Outline of systems

1. Basically Sweden has only one licensing system for goods covered by the general import prohibition (see point 5 below). Licences are issued upon written application by the importer. The Board of Commerce is the licensing authority for goods under Chapters 25-99 of the BTN, with the exception of Chapter 31, and certain other commodities in respect of which the National Agricultural Market Board is the licensing authority.

Purposes and coverage of the licensing

2-3. For imports from most State-trading countries, among which Poland, Romania, Czechoslovakia and Hungary, a licence is required for the following goods:

- a limited number of chemical products, certain plastics; most yarns, fabrics, knitwear and ready-made textiles; shoes of leather, artificial leather, rubber or plastics; table china; pig iron, most ferro-alloys, rolling mill products, including tubes of iron or steel, certain semi-manufactures of aluminium; graphite electrodes.

The importation of certain china from Japan requires an import licence to administrate a quantitative restriction.

Imports of all goods from Rhodesia are prohibited.

The importation of certain textile products from all countries other than EEC and EFTA countries (excluding Portugal), not otherwise subject to import licensing, requires an import licence for surveillance purposes.

Special regulations are valid for importation of certain textile products from far eastern countries as Pakistan, India, Macao, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan, the Republic of Korea and Singapore as well as from Malta, Mauritius and Portugal.
The importation of rubber boots from all countries other than EEC and EFTA countries requires an import licence to administrate a quantitative restriction.

The importation of certain products of iron and steel requires an import licence for surveillance purposes.

4. The main purposes of the licensing are to limit, when necessary, the imported quantity and to provide a means to supervise imports of certain goods in order to make possible rapid action when market conditions give reason for such actions.

5. The licensing is authorized under a Government Decree of 14 March 1947 (No. 82) on general import prohibition. Section 1 of that Decree reads as follows:

"Imports into Sweden of goods other than those indicated in the List No. 1 attached to this Decree (the free list) may not take place without permission (import licence) by the authorities referred to in Section 2. In connexion with the granting of such licence, the conditions for the utilization of the licence may be stipulated.

"Upon authorization by the Government and according to principles decided upon by the Government, the licensing authorities may grant applicants the right to import goods other than those indicated in the free list without licence. Such permission is granted in accordance with requirements deemed necessary."

This Decree is not applicable to goods, for which import prohibition or import control is in force according to Annex 2 of the Decree. Only the basic regulations are laid down by law. The Government or the Board of Commerce may decide which goods should be exempted from the import prohibition. The Government is by law authorized to prescribe instructions concerning importation of goods. The Board of Commerce has the power upon authorization by the Government to decide which goods may be exempted from the general import prohibition prescribed by the Government.

As regards egg albumin and certain starches the licence requirement is maintained under the Decree (No. 340) of 9 June 1967 regarding certain price regulations in the field of agriculture. The National Agricultural Marketing Board is licensing authority.
Procedure

6. (a) The Board of Commerce issues circulars in which information concerning the scope of the licensing requirements and formalities of filing applications for licences is published. Neither the total amount for licensing nor the amount released for each country is in general published in the circulars. Each importer or agent is informed in writing about the amount at his disposal for licences during a certain period. As regards new importers see (h) below.

(b) Allocations are in principle made for one-year periods. Licences are usually valid for three months, after the expiry of the current month. After this period the importer must apply for a new licence.

(c) Domestic producers as such do not receive any special share of released quantities. The total amount is allocated on the same basis between all importers. Licences are only issued for immediate purchases which have to be certified by a sales contract. Non-utilized parts of a licence are in principle not transferable to a following period. The names of importers who have obtained licences are not revealed to authorities and exporting organizations in the exporting country, on account of the provisions of the legislation concerning official secrets.

(d) The amount allocated is available to the importer for three quarters of the period in respect of which the total allocation is granted. Licence amounts not utilized by one importer are generally reallocated to other importers which are believed to be able to utilize the licence.

(e) Usually the time required for the handling of licence applications is four to ten days.

(f) A licence which has been granted is in principle valid for immediate importation.

(g) Licence applications are in principle only dealt with by one authority. The importer needs to approach one authority only.

(h) If the amounts of licences applied for are greater than available total amounts or quantities, allocation is made on the basis of the applicants' imports during an earlier base period. There is no upper limit for such allocations. New importers are granted a minor share of the total amount or quantity. Applications from such importers are dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Licence applications are in general examined on receipt.
(i) "The surveillance licensing requirements on the importation of certain textile products (cf. paragraphs 2-3) are applicable also to such products as those subject to export restraint arrangements. In such cases licences are granted upon application and presentation of the relevant export document."

(j) In the case when imports are permitted subject to the presentation of an export declaration this document is transmitted by the importer to the Board of Commerce with a licence application. The Board of Commerce furthermore periodically receives accounts of export declarations issued by the exporting country.

(k) In Sweden import licences are only exceptionally issued on condition that the goods are re-exported and not sold in the domestic market.

7. (a) Licences for goods, not subject to quantitative restrictions, are dealt with in the same way as other licences, i.e. the time of processing is four to ten days. Exceptionally a licence can be granted immediately.

(b) Licences can be granted immediately on request only under special circumstances.

(c) No.

(d) Licence applications are in principle examined only by one authority. The importer needs to approach one authority only.

8. In principle a licence is issued only to a person or a firm domiciled in Sweden. Reasons for refusals are always communicated to the applicant. In the event of refusal applicants have a right of appeal through written application to the Government.

Eligibility of importers to apply for licence

9. (a)-(b) All persons, firms and institutions domiciled in Sweden are eligible to apply for licences and entitled to expect consideration within the framework of normal procedures.

Documentational and other requirements for application of licence

10. Applications shall contain information as shown by the annexed form.\(^1\) A sales contract or the like shall be attached to the application.

\(^1\)This sample form is not reproduced in this document.
11. Normal customs documents and - where required - an import licence shall be presented upon importation.

12. No.

13. No.

Conditions of licensing

14. The normal period of validity of a licence is the current month plus three months, however not exceeding the period of licensing. The validity can be extended by submitting the licence to the licensing authority with a request for extension. A decision regarding extended validity is noted on the licence.

15. No.

16. No.

17. (a)-(b) A general condition is that payments for goods shall be made through a foreign exchange bank. In principle no other conditions are attached to the granting of a licence.

Other procedural requirements

18. Apart from import licensing and similar administrative procedures, no other measures are required prior to importation.

19. Payments for imports may be made through authorized banks without specific permission in each case and without the formality of presenting an import licence provided that the conditions for current payments as defined in the Swedish exchange control regulations are met. Import payments are regarded as current payments (a) if made by a letter of credit with a validity not exceeding nine months and payable either against documents evidencing shipment to Sweden or after the arrival of the goods in Sweden or (b) - where other modes of payment than letter of credit are used - if not made earlier than immediately before delivery. Advance payments are regarded as current payments up to one third of the purchase sum in respect of imports of machinery, if stipulated in the contract, and up to an amount of SKr 50,000 in respect of other imports. Importers have to complete and deliver to the authorized bank a declaration form for import payments exceeding SKr 5,000 (SKr 10,000 in respect of the Nordic countries) and to present such evidencing documents as the bank may require for the verification of the authenticity of the transaction.
ANNEX
Form Referred to in Reply to Question 10

Question 10. Import licence application. Information required in the application.

1. Name and address of applicant.
2. Reference.
3. BTN number.
4. Description of goods.
5. Annexes.
6. Quantity.
7. Calculated amount of invoice in foreign currency.
8. Calculated amount of invoice in Swedish crowns.
9. Terms of shipments (c.i.f., f.o.b. etc., and place of importation or shipment).
10. Calculated c.i.f. value, Swedish crowns.
11. Estimated time for payment (quarter year, year).
12. Estimated time of importation (quarter year, year).
13. Name and address of exporter (actual supplier, not agent or other intermediary).
14. Name and address of foreign recipient of payment for goods (not bank).
15. Date, signature, telephone number.