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Committee on Import Licensing

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REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE ON IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES¹

NOTIFICATION UNDER ARTICLE 7.3 OF THE AGREEMENT ON IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES (2020 AND 2021)

EL SALVADOR

The following communication, dated 30 November 2022, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of El Salvador.

Quotas

No changes have been made to the procedure on quotas notified in document G/LIC/N/3/SLV/4 of 27 August 2020, which therefore remains valid.

Other licences

As a general rule, the importation of products does not require import licences; however, there are some products that require permits, authorizations, certificates and/or approval for importation, for reasons of public safety, animal or plant health, or environmental protection.

El Salvador has the Import and Export Processing Centre (CIEX El Salvador) of the Central Reserve Bank, Import Section, which is the body responsible for centralizing, streamlining and simplifying import and export procedures.

Interested parties can contact the Centre by email: cieximportaciones@bcr.gob.sv; or telephone: (+503) 2281 8000. Some import procedures are available online at: <https://www.ciexelsalvador.gob.sv/ciexelsalvador/>.

A process to improve governance is under way to reduce response times for products requiring import authorization, provided the required documentation is complete and submitted in advance of importation.

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

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1 ALCOHOL

Outline of systems

1. Authorization is required to import or produce potable and non-potable ethyl or industrial alcohols, and non-potable methanol, isopropyl, butyl or other non-potable alcohols. These are authorized through annual quotas, the aim being to regulate the operational, health-registration, quality-control, tax-payment and consumer-guarantee aspects of production, processing and sale.

Purposes and coverage of licensing

2. It applies to the above-mentioned products.
3. It applies to all countries, irrespective of the origin of the products.
4. The purpose of these licences is not to limit the quantity or value of imports, but rather to verify compliance with the quality requirements indicated in paragraph 1.
5. This type of product is governed by the Law regulating the production and sale of alcohol and alcoholic beverages, and the amendment thereto.

Procedures

6. Not applicable, as this product is not subject to quantitative restrictions.

Eligibility of importers to apply for a licence

7. Where there is no quantitative limit on the importation of a product or on imports from a particular country:
 - (a) Registration procedures for companies importing or producing alcohol must be sought from the Alcohol and Tobacco Unit of the Ministry of Health (MINSAL) before the product arrives for clearance. Meanwhile, applications for the importation of potable and non-potable alcohol are made through the Import and Export Processing Centre (CIEX El Salvador), Import Section,

of the Central Reserve Bank (BCR). Thereafter, the allocation and authorization of the ethyl alcohol quota to be imported or purchased must be requested from the Tax Obligations Oversight Division attached to the Directorate-General of Internal Revenue of the Ministry of Finance.

- (b) Generally speaking, import permits are granted promptly, provided all documentation is complete.
- (c) There are no limitations on the date of submission of an application.

More details of the procedure for applying for authorization to import or produce alcohol can be found on the following websites:

- <https://www.transparencia.gob.sv/institutions/minsal/services/1018>;
- <https://www.mh.gob.sv/servicios/autorizacion-de-la-cuota-de-alcohol-a-importar-o-adquirir-a-importadores-empresas-industriales-farmaceuticas-o-laboratorios-usuarios-de-alcohol-etilico/>.

- (d) For this product, the import authorization is only processed by a single administrative organ.

8. Authorization is refused only when the established legal requirements are not met. Applicants are informed in writing. In El Salvador, the Law on Administrative Procedures regulates the administrative review procedure for settling disputes when authorization is refused.

Once administrative remedies have been exhausted, there is also the option of filing a claim before the administrative tribunals, which have jurisdiction to verify the legality and settle any administrative disputes that might arise between the public administration and individuals.

Eligibility of importers to apply for a licence

9. All persons/importers have the right to apply for import authorizations, whether natural or legal persons, including foreign nationals with a residence permit.

Documentational and other requirements for application for a licence

10. Importers must comply with the requirements set out in ANNEX I (a).

11. In addition, they must complete form 1 for registration/renewal in order to import alcohol; form 2 for the importation of ethyl alcohol and other alcohols; and form 3 for an inventory of ethyl alcohol, set out in ANNEXES I (b), (c) and (d), respectively.

12. Some licences or permits are free of charge. Fees are charged for others and details are provided for each product.

13. No, where the licence or permit requires payment, this is made at the time of issue of the permit. No advance payment is required.

Licensing conditions

14. Pursuant to Article 45-B of the Law regulating the production and sale of alcohol and alcoholic beverages, and the amendment thereto, importers, industrial and pharmaceutical companies or laboratories using ethyl alcohol must apply in January of each year to the Directorate-General of Internal Revenue of the Ministry of Finance for authorization of the respective alcohol quota to be imported or purchased during the year. This authorization must be submitted at the time of importation or purchase of the product, as the case may be.

15. No penalty is imposed for the non-utilization of import licences or permits.

16. Import licences or permits are non-transferable, as they specify the particulars of the importer and the specific product/quantities to be imported.

17. (a) No, these products are not subject to quantitative restrictions.

(b) There are no other conditions.

Other procedural requirements

18. To submit an application to the Directorate-General of Internal Revenue of the Ministry of Finance for the allocation and authorization of the ethyl alcohol quota to be imported or purchased; the quantity requested must be the same as that previously authorized by MINSAL. This application is set out in ANNEX I (e).

Instructions are available for completing the forms related to these procedures.

19. The legal currency in circulation in El Salvador is the United States dollar and the exchange rate is set by the Central Reserve Bank and has been fixed since 2001.

2 PREPARED FOODSTUFFS, RAW MATERIALS AND ADDITIVES FOR FOOD AND BEVERAGES, CHEMICALS AND COMPOUNDS, PHARMACEUTICALS, FERTILIZERS AND PREPARATIONS FOR PHARMACEUTICAL USE AND COSMETICS

2.1 Prepared Foodstuffs, Raw Materials and Additives for Food and Beverages

Outline of systems

1. Pursuant to Article 88 of the Health Code, an authorization is required to import prepared foodstuffs, raw materials and food additives, which must be sanctioned by the Ministry of Health, subject to analysis and registration.

Purposes and coverage of licensing

2. It applies to the above-mentioned products.

3. It applies to all countries, irrespective of the origin of the products.

4. The purpose of these licences is not to limit the quantity or value of imports, but rather to verify compliance with food and beverage standards so that the products are fit for human consumption.

5. This type of product is governed by the Health Code.

Procedures

6. Not applicable.

7.(a) Prior to importation, so that when the product enters the country, it already has the import licence (permit).

Import licences (permits) are generally issued in an expeditious and timely manner. Work is currently under way on a government improvement process to reduce response times, provided that the required documentation is completed prior to importation.

(b) Generally speaking, import permits are granted promptly, provided all documentation is complete.

(c) There are no limitations on the date of submission of an application.

- (d) As of 10 January 2019, authorizations to import prepared foodstuffs, raw materials and food additives are processed through the electronic import request form in the Imports System (SIMP) of the Import and Export Processing Centre (CIEX-BCR), available at the following web pages: www.ciexelsalvador.gob.sv or www.ciexelsalvador.com

More details about the procedure for requesting authorization to import prepared foodstuffs, raw materials and food additives can be found at: <http://usam.salud.gob.sv/index.php/novedades/noticias/noticias-empresas/557>.

8. Authorization is refused only when the established legal requirements are not met. Applicants are informed in writing. Appeals for review may be filed before the same institution from which the import licence or permit was requested.

In El Salvador, the Law on Administrative Procedures regulates the administrative review procedure for settling disputes when authorization is refused.

Once administrative remedies have been exhausted, there is also the option of filing a claim before the administrative tribunals, which have jurisdiction to verify the legality of and settle any administrative disputes that might arise between the public administration and individuals.

Eligibility of importers to apply for a licence

9. All persons/importers have the right to apply for import authorizations, whether natural and legal persons, including foreign nationals with a residence permit.

Documentational and other requirements for application for a licence

10. Applicants must be registered as a user in the Environmental Health Information System of the Environmental Health Directorate of the Ministry of Health, and in the Foreign Trade Facilitation System of the Central Reserve Bank. Information on the importer and the product to be imported is required. For each section by product, the application form is attached.

The documents required are described in detail for each product in the section entitled "Documentational and other requirements for application for a licence", such as the certificate of free sale or other official document containing the same information, etc.

11. The request and original certificate of free sale bearing an apostille, issued by the Ministry of Health or the respective official authorization from the country of origin.

The certificate of free sale must describe or give the name of the product(s) to be imported. The certificate of free sale will be returned to the user and must be valid (it is valid for 1 year).

For countries that do not issue certificates of free sale, an official alternative document that contains the same information as the certificate of free sale may be submitted.

12. The import authorization for prepared foodstuffs, raw materials and food additives is subject to the payment of a service fee of USD 5.00 for each application.

13. No, none.

Licensing conditions

14. It is generally 30 days. (Phytosanitary, animal health and food certificates) It varies depending on the type of product.

The validity of licences cannot be extended, they must be requested again. Consideration will be given to special cases where the goods are in transit and there has been some delay.

15. No penalty is imposed for the non-utilization of import licences or permits.

16. Import licences or permits are non-transferable, as they specify the particulars of the importer and the specific product/quantities to be imported.

17.(a) No, these products are not subject to quantitative restrictions.

(b) There are no other conditions.

Other procedural requirements

18. No, none.

19. The legal currency in circulation in El Salvador is the United States dollar and the exchange rate is set by the Central Reserve Bank and has been fixed since 2001.

2.2 Chemicals and Compounds, Pharmaceutical Products, Fertilizers and Preparations For Pharmaceutical Use and Cosmetics, Hygiene Products and Medical Inputs

Outline of systems

1. In accordance with Legislative Decree No. 417, authorization must be obtained and the fees must be paid for the licence to import or manufacture chemicals and compounds, pharmaceutical products, fertilizers and preparation for pharmaceutical and cosmetic use, hygiene products and medical imports. The authorization will be issued once the product has been assessed and approved by the regulatory authority.

Purposes and coverage of licensing

2. It applies to the above-mentioned products.

3. It applies to all countries, irrespective of the origin of the products.

4. The purpose of these licences is not to restrict the quantity or value of imports, but rather to verify compliance with chemical and pharmaceutical product standards for human consumption/use.

5. This type of product is governed by Legislative Decree No. 417, entitled "Fees applicable in the National Directorate of Medicines for services and licences for health establishments".

Procedures

6. Not applicable.

7.(a) Prior to importation, so that when the product enters the country, it already has the import licence (permit).

Import licences (permits) are generally issued in an expeditious and timely manner. Work is currently under way on a government improvement process to reduce response times, provided that the required documentation is completed prior to importation.

(b) Generally speaking, import permits are granted promptly, provided all documentation is complete.

(c) There are no limitations on the date of submission of an application.

(d) The importation of these products can be processed through the single window of the Import and Export Processing Centre (CIEX-BCR).

The importer must be registered in the Imports System (SIMP) of CIEX-BCR.

To import medicines, the importer must apply to the National Directorate of Medicines (DNM) to create a user name and password for the administrative procedures portal, so that the import voucher can be generated, which will then be submitted through the CIEX single window together with the import application.

The import application must be submitted through the CIEX single window, with the supporting technical documentation.

More details about the procedure for requesting authorization to import chemicals and compounds, pharmaceutical products, fertilizers and preparations for pharmaceutical and cosmetic use, can be found at: <https://www.medicamentos.gob.sv/index.php/es/66-como-importar>.

8. Authorization is refused only when the established legal requirements are not met. Applicants are informed in writing. Appeals for review may be filed before the same institution from which the import licence or permit was requested.

In El Salvador, the Law on Administrative Procedures regulates the administrative review procedure for settling disputes when authorization is refused.

Once administrative remedies have been exhausted, there is also the option of filing a claim before the administrative tribunals, which have jurisdiction to verify the legality of and settle any administrative disputes that might arise between the public administration and individuals.

Eligibility of importers to apply for a licence

9. All persons/importers have the right to apply for import authorizations, whether natural and legal persons, including foreign nationals with a residence permit.

Documentational and other requirements for application for a licence

10. Importers must be registered in the CIEX-BCR Imports System (SIMP), by following the steps described here: <https://www.ciexelsalvador.gob.sv/ciexelsalvador/pasos-para-registrarse-en-simp-2/>.

They must have a user name and password for the DNM administrative procedures portal. These can be requested electronically by sending an email to: importaciones.exportaciones@medicamentos.gob.sv or in person at the counters in the DNM by completing the form set out in Annex II (a). Information on the importer and the product to be imported is required. For each section by product, the application form is attached.

The documents required are described in detail for each product in the section entitled "Documentational and other requirements for application for a licence", such as the certificate of free sale or other official document containing the same information, etc.

11. The import application must be submitted through the CIEX single window, with the supporting technical documentation. Document requirements can be found in the CIEX *Guía de importaciones de medicamentos, cosméticos, higiénicos, productos químicos e insumos médicos* (Manual for imports of medicines, cosmetics, hygiene products, chemicals and medical inputs), attached in Annex II (b). The approved import licence or permit.

12. Authorization to import chemicals and compounds, pharmaceutical products, fertilizers and preparations for pharmaceutical and cosmetic use, hygiene products and medical inputs is subject to payment of a product-specific tariff, which is set forth in Legislative Decree No. 417. See Annex II (c).

13. No, none.

Licensing conditions

14. It is generally 30 days. (Phytosanitary, animal health and food certificates) It varies depending on the type of product. The validity of licences cannot be extended, they must be requested again. Consideration will be given to special cases where the goods are in transit and there has been some delay.

15. No penalty is imposed for the non-utilization of import licences or permits.

16. Import licences or permits are non-transferable, as they specify the particulars of the importer and the specific product/quantities to be imported.

17.(a) No, these products are not subject to quantitative restrictions.

(b) There are no other conditions.

Other procedural requirements

18. No, none.

19. The legal currency in circulation in El Salvador is the United States dollar and the exchange rate is set by the Central Reserve Bank and has been fixed since 2001.

3 ARMS, AMMUNITION, EXPLOSIVES AND PYROTECHNIC PRODUCTS

3.1 Arms and Ammunition

Outline of systems

1. The Ministry of Defence shall issue the special permit for the importation of firearms and ammunition. The importer must obtain this permit prior to the entry of such articles into the national territory.

Purposes and coverage of licensing

2. It applies to the above-mentioned products.

3. It applies to all countries, irrespective of the origin of the products.

4. The purpose of these licences is to control and regulate the use, manufacture, import, export and marketing of firearms, ammunition, explosives, accessories and similar items, in order to protect the lives, personal integrity and property of citizens.

5. This type of product is governed by the Law on the control and regulation of arms, ammunition, explosives and similar items. Annex III (a).

Procedures

6. Not applicable.

7.(a) Prior to importation, so that when the product enters the country, it already has the import licence (permit).

Import licences (permits) are generally issued in an expeditious and timely manner. Work is currently under way on a government improvement process to reduce response times, provided that the required documentation is completed prior to importation.

(b) Generally speaking, import permits are granted promptly, provided all documentation is complete.

(c) There are no limitations on the date of submission of an application.

(d) The special permit application to import and market firearms and ammunition is to be submitted to the Logistics Directorate of the Ministry of Defence.

8. Authorization is refused only when the established legal requirements are not met. Applicants are informed in writing. Appeals for review may be filed before the same institution from which the import licence or permit was requested.

In El Salvador, the Law on Administrative Procedures regulates the administrative review procedure for settling disputes when authorization is refused.

Once administrative remedies have been exhausted, there is also the option of filing a claim before the administrative tribunals, which have jurisdiction to verify the legality of and settle any administrative disputes that might arise between the public administration and individuals.

Eligibility of importers to apply for a licence

9. All persons/importers have the right to apply for import authorizations, whether natural and legal persons, including foreign nationals with a residence permit.

Documentational and other requirements for application for a licence

10. Application with the applicant's details and area of activity according to the format given in Annex III (b). Information on the importer and the product to be imported is required. For each section by product, the application form is attached.

The documents required are described in detail for each product in the section entitled "Documentational and other requirements for application for a licence", such as the certificate of free sale or other official document containing the same information, etc.

11. A copy of the Salvadoran national identity card (DUI), tax identification number (NIT) and credentials of the legal representative, and the import permit.

- Criminal and police records of the company's legal representative and board members;
- The company's articles of association, NIT, value added tax (VAT) identification number and business registration number;
- A sworn statement before a notary public that the information is true;
- List of arms and ammunition to be imported/marketed (first time);
- A sketch of the company's location;
- If the importer cannot complete the formalities, an authorized representative may do so upon presentation of the special or administrative power of attorney with a special clause, and certified DUI and NIT.

12. The special permit to import arms and ammunitions is issued subject to the payment of a fee of USD 1,434.86.

13. No, none.

Licensing conditions

14. It is generally 30 days. The validity of licences cannot be extended, they must be requested again. Consideration will be given to special cases where the goods are in transit and there has been some delay.

15. No penalty is imposed for the non-utilization of import licences or permits.

16. Import licences or permits are non-transferable, as they specify the particulars of the importer and the specific product/quantities to be imported.

17.(a) No, these products are not subject to quantitative restrictions.

(b) There are no other conditions.

Other procedural requirements

18. No, none.

19. The legal currency in circulation in El Salvador is the United States dollar and the exchange rate is set by the Central Reserve Bank and has been fixed since 2001.

3.2 Explosives and Pyrotechnic Products

Outline of systems

1. The Ministry of Defence shall issue the special permit for the importation of explosives and pyrotechnic products. The importer must obtain this permit prior to the entry of such articles into the national territory.

Purposes and coverage of licensing

2. It applies to the above-mentioned products.

3. It applies to all countries, irrespective of the origin of the products.

4. The purpose of these licences is to control and regulate the use, manufacture, import, export and marketing of explosives and pyrotechnic products, in order to protect the lives, personal integrity and property of citizens.

5. This type of product is governed by the Law on the control and regulation of arms, ammunition, explosives and similar items. Annex III (a).

Procedures

6. Not applicable.

7.(a) Prior to importation, so that when the product enters the country, it already has the import licence (permit).

Import licences (permits) are generally issued in an expeditious and timely manner. Work is currently under way on a government improvement process to reduce response times, provided that the required documentation is completed prior to importation.

(b) Generally speaking, import permits are granted promptly, provided all documentation is complete.

(c) There are no limitations on the date of submission of an application.

(d) Submit to the Logistics Directorate of the Ministry of Defence the application for a pyrotechnic products permit for natural persons or, in the case of companies, the application for a pyrotechnic products permit for legal persons.

8. Authorization is refused only when the established legal requirements are not met. Applicants are informed in writing. Appeals for review may be filed before the same institution from which the import licence or permit was requested.

In El Salvador, the Law on Administrative Procedures regulates the administrative review procedure for settling disputes when authorization is refused.

Once administrative remedies have been exhausted, there is also the option of filing a claim before the administrative tribunals, which have jurisdiction to verify the legality of and settle any administrative disputes that might arise between the public administration and individuals.

Eligibility of importers to apply for a licence

9. All persons/importers have the right to apply for import authorizations, whether natural and legal persons, including foreign nationals with a residence permit.

Documentational and other requirements for application for a licence

10. Application with the applicant's details and area of activity according to the format given in Annex III (b).

For each section by product, the application form is attached.

- (a) The application with the applicant's details and area of activity according to the natural or legal persons format, given in Annex III (c) and Annex III (d);
- (b) Photocopy of the zoning ordinance issued by the respective town hall allowing the manufacture, storage or marketing of pyrotechnic products or pyrotechnic-related substances;
- (c) Photocopy of the health certificate issued by MINSAL;
- (d) Photocopy of the certificate of compliance with security measures, issued by the Fire Service of El Salvador;
- (e) The applicant's DUI, NIT, passport or permanent residency permit, either the originals and photocopies, or photocopies certified by a notary public;
- (f) The original clean criminal record certificate from the National Civilian Police;
- (g) Photocopy, certified by a notary public, of the special power of attorney (in the event that it is not the applicant who collects the permit);
- (h) The company's most recent financial statement filed and duly registered with the National Registry Centre (CNR) and social security contributions, in order to determine into which category the company falls (large, medium-sized or small);
- (i) Documentation to be submitted as photocopies shall be notarized by a notary public;
- (j) Simple photocopy of the receipt of payment issued by the Special Activities Fund of the Logistics Support Command of the Armed Forces (FAE-CALFA), Arms Register in the Ministry of Defence.

Legal persons should also submit:

- (k) A notarized photocopy of the valid public deed of incorporation of the company or group and any modification of the articles of incorporation, duly registered with the Business Registry;
- (l) Valid identity card of the legal representative of the company or its sole director, as the case may be, duly registered and up to date in the Business Registry;
- (m) Photocopy of the company registration certificate;
- (n) The original clean criminal record certificate of the legal representative issued by the National Civilian Police.

11. The import licence.

12. The issuance of the special permit to import explosives and pyrotechnic products is subject to the payment of a fee, calculated according to which category the company belongs to and pursuant to Executive Decision No. 1119 of the Finance Branch, dated 9 August 2016, as follows:

Micro-enterprise..... = USD 93.58
 Small enterprise..... = USD 729.50
 Medium-sized enterprise..... = USD 1,882.64
 Large enterprise..... = USD 3,647.43
 First pyrotechnics inspection = USD 50.00
 Re-inspection for comments made during the first inspection = USD 25.00

13. No, none.

Licensing conditions

14. It is generally 30 days. The validity of licences cannot be extended, they must be requested again. Consideration will be given to special cases where the goods are in transit and there has been some delay.

15. No penalty is imposed for the non-utilization of import licences or permits.

16. Import licences or permits are non-transferable, as they specify the particulars of the importer and the specific product/quantities to be imported.

17.(a) No, these products are not subject to quantitative restrictions.

(b) There are no other conditions.

Other procedural requirements

18-19. No, none.

4 NARCOTICS, PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES, AGGREGATED PRODUCTS, PRECURSORS, CHEMICALS, AND VETERINARY AND ANAESTHETIC PRODUCTS

Outline of systems

1. The importation of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, aggregated products, precursors, chemicals, and veterinary and anaesthetic products is regulated, controlled and subject to authorization by the National Directorate of Medicines and the Anti-Drug Trafficking Division of the National Civilian Police, in accordance with the provisions of international treaties and agreements, in particular the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, the 1961 Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.

Purposes and coverage of licensing

2. It applies to the above-mentioned products.

3. It applies to all countries, irrespective of the origin of the products.

4. The purpose of these licences is to regulate and control the use, manufacture, importation, exportation of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, aggregated products, precursors, chemicals, and veterinary and anaesthetic products, with a view to preventing any activity relating to the diversion and illegal use of controlled substances. The importation of these products is subject to an annual licence or permit, depending on the quantity that is expected to be needed in that year.

5. This type of product is governed by the Regulations on Narcotics, Psychotropic Substances, Precursors, Chemical Substances and Products, and Aggregates. Annex IV (a).

Procedures

6. Not applicable.

7.(a) Prior to importation, so that when the product enters the country, it already has the import licence (permit).

Import licences (permits) are generally issued in an expeditious and timely manner.

(b) Generally speaking, import permits are granted promptly, provided all documentation is complete.

(c) There are no limitations on the date of submission of an application.

(d) Submit to the Logistics Directorate of the Ministry of Defence the application for a pyrotechnic products permit for natural persons or, in the case of companies, the application for a pyrotechnic products permit for legal persons.

Complete the application form to import narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, aggregated products, precursors, chemicals, and veterinary and anaesthetic products, and submit it to the National Directorate of Medicines. Annexes IV (b), (c) and (d).

More details about the procedure for requesting authorization to import this type of product can be found at: <https://www.medicamentos.gob.sv/index.php/es/servicios-m/descargables/ue-m>.

8. Authorization is refused only when the established legal requirements are not met. Applicants are informed in writing. Appeals for review may be filed before the same institution from which the import licence or permit was requested.

In El Salvador, the Law on Administrative Procedures regulates the administrative review procedure for settling disputes when authorization is refused.

Once administrative remedies have been exhausted, there is also the option of filing a claim before the administrative tribunals, which have jurisdiction to verify the legality of and settle any administrative disputes that might arise between the public administration and individuals.

Eligibility of importers to apply for a licence

9. Import permits for this type of product are issued by the National Directorate of Medicines, they are granted to pharmaceutical laboratories, pharmacies, hospitals, first aid stations, suppliers of dental materials, clinical laboratories and pharmaceutical quality control laboratories. Permits are also granted to veterinary suppliers, pharmacies and hospitals, agri-services, universities, autonomous institutions, and other business or bodies that require these substances or products. Similarly, permits are issued to industries that use these substances in their production processes and in other special cases.

Documentational and other requirements for application for a licence

10. Importers of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, aggregated products, precursors, chemicals, and veterinary and anaesthetic products must submit, in writing, no later than the month of May of each year, their import forecasts for controlled substances and products, estimated for the next calendar year, except for those who import these substances and products only occasionally.

11. This type of product may only be imported subject to authorization and the issuance of a licence or a permit from the Narcotics Unit of the National Directorate of Medicines.

Import quantities greater than the quotas assigned to each establishment may not be authorized.

The import application form shall include:

- The name and address of the importing establishment and its registration number with the Directorate;
- The name of the official in charge and their registration number with the relevant professional body, or the person responsible for the establishment;
- The name and address of the exporter and the country of origin of the controlled substance or product;
- The quantity of the substance or product to be imported, given in numbers and words, the pharmaceutical form and dosage form;
- The name of the substance and its use;
- The product's brand name, the substance it contains, the concentration and registration number with the Directorate;
- The means of entry and point of entry;
- The signature and seal of the official in charge or the person responsible;
- The seal of the establishment licensed by and registered with the Directorate.

12. The cost of import permits for narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, aggregated products, precursors, chemicals, and veterinary and anaesthetic products is set out in Legislative Decree No. 417, entitled "Fees Applicable in the National Directorate of Medicines for Services and Licences for Health Establishments", Annex II (c).

13. No, none.

Licensing conditions

14. It is generally 30 days. (Phytosanitary, animal health and food certificates) It varies depending on the type of product. The validity of licences cannot be extended, they must be requested again. Consideration will be given to special cases where the goods are in transit and there has been some delay.

15. No penalty is imposed for the non-utilization of import licences or permits.

16. Import licences or permits are non-transferable, as they specify the particulars of the importer and the specific product/quantities to be imported.

17.(a) No, these products are not subject to quantitative restrictions.

(b) There are no other conditions.

Other procedural requirements

18-19. No, none.

5 SOURCES AND EQUIPMENT GENERATING IONIZING RADIATION

Outline of systems

1. Imports of products generating ionizing radiation require prior approval before those articles enter the national territory. This authorization may be obtained through the Directorate-General of Health of the Ministry of Health.

Purposes and coverage of licensing

2. It applies to the above-mentioned products.

3. It applies to all countries, irrespective of the origin of the products.

4. The purpose of these licences is to achieve an appropriate level of protection and security for occupationally exposed workers, patients, the general public and the environment.

5. This type of product is governed by Decree No. 41, entitled "Regulations on Radiation Protection and Safety". Annex V (a).

Procedures

6. Not applicable.

7.(a) Prior to importation, so that when the product enters the country, it already has the import licence (permit).

Import licences (permits) are generally issued in an expeditious and timely manner. Work is currently under way on a government improvement process to reduce response times, provided that the required documentation is completed prior to importation.

(b) Generally speaking, import permits are granted promptly, provided all documentation is complete.

(c) There are no limitations on the date of submission of an application.

(d) The import permit request must be submitted to the Directorate-General of Health of the Ministry of Health.

8. Authorization is refused only when the established legal requirements are not met. Applicants are informed in writing. Appeals for review may be filed before the same institution from which the import licence or permit was requested.

In El Salvador, the Law on Administrative Procedures regulates the administrative review procedure for settling disputes when authorization is refused.

Once administrative remedies have been exhausted, there is also the option of filing a claim before the administrative tribunals, which have jurisdiction to verify the legality of and settle any administrative disputes that might arise between the public administration and individuals.

Eligibility of importers to apply for a licence

9. All persons/importers have the right to apply for import authorizations, whether natural and legal persons, including foreign nationals with a residence permit.

Documentational and other requirements for application for a licence

10-11 Fulfil the requirements set out in Annex V (b).

12. An import permit for this type of product costs USD 75.00 (for between one and three pieces of equipment or sources) and USD 150.00 (for more than three pieces of equipment).

13. No, none.

Licensing conditions

14. It is generally 30 days. The validity of licences cannot be extended, they must be requested again. Consideration will be given to special cases where the goods are in transit and there has been some delay.

15. No penalty is imposed for the non-utilization of import licences or permits.

16. Import licences or permits are non-transferable, as they specify the particulars of the importer and the specific product/quantities to be imported.

17.(a) No, these products are not subject to quantitative restrictions.

(b) There are no other conditions.

Other procedural requirements

18-19. No, none.

6 HYDROCARBONS

Outline of systems

1. Hydrocarbon imports require prior authorization to enter the national territory issued by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, in order to regulate the operations of the oil industry at all stages.

Purposes and coverage of licensing

2. It applies to the above-mentioned products.

3. It applies to all countries, irrespective of the origin of the products.

4. The purpose of these licences is not to restrict imports, but to regulate the operations of the oil industry at all stages.

5. This type of product is governed by the General Law on Hydrocarbons and the Law regulating the storage, transportation and distribution of oil products. Annexes VI (a) and (b).

Procedures

6. Not applicable.

7.(a) Prior to importation, so that when the product enters the country, it already has the import licence (permit).

Import licences (permits) are generally issued in an expeditious and timely manner. Work is currently under way on a government improvement process to reduce response times, provided that the required documentation is completed prior to importation.

- (b) Generally speaking, import permits are granted promptly, provided all documentation is complete.
- (c) There are no limitations on the date of submission of an application.
- (d) Submit the import application and the accompanying documents to the Directorate of Hydrocarbons and Mines of the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

8. Authorization is refused only when the established legal requirements are not met. Applicants are informed in writing. Appeals for review may be filed before the same institution from which the import licence or permit was requested.

In El Salvador, the Law on Administrative Procedures regulates the administrative review procedure for settling disputes when authorization is refused.

Once administrative remedies have been exhausted, there is also the option of filing a claim before the administrative tribunals, which have jurisdiction to verify the legality of and settle any administrative disputes that might arise between the public administration and individuals.

Eligibility of importers to apply for a licence

9. All persons/importers have the right to apply for import authorizations, whether natural and legal persons.

Documentational and other requirements for application for a licence

10-11 Fulfil the requirements set out in Annex VI (c).

12. The import application is free of charge; however, the selling prices of hydrocarbons on the domestic market are governed by the General Law on Hydrocarbons.

13. No, none.

Licensing conditions

14. It is generally 30 days. The validity of licences cannot be extended, they must be requested again. Consideration will be given to special cases where the goods are in transit and there has been some delay.

15. No penalty is imposed for the non-utilization of import licences or permits.

16. Import licences or permits are non-transferable, as they specify the particulars of the importer and the specific product/quantities to be imported.

17.(a) No, these products are not subject to quantitative restrictions.

(b) There are no other conditions.

Other procedural requirements

18-19. No, none.

7 PLANTS, ANIMALS AND PRODUCTS THEREOF

Outline of systems

1. Imports of plants, animals and products thereof require prior approval before those articles enter the national territory, this includes an inspection by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, with the aim of preventing the introduction of pests and diseases into the country.

Purposes and coverage of licensing

2. It applies to the above-mentioned products.
3. It applies to all countries, irrespective of the origin of the products.
4. The purpose of these licences is not to restrict imports, but to prevent the introduction of pests and diseases into the country.
5. This type of product is governed by the Law on Plant and Animal Health. Annex VII (a).

Procedures

6. Not applicable.
- 7.(a) Prior to importation, so that when the product enters the country, it already has the import licence (permit).

Import licences (permits) are generally issued in an expeditious and timely manner. Work is currently under way on a government improvement process to reduce response times, provided that the required documentation is completed prior to importation.

- (b) Generally speaking, import permits are granted promptly, provided all documentation is complete.
- (c) There are no limitations on the date of submission of an application.
- (d) Submit the import application and the accompanying documents to the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.

"Prior approval" means submitting, in advance, to the office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) designated by CIEX-BCR, the documentation (originals or copies) for imports of plants, animals, and products of animal or plant origin for agricultural use, to be processed through the different customs offices of the country. These imports will then be released for entry into the country.

"Inspection" means paying for checks carried out on plants, animals, products of animal or plant origin upon entry into the country, to prevent the introduction of pests and diseases.

8. Authorization is refused only when the established legal requirements are not met. Applicants are informed in writing. Appeals for review may be filed before the same institution from which the import licence or permit was requested.

In El Salvador, the Law on Administrative Procedures regulates the administrative review procedure for settling disputes when authorization is refused.

Once administrative remedies have been exhausted, there is also the option of filing a claim before the administrative tribunals, which have jurisdiction to verify the legality of and settle any administrative disputes that might arise between the public administration and individuals.

Eligibility of importers to apply for a licence

9. All persons/importers have the right to apply for import authorizations, whether natural and legal persons.

Documentational and other requirements for application for a licence

10. (a) Import request (see Annexes VII (b) and (c));
- (b) Prior request;
- (c) Original and copy of the plant and animal health import authorization;
- (d) Originals or copies of the documents required, as indicated on the import authorization;
- (e) Original and copy of the goods declaration (DM) or the Central American Single Declaration (DUCA), including attached documents;
- (f) Original and copy of the product invoice;
- (g) Proof of pre-payment and inspection, issued by MAG (original and copy).

12. Prior phytosanitary authorization for imports of plants, products and by-products of plant origin, animals, products and by-products of animal origin, and agricultural inputs, costs USD 5.65 (including VAT). Inspections of imports of products of plant or animal origin vary depending on their weight and the customs point of entry.

13. No, none.

Licensing conditions

14. It is generally 30 days. (Phytosanitary, animal health and food certificates) It varies depending on the type of product. The validity of licences cannot be extended, they must be requested again. Consideration will be given to special cases where the goods are in transit and there has been some delay.

15. No penalty is imposed for the non-utilization of import licences or permits.

16. Import licences or permits are non-transferable, as they specify the particulars of the importer and the specific product/quantities to be imported.

17.(a) No, these products are not subject to quantitative restrictions.

(b) There are no other conditions.

Other procedural requirements

18-19. No, none.

8 CHEMICAL AND CHEMICAL-BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTS FOR AGRICULTURAL, LIVESTOCK OR VETERINARY USE**Outline of systems**

1. Imports of chemical and chemical-biological products for agricultural, livestock or veterinary use require an import authorization or permit. Pesticides, fertilizers, raw materials, chemicals and biological material for agricultural use, which are marketed in the country, must also be registered.

Purposes and coverage of licensing

2. It applies to the above-mentioned products.

3. It applies to all countries, irrespective of the origin of the products.

4. The purpose of these licences is not to restrict imports but to regulate the production, marketing, distribution, importation, exportation and use of: pesticides, fertilizers, herbicides, improvers, defoliantes and other chemical and chemical-biological products for agricultural, livestock or veterinary use, and their raw materials.

5. This type of product is governed by the Law on the Control of Pesticides, Fertilizers and Products for Agricultural Use. Annex VIII (a).

Procedures

6. Not applicable.

7.(a) Prior to importation, so that when the product enters the country, it already has the import licence (permit).

Import licences (permits) are generally issued in an expeditious and timely manner. Work is currently under way on a government improvement process to reduce response times, provided that the required documentation is completed prior to importation.

(b) Generally speaking, import permits are granted promptly, provided all documentation is complete.

(c) There are no limitations on the date of submission of an application.

(d) For this product, the import authorization is only processed by a single administrative organ.

8. Authorization is refused only when the established legal requirements are not met. Applicants are informed in writing. Appeals for review may be filed before the same institution from which the import licence or permit was requested.

In El Salvador, the Law on Administrative Procedures regulates the administrative review procedure for settling disputes when authorization is refused.

Once administrative remedies have been exhausted, there is also the option of filing a claim before the administrative tribunals, which have jurisdiction to verify the legality of and settle any administrative disputes that might arise between the public administration and individuals.

Eligibility of importers to apply for a licence

9. All persons/importers have the right to apply for import authorizations, whether natural and legal persons.

Documentational and other requirements for application for a licence

10. (a) Registered or Unregistered Products Import Application, as the case may be;

(b) Photocopy of the purchase invoice for the product;

(c) Product Data Sheet (for unregistered products);

(d) Letter explaining the purpose of the importation and the intended use of the product (for unregistered products).

11. Authorizations and permits are subject to the payment of a fee of USD 6.78 for agricultural products. In addition, a levy equivalent to 0.6% of the c.i.f. value of the imported products will be charged.

12. No, none.

Licensing conditions

14. It is generally 30 days. (Phytosanitary, animal health and food certificates) It varies depending on the type of product. The validity of licences cannot be extended, they must be requested again. Consideration will be given to special cases where the goods are in transit and there has been some delay.

15. No penalty is imposed for the non-utilization of import licences or permits.

16. Import licences or permits are non-transferable, as they specify the particulars of the importer and the specific product/quantities to be imported.

17.(a) No, these products are not subject to quantitative restrictions.

(b) There are no other conditions.

Other procedural requirements

18-19. No, none.

9 OZONE DEPLETING SUBSTANCES

Outline of systems

1. Imports of ozone depleting substance require an authorization to import hazardous substances controlled by the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources.

Purposes and coverage of licensing

2. It applies to the above-mentioned products.

3. It applies to all countries, irrespective of the origin of the products.

4. The purpose of these licences is to phase out ozone-depleting substances, introduce control measures and add new controlled substances.

5. This type of product is governed by the Amendments to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. Annex IX (a).

Procedures

6. Not applicable.

7.(a) Prior to importation, so that when the product enters the country, it already has the import licence (permit).

Import licences (permits) are generally issued in an expeditious and timely manner. Work is currently under way on a government improvement process to reduce response times, provided that the required documentation is completed prior to importation.

(b) Generally speaking, import permits are granted promptly, provided all documentation is complete.

(c) There are no limitations on the date of submission of an application.

(d) Apply for authorization to import hazardous substances controlled by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources. This process is administered by CIEX-BCR - office of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN).

8. Authorization is refused only when the established legal requirements are not met. Applicants are informed in writing. Appeals for review may be filed before the same institution from which the import licence or permit was requested.

In El Salvador, the Law on Administrative Procedures regulates the administrative review procedure for settling disputes when authorization is refused.

Once administrative remedies have been exhausted, there is also the option of filing a claim before the administrative tribunals, which have jurisdiction to verify the legality of and settle any administrative disputes that might arise between the public administration and individuals.

Eligibility of importers to apply for a licence

9. All persons/importers have the right to apply for import authorizations, whether natural and legal persons.

Documentational and other requirements for application for a licence

10. (a) Import request;
- (b) Environmental form, duly filled out and signed by the owner or legal representative of the company (see Annex IX (b));
- (c) Material safety data sheet (MSDS) for each chemical or hazardous substance;
- (d) If it is the first import request, copies of the legal documents detailing the legal personality of the applicant, duly notarized;
- (e) Submit in digital format (append CD), the MSDS for each chemical or hazardous substance and the table presented in the format of the environmental form, when the number of chemical or hazardous substances products is greater than 20 items;
- (f) If the applicant or legal representative is not able to collect the approved Environmental Permit in person, he or she shall sign a legal document authorizing someone else to collect the documents;
- (g) If the person submitting the form is not the signatory, the signature of the applicant must be notarized.

11. The import authorization for ozone depleting substances is free of charge.

12. No, none.

Licensing conditions

14. It is generally 30 days. The validity of licences cannot be extended, they must be requested again. Consideration will be given to special cases where the goods are in transit and there has been some delay.

15. No penalty is imposed for the non-utilization of import licences or permits.

16. Import licences or permits are non-transferable, as they specify the particulars of the importer and the specific product/quantities to be imported.

17.(a) No, these products are not subject to quantitative restrictions.

(b) There are no other conditions.

Other procedural requirements

18-19. No, none.

10 HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

The procedure for hazardous substances is the same as that for ozone depleting substances described in the previous section. Both are within the purview of the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (MARN).

Annex X (a) contains the list of hazardous substances regulated by MARN.

11 WILDLIFE SPECIES**Outline of systems**

1. Imports of wildlife species require an import permit issued by the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (MARN).

Purposes and coverage of licensing

2. It applies to the above-mentioned products.

3. It applies to all countries, irrespective of the origin of the products.

4. The purpose of these licences is to protect, recover, manage, exploit and conserve wildlife, including the regulation of activities such as hunting, gathering and marketing, as well as other forms of using and exploiting these resources

5. This type of product is governed by the Law on Wildlife Conservation. Annex XI (a).

Pursuant to this Law, "wildlife" is understood to mean: "Art. 2.-Wildlife is understood to mean biodiverse species that live and reproduce without human intervention, as well as those species introduced into the country that manage to establish a breeding population, whether terrestrial, aquatic or aerial species, resident or migratory, and parts and products thereof, except those domestic and agricultural, livestock or fishery animal or plant species that rely on humans for their survival."

Procedures

6. Not applicable.

7.(a) Prior to importation, so that when the product enters the country, it already has the import licence (permit).

Import licences (permits) are generally issued in an expeditious and timely manner. Work is currently under way on a government improvement process to reduce response times, provided that the required documentation is completed prior to importation.

(b) Generally speaking, import permits are granted promptly, provided all documentation is complete.

(c) There are no limitations on the date of submission of an application.

(d) Apply for an authorization to import wildlife species issued by MARN.

8. Authorization is refused only when the established legal requirements are not met. Applicants are informed in writing. Appeals for review may be filed before the same institution from which the import licence or permit was requested.

In El Salvador, the Law on Administrative Procedures regulates the administrative review procedure for settling disputes when authorization is refused.

Once administrative remedies have been exhausted, there is also the option of filing a claim before the administrative tribunals, which have jurisdiction to verify the legality of and settle any administrative disputes that might arise between the public administration and individuals.

Eligibility of importers to apply for a licence

9. All persons/importers have the right to apply for import authorizations, whether natural and legal persons.

Documentational and other requirements for application for a licence

10. (a) Complete the form to import wildlife species (see Annex XI (b));
- (b) Submit the completed form with annexes to the MARN central offices;
- (c) A photocopy of both sides of the DUI enlarged to 150% produced on one side of a sheet of paper, duly notarized;
- (d) A photocopy of the registered articles of incorporation and identity documents of the legal representative, duly notarized if it is the first time this application is being submitted (using 2019 as a baseline);
- (e) Original proof that samples were deposited with national reference collection points, excluding taxonomic genetic samples;
- (f) The plant or animal health certificate issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) for non-CITES species.

11. The authorization to import wildlife species is free of charge.

12. No, none.

Licensing conditions

14. It is generally 30 days. (Phytosanitary, animal health and food certificates), it varies depending on the type of product. The validity of licences cannot be extended, they must be requested again. Consideration will be given to special cases where the goods are in transit and there has been some delay.

15. No penalty is imposed for the non-utilization of import licences or permits.

16. Import licences or permits are non-transferable, as they specify the particulars of the importer and the specific product/quantities to be imported.

17.(a) No, these products are not subject to quantitative restrictions.

(b) There are no other conditions.

Other procedural requirements

18-19. No, none.

ANNEXES

Annexes I to XI, which are referred to throughout the replies to the questionnaire, can be downloaded at the following link:

- <https://importlicensing.wto.org/members/el-salvador>
-