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Committee on Import Licensing

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## IMPORT LICENSING SYSTEM OF THAILAND

### RESPONSES TO THE QUESTIONS FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION TO THAILAND REGARDING SWINE'S OFFAL, SHALLOTS AND FRESH ORANGES

#### THAILAND

The following communication, dated 19 September 2013, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Thailand.

Following Thailand's Import Licensing notification (G/LIC/N/2/THA/4), Thailand would like to provide our responses to the questions from EU (G/LIC/Q/THA/1) as follows:

**Q1. Could Thailand explain the rational for the introduction of import licensing requirement for these products and why it is important to introduce this measure now?**

Response: In the interest of economic security and public health under the Section 5 of the Export and Import Act B.E. 2522 (1979), the Ministry of Commerce has issued the Ministerial Notifications on 27 December 2012 to orderly administer the importation of swine's offal, shallots and fresh oranges.

It is due to the fact that, in recent years, the illegal imports of swine's offal, shallots and fresh oranges with low quality have significantly increased, and do not meet the phytosanitary standard requirements. Consequently, these poor quality products have adverse effects on domestic consumer's health as well as on producers who use these products as raw materials in their industries.

**Q2. Could Thailand further indicate if imports of these products are now subject to specific conditions? If yes, could Thailand indicate which are these specific conditions or requirements? Could Thailand share its evaluation on the potential impact on trade?**

Response: The Ministerial Notifications require the importer to: provide health or phytosanitary certificates issued by the competent authority of the exporting country; have registered as an importer with the Department of Foreign Trade (DFT); have a designated storage place for the stock examination by authorized officials; and report on a monthly basis the importation, possession, exportation, storage place, distribution, and remaining stock. The import licensing is not required for these products.

To register as an importer with the Department of Foreign Trade, the importer must be a legal person wishing to operate trading business for these products, or have a commercial registration with the Department of Business Development.

Since the Notifications came into force, Thailand has not been aware of any trade impact.

**Q3. Could Thailand explain the difference between the licensing requirements for these three products and the licensing requirements (called Import Certification) for agricultural products subject to import under tariff rate quota?**

Response: For these three products, the import licensing is not required. For agricultural products under tariff rate quota, please kindly see our WTO notification concerning the administration of tariff quotas under the Committee on Agriculture, e.g. G/AG/N/THA/73 dated 6 November 2012.

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