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Committee on Import Licensing

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## IMPORT LICENSING SYSTEM OF MYANMAR

### REPLIES BY MYANMAR TO THE QUESTIONS FROM THE UNITED STATES

The following communication, dated 13 November 2019, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the United States.

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#### **1. Could Myanmar please explain the composition of the MoC Economic Committee and how members are chosen?**

EC stands for the "Executive Committee".

The Executive Committee of the Ministry of Commerce is the highest-level committee within the Ministry working on management issues and trade-related issues (not limited to the licensing regime) on a case by case basis.

The Committee is chaired by the Minister and the members are selected depending on internal criteria.

#### **2. What is the Economic Committee's process for granting import permits?**

Today, about 60% of products (tariff Lines) can be imported without license. The rest of 40% of products are still subject to import license.

Most of the import licenses are approved by the designated officer of the department of trade.

Only for few products (about 8% of all the license issued) have to be reported to the Export Import Coordination Committee (EICC) because of their huge import volume, their new import item nature or other factors.

Only those licenses which cannot be decided by EICC are reviewed by Executive Committee for final decision.

#### **3. When importers are denied an import permit, are they given a reason for denial? Does a process of appeals exist following the denial of the import permit? If so, could Myanmar please outline this process?**

The importers are informed the reason for denial.

Importers can appeal to Ministry for reconsideration of the decision. If their justification is reasonable and acceptable, Ministry will consider for approval.

#### **4. Could Myanmar please provide the list of products that must be reviewed by the MoC Economic Committee before import permits are granted?**

There is no specific list of products which must be reviewed by MoC Executive Committee.

**5. Could Myanmar please provide a list of all products that are currently restricted, prohibited, or banned for importation?**

According to the notification no. 8/2013, the following items have been prohibited:

- Liquor
- Beer
- Cigarette
- Some Items are restricted for importation by existing Laws

According to the Notification No. 1/2017, the importation of pulses and beans has temporarily been restricted commencing from 15 September 2017 due to the surplus of pulses and beans in domestic market. The notification also mentioned that importation of pulses and beans will be reviewed according to the needs of domestic demand.

According to the notification no 3/2019, some fruits has been allowed to import during the season in which Myanmar side cannot grow and the importation is allowed only from border for the welfare of the poor local residents in border area.

**6. Are there any implementing regulations related to the Export and Import Law? If so, the United States requests Myanmar notify these additional regulations to the appropriate WTO committees as soon as possible.**

Myanmar will notify its Annual Questionnaire on Import Licensing Procedures in coming months. The additional decrees relating to the importation will soon to be notified to the WTO Import Licensing Committee.

**7. The following is a list of agricultural products subject to import restrictions**

No	General description of the restriction	Detailed Product Description	Permanent or temporary
1.	Import Restriction	Beans and Pulses	Temporary
2.	Import Restriction	Garlic	Temporary
3.	Import Restriction	Potato	Temporary
4.	Import Restriction	Corn	Temporary

**8. The nature of the import Licensing (automatic or non-automatic) for potatoes, corn, grain, poultry and pork. If non-automatic, what is the purpose behind this license?**

Non-automatic import licensing is applied for potatoes, corn, grain, poultry and pork. The purpose is to monitor the market and to prevent the import surge.