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Committee on Import Licensing

**DRAFT REPORT (2022) OF THE COMMITTEE ON IMPORT LICENSING
TO THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS**

1. The Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures (hereinafter "the Agreement") which entered into force on 1 January 1995, establishes disciplines on users of import licensing systems with the principal objective of ensuring that the procedures applied for granting import licences do not in themselves restrict trade. It aims to simplify, clarify and minimize the administrative requirements necessary to obtain import licences.
2. The Committee on Import Licensing was established to afford Members the opportunity of consulting on any matter relating to the operation of the Agreement or the furtherance of its objectives. The Committee's Rules of Procedure, which were approved by the Council for Trade in Goods, are contained in document G/L/147.
3. All Members of the WTO are *ipso facto* members of the Committee. Observer governments in the General Council of the WTO have Observer status in the Committee. The International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and UNCTAD have regular observer status in the Committee.
4. The focus of this report is on the period since the Committee's last annual report (G/L/1406), namely 9 October 2021 – 7 October 2022 (hereinafter "the reporting period"). In 2022, the Committee held two formal meetings, on 8 April 2021 (G/LIC/M/54), under the chairpersonship of Mr. Hsin-lung Hung (Chinese Taipei), and on 7 October 2022 ([G/LIC/M/55]), under the chairpersonship of Mr. Jia Jie Loh (Singapore). Both meetings took place in hybrid mode with in-person and remote attendance. The Committee also held one informal meeting, which took place in hybrid mode, on 7 March 2022, under the chairpersonship of Mr. Hsin-lung Hung (Chinese Taipei). On 23 May 2022, through written procedures, the Committee elected Mr. Jia Jie Loh (Singapore) by acclamation as Chairperson of the Committee for 2022.¹ Pursuant to the Committee's Rules of Procedure, the officers shall hold office until the end of the first meeting of the following year.
5. Pursuant to Articles 1.4(a) and/or 8.2(b) of the Agreement and procedures agreed by the Committee, all Members are required to notify their laws, regulations, and administrative procedures relevant to import licensing and to submit copies of any relevant publications or laws and regulations upon becoming a WTO Member. Any subsequent changes to these laws, regulations, and administrative procedures are also required to be published and notified. Pursuant to subparagraphs 1-4 of Article 5, Members are also required to notify the institution of new import licensing procedures or changes in these procedures to the Committee within 60 days of publication.
6. During the reporting period, the Committee reviewed [53] notifications under these three provisions (Annex I) from the following [14] Members: Argentina; Ecuador; the European Union; Hong Kong, China; India; Japan; Republic of Korea; Myanmar; Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Seychelles; Thailand; Ukraine; the United Kingdom; and the United States.²
7. Article 5.5 of the Agreement allows Members to submit reverse notifications, where a Member considers that another Member has not notified the institution of a licensing procedure or changes in the procedures. However, no such reverse notifications have been received within the reporting period.

¹ [[Ms/Mr] [...] was elected Vice-Chairperson at the 7 October formal Committee meeting.]

² [New notifications were received from [WTO Members] ([Notification document symbol] and [Notification Document symbol]) after the agenda for the 7 October meeting had closed. These notifications were included in this report among the notifications submitted during the review period and they will be reviewed at the Committee's next meeting.]

8. Article 7.3 of the Agreement requires all Members to provide replies to the Questionnaire on Import Licensing Procedures³ by 30 September each year. During the reporting period, the Committee reviewed [34] notifications (Annex II) from the following [31] Members: Albania; Argentina; Cambodia; Chile; Colombia; Costa Rica; Cuba; Georgia; Honduras; India; Indonesia; Japan; Kazakhstan; Republic of Korea; Mali; Mauritius; Mexico; Montenegro; New Zealand; Nicaragua; Panama; Philippines; Russian Federation; Seychelles; Singapore; Thailand; Tonga; Türkiye; Ukraine; United Arab Emirates; and Uruguay.⁴ These notifications can be found in document series G/LIC/N/3/.

9. The Committee has provided a regular forum for exchanging views on notifications submitted by Members. Written comments and questions concerning notifications submitted to the Committee and/or on import licensing procedures maintained by Members, and replies thereto, may be found in the document series G/LIC/Q/-. During the review period, the United States posed questions to the Philippines (G/LIC/Q/PHL/7 and G/LIC/Q/PHL/9), to Panama (G/LIC/Q/PAN/1), and to Indonesia (G/LIC/Q/IDN/46). The following Members provided written responses to comments and questions: Egypt to the additional question from the European Union (G/LIC/Q/EGY/8); the Philippines to the follow-up questions from the United States (G/LIC/Q/PHL/8); Indonesia to Japan (G/LIC/Q/IDN/47), to Australia (G/LIC/Q/IDN/49) and to the European Union (G/LIC/Q/IDN/48). At the Committee's meeting, Members exchanged views on the issues raised.

10. In addition, the following Members requested to include in the agenda specific issues regarding other Members' import licensing regimes and measures. At the Committee meeting(s) held during the review period, the European Union made an oral statement on Angola's import licensing requirements; on Egypt's import licensing requirements for certain agricultural and processed products; on India's importation of pneumatic tyres; on Indonesia's commodity balancing mechanism and on Thailand's importation of wheat feed. In addition, the European Union and Japan made oral statements on Indonesia's import licensing regime for certain textiles and import restriction on air conditioners. The United States made an oral statement on China's import licensing for certain recoverable materials; Canada made an oral statement on India's quantitative restriction on certain pulses, and Japan made a statement on Indonesia's compulsory registration requirement by importers of steel products. Members whose licensing measures had been questioned responded at the meeting and other interested Members also made comments.

11. At the Committee meeting held on 8 October 2021, Members approved the establishment of an eAgenda for the Committee. The eAgenda was meant to facilitate the work of delegations and of the Secretariat in building the meeting agenda, including adding items, making relevant documents directly available to participants in electronic form, and the sharing of statements via the eAgenda. A pilot version of the eAgenda was made available by the Secretariat for delegations' registration and testing between 6 July and 31 August 2022. The eAgenda became operational as from the Committee meeting of 7 October 2022.

12. At the informal meeting held on 7 March 2022, the Chairperson updated Members on implementation of the eAgenda project for the Committee. The Secretariat made a presentation to Members on an online N/2 notification form, entirely based on the notification template contained in document G/LIC/28.

13. From October 2021 to October 2022, the Secretariat organized and participated to several virtual and one in-person activity focusing on import licensing issues. Upon the request of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, a Member specific technical assistance workshop on import licensing and notifications was held in a virtual format in December 2021. On-line presentations and interactive workshops were delivered to government officials as part of the e-RTPCs for Asia and Pacific (in English). In addition, training sessions on import licensing were also presented during the Advanced Trade Policy Course (ATPC) in Geneva in 2022.

³ Annexed to document G/LIC/3.

⁴ [New notifications were received from [WTO Members] ([Notification document symbol] and [Notification Document symbol]) after the agenda for the 7 October meeting had closed. These notifications were included in this report among the notifications submitted during the review period and they will be reviewed at the Committee's next meeting.]

**ANNEX I: NOTIFICATIONS REVIEWED DURING THE REPORT PERIOD PURSUANT TO
ARTICLE 1.4(A) AND/OR 8.2(B), ARTICLE 5.1-5.4 OF THE AGREEMENT¹**

FROM 9 OCTOBER 2020 TO 7 OCTOBER 2021

MEMBER	DOCUMENT	DATE OF ISSUANCE OF THE DOCUMENT
Argentina	G/LIC/N/2/ARG/28/Add.11	22/11/2021
	G/LIC/N/2/ARG/28/Add.12	17/12/2021
	G/LIC/N/2/ARG/28/Add.13	29/07/2022
	G/LIC/N/2/ARG/28/Add.14	13.09.2022
Ecuador	G/LIC/N/2/ECU/2	14/04/2022
European Union	G/LIC/N/2/EU/13/Corr.1	02/11/2021
	G/LIC/N/2/EU/14/Corr.1	02/11/2021
	G/LIC/N/2/EU/15/Corr.1	02/11/2021
	G/LIC/N/2/EU/16/Corr.1	02/11/2021
	G/LIC/N/2/EU/17	02/11/2021
	G/LIC/N/2/EU/18	02/11/2021
Hong Kong, China	G/LIC/N/2/HKG/18	27/01/2022
	G/LIC/N/2/HKG/18/Corr.1	17/11/2021
	G/LIC/N/2/HKG/19	31/01/2022
	G/LIC/N/2/HKG/20	01/08/2022
	G/LIC/N/2/HKG/21	17/08/2022
India	G/LIC/N/1/IND/15	20/04/2022
	G/LIC/N/2/IND/18	09/02/2022
	G/LIC/N/2/IND/19	09/02/2022
	G/LIC/N/2/IND/20	09/02/2022
	G/LIC/N/2/IND/21	21/04/2022
	G/LIC/N/2/IND/22	21/04/2022
Japan	G/LIC/N/2/JPN/5	01/07/2022
Korea, Republic of	G/LIC/N/2/KOR/42	25/10/2021
	G/LIC/N/2/KOR/42/Corr.1	09/12/2021
	G/LIC/N/2/KOR/43	25/10/2021
	G/LIC/N/2/KOR/44	25/10/2021
	G/LIC/N/2/KOR/45	25/10/2021
	G/LIC/N/2/KOR/46	25/10/2021
	G/LIC/N/2/KOR/46/Add.1	09/12/2021
	G/LIC/N/2/KOR/47	25/10/2021
	G/LIC/N/2/KOR/48	25/10/2021
Myanmar	G/LIC/N/2/MMR/4	06/12/2021
	G/LIC/N/2/MMR/5	14/02/2022
	G/LIC/N/2/MMR/6	14/03/2022
	G/LIC/N/2/MMR/7	14/04/2022
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	G/LIC/N/2/SAU/3	19/10/2021
Seychelles	G/LIC/N/2/SYC/2-3	20/01/2022
Thailand	G/LIC/N/2/THA/6	02/05/2022
Ukraine	G/LIC/N/2/UKR/14	16/12/2021
	G/LIC/N/2/UKR/15	16/12/2021
	G/LIC/N/2/UKR/16	16/12/2021
	G/LIC/N/2/UKR/17	17/12/2021
	G/LIC/N/2/UKR/18	17/12/2021
	G/LIC/N/2/UKR/19	17/12/2021
	G/LIC/N/2/UKR/20	17/12/2021
	G/LIC/N/2/UKR/21	11/01/2022
	United Kingdom	G/LIC/N/2/GBR/13
G/LIC/N/2/GBR/13/Corr.1		03/02/2022
G/LIC/N/2/GBR/14		29/03/2022
G/LIC/N/2/GBR/15		28/06/2022
United States	G/LIC/N/2/USA/6	15.09.2022

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**ANNEX II: NOTIFICATIONS REVIEWED DURING THE REPORT PERIOD
PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 7.3 OF THE AGREEMENT¹
FROM 9 OCTOBER 2021 TO 7 OCTOBER 2022**

MEMBER	DOCUMENT (YEAR NOTIFIED FOR)	DATE OF ISSUANCE OF THE DOCUMENT	
Albania	G/LIC/N/3/ALB/11	2021	10/12/2021
Argentina	G/LIC/N/3/ARG/18	2022	26/09/2022
Cambodia	G/LIC/N/3/KHM/4	2019	20/01/2022
Chile	G/LIC/N/3/CHL/9	2022	29/03/2022
Colombia	G/LIC/N/3/COL/15	2022	20/01/2022
Costa Rica	G/LIC/N/3/CRI/18	2021	19/11/2021
Cuba	G/LIC/N/3/CUB/11	2021	12/10/2021
Georgia	G/LIC/N/3/GEO/9	2022	03/02/2022
Honduras	G/LIC/N/3/HND/13	2022	07/04/2022
India	G/LIC/N/3/IND/21	2021	20/01/2022
Indonesia	G/LIC/N/3/IDN/13	2021	18/03/2022
Japan	G/LIC/N/3/JPN/20	2021	14/02/2022
Kazakhstan	G/LIC/N/3/KAZ/6	2021	20/01/2022
Korea, Republic of	G/LIC/N/3/KOR/14	2021	25/10/2021
Mali	G/LIC/N/3/MLI/11	2022	04/08/2022
Mauritius	G/LIC/N/3/MUS/11	2021	18/01/2022
Mexico	G/LIC/N/3/MEX/8	2022	17/08/2022
Montenegro	G/LIC/N/3/MNE/5	2021	26/11/2021
New Zealand	G/LIC/N/3/NZL/8	2022	17/11/2021
Nicaragua	G/LIC/N/3/NIC/11	2019	22/03/2022
Nicaragua	G/LIC/N/3/NIC/12	2020	22/03/2022
Nicaragua	G/LIC/N/3/NIC/13	2021	22/03/2022
Panama	G/LIC/N/3/PAN/13	2022	05/04/2022
Philippines	G/LIC/N/3/PHL/14/Rev.1	2021	20/12/2021
Russian Federation	G/LIC/N/3/RUS/6	2021	25/10/2021
Seychelles	G/LIC/N/3/SYC/4	2021	06/12/2021
Singapore	G/LIC/N/3/SGP/17	2021	22/03/2022
Thailand	G/LIC/N/3/THA/8	2022	12/04/2022
Tonga	G/LIC/N/3/TON/2	2022	21/09/2022
Türkiye	G/LIC/N/3/TUR/18	2021	22/09/2022
Türkiye	G/LIC/N/3/TUR/19	2022	22/09/2022
Ukraine	G/LIC/N/3/UKR/15	2022	21/07/2022
United Arab Emirates	G/LIC/N/3/ARE/2	2022	06/01/2022
Uruguay	G/LIC/N/3/URY/15	2021	21/12/2021

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