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Committee on Import Licensing

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IMPORT LICENSING SYSTEM OF MEXICO

QUESTIONS FROM THE UNITED STATES TO MEXICO CONCERNING IMPORT LICENSING REQUIREMENTS ON STEEL

The following communication, dated 2 April 2015, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the United States.

Mexico notified the Import Licensing Committee in 2014 of its requirement that imports of certain steel goods be accompanied by a license (see G/LIC/N/2/MEX/2, amended by G/LIC/N/2/MEX/4). The procedures notified appear to fall within the definition of import licensing in Article 1 of the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures. We understand that the purpose of this requirement is to provide for improved statistical monitoring to combat Mexico's concerns regarding tariff misclassification of goods, undervaluation and inappropriate claims regarding the steel goods' origin.

- Is receipt of an import license a condition of entry for the subject steel products?
- Mexico's notifications indicate that this requirement is an automatic licensing procedure. The Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures requires, among other things, that applications for automatic import licenses be approved immediately upon receipt of a complete application whenever feasible. However, U.S. exporters report that shipments of steel have been subject to delays and additional costs because licenses were not approved by the time the steel goods reached Mexico. Can you explain how Mexico's import licensing system for steel goods meets the procedures for automatic licensing as prescribed by the Agreement?
- What is the expected duration of this steel import licensing requirement?

At this time, the United States requests the information identified above.
