way no deposit mechanism for PET bottles has greatly contributed to the problem of littering in the country. Waste PET bottles also pose serious constraint in landfilling with regard to the large volume they occupy and the extremely slow decomposition rate (about 500 years).

Local companies wishing to bottle a beverage in a PET bottle should apply for a permit with the Department of Environment. A processing fee of Rs. 10,000 is charged for each permit.

Subject to meeting the conditions attached to the permit such as engaging the services of a PET recycler for the collect of used PET bottles from the waste stream and submitting annual returns on PET produced and waste PET collected for recycling; a permit is issued to the company with a validity of three years. The Permit is renewable subject to the satisfaction of the Director of Environment on compliance to conditions imposed under the Permit.

Purpose and Coverage of Licensing

2. Permit to bottle soft drinks and water in PET bottles.

3. The system applies to the local bottling of beverage in a PET bottle. (*Regulations will be amended in near future to include importation of beverage and foodstuffs in PET bottles*).

4. The permit system is not intended to restrict the quantity of production.

5. The permit system falls under the Environment Protection (Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) bottle Permit) Regulations 2001.

Procedures

6.I. N/A.

II. N/A.

III. Regulations will be reviewed with the State Law Office to extend the scope of the PET bottling permits to local production and importation of foodstuffs in a PET bottle/container.

IV. N/A.

V. Approximately one month to process permit.

VI. N/A.

VII. Processing of permit by the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Environment and Sustainable Development (Environment and Sustainable Development Division) only.

VIII. Permit is issued if company takes engagement to meet conditions attached to the permit.

IX. N/A.

X. N/A.

XI. N/A.

7.(a-d) N/A.

8. Permit may be revoked if company is not complying with conditions attached to it. Company will be requested to write to the Director of Environment as to why the permit should not be revoked.

Eligibility of Importers to apply for Licence

9. The beverage industries that have a PET permit are: Phoenix Beverages Ltd, Quality Beverages Ltd, Vital Water bottling Company Ltd, Eau Val Ltée, Global Direct Foods Ltd and Vivalo Ltée.

Documentation and other requirements for application for licence

10. Returns on expected annual PET production and contract with a PET recycler for the collection of waste PET for recycling.

11. N/A.

12. Rs. 10,000 as processing fee.

13. N/A.

Conditions of Licensing

14. Three years and renewable thereafter.

15. N/A.

16. Permit not transferable.

17. N/A.

Other procedural requirements

18. N/A

19. N/A

2 MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION (COMMERCE DIVISION)

Outline of System

1. Import permit system is regulated by the Consumer Protection (Control of Imports) Regulations 2017 establishing the list of goods subject to import control. (List of restricted and prohibited goods was submitted in notification dated 26 September 2014 in G/LIC/N/3/MUS/4). The system is administered by the Trade Division, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection.

Purposes and Coverage of Import Permits

2. Imports of restricted goods are subject to automatic licensing through an import permit being granted and issued.

3. The system applies to goods originating in and coming 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. For products under restriction, it is related to second hand motor vehicles, whereby an individual or firm (other than an authorised dealer or a taxi owner/driver) is entitled to import one motor car every five years; an authorized dealer is not subject to any restriction; a taxi owner/driver is entitled to import one motor car every four years; an individual or firm (other than an authorised dealer) is entitled to import one lorry/truck every five years; and an individual or firm (other than an authorised dealer) is entitled to import one van every five years. This information is available in the Consumer Protection (Control of Imports) Regulations 2017.

An individual or firm employing not less than 8 persons (other than an authorised dealer or a public transport operator) is entitled to import one second- hand bus every 5 years for each appropriate licence. Any imported second hand bus imported by an authorised dealer shall be sold only to aper4son holding the appropriate licence.

For second- hand motorcycles – total restriction on importation for resale.

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 TradeNet System via a customs broker. A firm is presently registered in the system, free of charge, prior to sending its application. With regards to authorised dealer, the company must be a holder of a valid licence of 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.

Documentational 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.

3 MINISTRY OF AGRO-INDUSTRY AND FOOD SECURITY

3.1 National Agricultural Products Regulatory Office

Outline of System

1. N/A

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. Regulated products are listed under the First Schedule of the Act.

Procedures

6.I. Information concerning filing of applications for clearances are provided at the Office, by phone and by mail upon request.

II. There is no quota.

III. Clearances are issued to importers regardless of whether they are producers of like products or not.

IV. N/A.

V. Applications for clearance are usually processed on the same day or on the next working day.

VI. N/A.

VII. Application for clearance is considered by one administrative body. However, import of tea products should be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate issued by the appropriate authority of the country of origin. The prospective importer should therefore call at the National Plant Protection Office for a Plant Import Permit.

VIII. Applications are considered on receipt.

IX. There is no bilateral quotas or export arrangements. Export permits from exporting countries are not required.

X. N/A.

XI. Import clearances are for products for sale in the domestic market.

7. Where there is no quantitative limit on importation of a product or on imports from a particular country:

(a) Applications may be made prior to import of goods
(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 limitation 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 organ, NAPRO.

8. None.

Eligibility of Importers to Apply for Clearance

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

Documentation and Other Requirements for Application for Clearance

10. The application form is available at the office of NAPRO and a model is available on the website of the Ministry

11. Upon importation the importer is required to submit the approved application together with the invoice and bill of lading and a phytosanitary certificate for tea products.

12. There is an application and a clearance fee.

13. No deposit or advance payment is required.

Conditions of Clearance

14. A clearance for the import of tea products is valid for a period of one month; that for tobacco products is valid for six months as from date of issue. Request for extension may be considered.

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

16. Clearances are for the products specified on the application form.

17. Conditions for clearance are listed on the application form.

Other procedural Requirements

18. There is no other administrative procedure at NAPRO prior to importation but prospective first time importers must submit appropriate documents for identification/registration.

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

3.2 National Parks and Conservation Service

Outline of System

1. N/A

Purposes and coverage of licensing

2.(a) Import of CITES listed specimens

In accordance with Section (39) of the Native Terrestrial Biodiversity and National Parks Act 2015, an import permit is needed for the importation of prescribed wildlife under CITES. In that respect CITES import permits are issued by NPCS as the CITES as the CITES Management Authority of MRU against payment of a prescribed fee.

(b) Import of exotic wildlife other than livestock and fish
In accordance with Section 35 of the same act, a permit is needed for the importance of living animal other than livestock and fish. In that respect an Import Permit for Exotic Wildlife (IPEW) is delivered by the NPCS permit office against payment of a prescribed fee.

Procedures (6–8)

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

4. Apply in CITES cases.

5. Act.

6. N/A.

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

K,L 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 - 60 working days in case applications should receive clearance of National IAS committee.

8. Section 10(1) and (2) of the wildlife regulations (1998) allows the authorized officer to refuse an application for a permit. In general the following are reasons for refusal of an import permit: invasive species, no adequate facility at importer's premises and veterinary objection due to threat of diseases.

Eligibility of importers to apply for licence

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

Documentation and other requirements for application for licence. (10 – 13)

10. General information requirements for CITES and IPEW are as follows: Details on importer, Scientific name of imported wildlife, age, country of origin.

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 made upon application of import permit.

Conditions of licence (14 – 17)

CITES import permit for Appendix I is 12 months valid while IPEW permit is six months valid.

Other procedural requirements (18 – 19)

None.

3.3 Veterinary Services

Outline of System

1. N/A

Purposes and Coverage of Import Permit

2. Import of:

Live animals and animal products

3. None.

4. Import Permit design to protect the country against sanitary threat in line with the WTO SPS Agreement.

5. Animal Disease Act 1925 and subsequent regulations.

Procedures

6. I. All relevant information for import of live animals and animal products are available online and in information leaflets at the Veterinary Services.

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

- Live cattle three months (*live cattle, sheep and goat)*
- Dog six months.
- All other products as mentioned above three months.

III. N/A

IV. N/A.

V. Minimum time for processing application: 7 days, maximum time 15 days.

VI. Imports are allowed immediately upon granting of permits.

VII. For most products mentioned under Number 2 above permit is delivered by division of Veterinary Services. In the case of animal feed (containing plant materials) and fodder the clearance of the NPPO is also required. [*in case of birds and invasive species clearance from NPCS is required]*

VIII. N/A.

IX. N/A.

X. N/A.

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

7. Where there is no quantitative limit on importation of a product or on imports from a particular country:

(a) In case of emergency permit may be granted in one day. Normal time for permit delivery is two weeks. Goods arriving at the port without an *import permit and health certificate* is not allowed.
(b) Yes, provided all sanitary conditions are satisfied.
(c) No.
(d) For most products mentioned under Number 2 above permit is delivered by division of Veterinary Services. In the case of animal feed (containing plant materials) and fodder the clearance of the NPPO is also required.

8. Imports permits are only refused in case of sanitary threats to the country. Applicants have the right of appeal and justifications are provided for any refusal.

Eligibility of Importers to Apply for Clearance

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

Documentation and Other Requirements for Application for Clearance

10. ***Live animals***

(a) Copy of all test certificates and sanitary conditions of exporting country.
(b) Quarantine facilities if any.

Animal Products

(a) Copy of all test certificates and sanitary conditions of exporting country.
(b) Facility of storage.

11. Original of documents mentioned at (10) above.

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 100/permit together with an additional sum of Rs 50 for each ton of meat or less.
- Other items – Rs 100 permit.
- Veterinary clearance fee (live animals and pets): Rs 500.

13. No.

Conditions of Licensing

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

- Live cattle 3 months.
- Dog 6 months.

- All other products as mentioned above three months.

15. No.

16. No.

17. No.

Other procedural Requirements

18. No.

19. N/A

3.4 National Plants and Protection Office (NPPO)

Outline of System

1. N/A

Purposes and Coverage of Licensing

2. Plant import Permit (PIP) for Agricultural Produce of Plant Origin including resources from the soil (e.g. rocks).

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

4. PIP is delivered for phytosanitary reasons.

5. Plants Protection Act 2006.

Procedures

6. For regulated products:

I. All relevant information for import of agricultural produce of plant origin including resources from the soil (e.g. rocks) are available online and for information leaflets at the NPPO.

II. The PIP is valid for a 3 months period.

III. PIP are delivered for domestic consumption. There may be cases of goods in transit where special arrangements are made between importers and the NPPO.

IV. N/A.

V. Minimum time for processing application: 2 days, maximum time 5 days.

VI. Imports are allowed immediately upon granting of permits.

VII. 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.

VIII. N/A.

IX. N/A.

X. N/A.

XI. All PIP are delivered for goods intended for domestic consumptions unless for transit consignments.

7. Where there is no quantitative limit on importation of a product or on imports from a particular country:

(a) Application for PIP is made one week in advance in case of emergency, permit may be delivered within shorter time limits. Normal time for permit delivery is two weeks. No Goods are allowed without a PIP.
(b) Yes, provided all relevant documents are submitted and phytosanitary conditions are satisfied.
(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.

8. Imports permits are only refused in case of phytosanitary threats to the country. 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 of importer, contact details, name of exporter, product name (scientific name), country of origin, and quantity.

11. Original of documents mentioned at (10) above.

12. Import Fees:

- Application Fee – Rs 50.

13. No deposit or advance payment required with the issue of PIP.

Conditions of Licensing

14. PIP is valid for a period of three months.

15. No.

16. No.

17. Conditions of PIP base on phytosanitary reasons.

Other procedural Requirements

18. No.

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

4 MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND QUALITY OF LIFE

4.1 Dangerous Chemicals Control Board

Outline of systems

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 Quality of Life.

Purposes and coverage of licensing

2. N/A.

3. Yes.

4. N/A.

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

For products under restriction as to the quantity or value of imports

6.I. N/A.

II. N/A.

III. N/A.

IV. N/A.

V. 1–3 weeks.

VI. Valid for 3 months.

VII. Yes.

VIII. N/A.

IX. N/A.

X. N/A.

XI. N/A.

7. Where there is no quantitative limit on importation of a product or on imports from a particular country:

(a) Yes.
(b) Yes.
(c) Yes.
(d) Yes.

8. Yes.

Eligibility of importers to apply for licence

9. Only registered persons or companies.

Documentation and other requirements for application of licence

10. Yes.

11. Yes.

12. The fee for Issue of import licence is Rs 200 (Mauritian rupees).

13. No deposit or advance payment is requested.

Conditions of licensing

14. Valid for 3 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. N/A.

19. N/A.

4.2 Pharmacy Board

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 requires a licence for their import and export. These include:

- Antibiotics, vaccines and any therapeutic substance, listed in the Sixth Schedule of the Pharmacy Act, 1983.
- Dangerous drugs as defined under Section 3 of the Dangerous Drugs Act 2000.

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/export of substances listed in Schedule I, II, III & IV of the Dangerous Drugs Act 2000.

Substances listed in Schedules I, II and III may be authorized to be imported for the purposes of medical or scientific research or teaching or the use of the forensic science services, in quantities not exceeding those strictly required for the purpose in question.

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. The application forms and permits are as given in the annexed documents.

3. The licensing system applies to goods coming from any country.

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.(a) *Import of Antibiotics*

Importation of Antibiotics, vaccines and therapeutic substances is not subject to any quota. The permit is issued at time of arrival of the product(s) in the country, on consignment basis.

(b) *Import of Dangerous Drugs*

Import of Schedule II and Schedule III dangerous drugs

Import of Schedule II and Schedule III 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.
(iv) Once 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.

Import of Schedule I dangerous drugs

(i) The substances listed in Schedule I of the Dangerous Drugs Act are only meant for scientific (Forensic) purposes.
(ii) They are not subject to any quota.
(iii) Import licence/permit is issued within a couple of days of submission of request.
(iv) 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.

Import of Schedule IV dangerous drugs (Precursor Chemicals)

I.-II. Import of the products listed in the above mentioned schedule is not subject to quota. 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.

III. Issue of licence is applicable to both importers and producers of goods. Unused quotas cannot be carried forward for a succeeding year.

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.

IV, V, VI already covered in the previous paragraphs.

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

VIII. N/A.

IX.-X. already covered in the previous paragraphs.

XI. There is no such conditions that licences are issued exclusively for export only.

7.

(a)(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. However, it is advisable to apply for the permit/licence/certificate prior to import.

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

As regards Items listed in Schedule II and III of the Dangerous Drugs Act, 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.

(d) Already covered in Para 6(VII).

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

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.

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.

(b) As regards chemicals, any person, firm or institution is eligible to apply for licences. There is no registration fee for any of the above at present.

Documentation and other requirements for application for licence.

10. The applicant is required to submit the required information as mentioned in the sample documents annexed.

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

12. There is no licensing fee charged.

13. N/A.

Conditions of licensing

14. (i) The validity of the licence for import of dangerous drugs and chemicals is 3 months from the date of issue. It may be extended upon request if there is a delay in supply for instance.
(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.

Other procedural requirements.

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

19. N/A.