Information on import licensing procedures of Finland, submitted in response to the questionnaire annexed to the document L/5106, has been made available to contracting parties in document COM.IND/W/55 - COM.AG/W/72/Add.21/Rev.1. The following notification, describing the present import licensing system, replaces the data previously submitted by Finland.

Outline of systems

1. The import licensing régimes used in Finland are automatic import licensing and import licensing procedures for the administration of quotas and individual (discretionary) licensing.

2. The import licensing régimes can be divided into five groups as follows:

A. Global licensing for the administration of quotas for certain agricultural products, petrol, silver and gold from countries with multilateral trade systems.

B. Individual (discretionary) licensing for the import of certain agricultural products, oil and coal from countries with a multilateral import system and for the import from socialist countries with which Finland has concluded an agreement on the reciprocal removal of obstacles to trade.

C. Individual (discretionary) licensing under bilateral trade agreements.

D. Individual (discretionary) licensing from countries other than A, B and C above.

E. Automatic licensing.
A. Global licensing for the administration of import quotas the value of which are fixed annually: Importers applying for an import licence may import the products within the quotas from any country with a multilateral import system (Annex) when also the country of origin is one of those countries. The global import system covers the following quotas:

**BTN Chapter**
- ex 3: Salmon and certain other fresh and chilled fish
- ex 4: Dried milk
- ex 8: Certain fruits (seasonal restrictions)
- ex 11: Starches excluding potato starch
- ex 15: Certain vegetable oils
- ex 17: Glucose and certain syrups
- ex 20: Fruit juices
- ex 27: Mineral tar, coal tar distillation products, solvent gasoline and petrol, aviation spirit and bitumen
- ex 71: Unwrought silver and gold

B. Individual licensing for the administration of import of products according to domestic need: Importers applying for an import licence are free to select the country of import among countries with a multilateral import system.

The import régime is also applicable to the import of products enumerated under A from socialist countries with which Finland has concluded agreements on the reciprocal removal of the obstacles to trade, viz. Bulgaria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic and Poland.

The individual licensing system covers the following product groups:

**BTN Chapter**
- 1: Live animals
- ex 2: Meat
- ex 4: Dairy products
- ex 6: Cut flowers (seasonal restrictions)
- ex 7: Fresh vegetables
- ex 8: Cut fresh bananas
- ex 10: Cereals
- ex 11: Products of milling industry
C. Licensing for the administration of bilateral quotas under bilateral trade agreements applies to products from People's Republic of China, Romania and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The import régime applies also to products enumerated under A and B when imported from these countries and to the following product groups imported from People's Republic of China and Romania:

**BTN Chapter**

ex 12 Oilseeds, fodder, sugar beet
ex 15 Animal and vegetable fats
ex 16 Meat preparations
ex 17 Sugar and molasses
ex 20 Preparations of vegetables, fruit and other parts of plants
ex 23 Residues and waste from food industry, processed animal fodder
ex 27 Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation, bituminous substances

**BTN Chapter**

ex 25 Cement
ex 28 Zinc oxide and aluminium sulphate
ex 40 Rubber tyres
ex 51 Woven fabrics of man-made fibres
ex 53 Yarn and woven fabrics of wool
ex 54 Woven fabrics of flax or ramie
ex 55 Yarn and woven fabrics of cotton
ex 56 Yarn and woven fabrics of man-made fibres
ex 58 Woven pile fabrics; chenille fabrics and yarn
ex 59 Felt and articles of felt, coated textile fabrics
ex 60 Knitted and crocheted goods
ex 61 Undergarments
ex 62 Other textile articles
ex 64 Rubber and leather footwear
ex 69 China tableware
ex 73 Certain rolled steel products; cast iron tubes and pipes; certain articles of iron or steel
ex 76 Aluminium wire
The bilateral licensing régime applies to imports from the countries above provided that the country of purchase and the country of origin are the same and that payments are effected as stipulated in the applicable agreement on payment.

D. Individual licensing applies to the import of all products from countries not mentioned under A, B or C above.

E. Automatic licensing is operated for surveillance purposes for certain textile and steel products, if not otherwise stated in Finnish trade agreements. Licences are granted automatically.

5. The import licensing régimes described above are used for the operation of Finnish licensing systems according to the Law on Safeguarding Foreign Trade (157/73) and the subsidiary Decree (162/74 as amended in 1974-1980). The Law contains the main principles applicable to regulating foreign trade. The Decree specifies the products subject to import licensing systems, which cannot be abolished without legislative approval.

Procedures

6. (a) Information on annual global quotas is published in the official publication of the Import and Export Permits Office. The amounts published are global quotas as to quantity or value and are not allocated to goods from any specific country mentioned under A above.

Information on the import system of Finland can be obtained through the GATT secretariat and through the Finnish embassies and trade missions abroad.

(b) The size of the quotas is determined on annual basis. Licences are usually issued for imports for three months during the calendar year. The validity of these licences can be prolonged. After using the granted licence the importer must apply for a new licence.

(c) Licences are issued to all importers alike. The system of granting licences for three months makes it possible to control the actual use of granted licences. Licences should be returned to the Import and Export Permits Office after their expiry date or after the import has been effected under a granted licence.
Unused allocations may be divided among other importers during the calendar year, but are not added to quotas of the following year. The licences granted to each importer are published by the Import and Export Permits Office.

(d) Applications can be submitted before or during a calendar year. However, the examination of applications for licences does not take place until the first day of the calendar year in question.

(e) 1-14 days.

(f) Applications can be made at any time during the year (see answer under (d)).

(g) The Import and Export Permits Office in Helsinki administers the import licensing regimes applicable as the only administrative licensing authority.

(h) If the demand for licences cannot be fully satisfied, the allocation of quotas is carried out on the basis of past import performance. A reasonable amount, about 10 per cent, of each quota is reserved for new importers. If the importer needs a smaller share, his theoretical unused amount is divided between other importers in proportion to their past performance. Applications are examined on receipt.

(i) In the case of arrangements, where export permits are issued by exporting countries, import licences are not usually required.

(j) The information procedures are usually agreed upon in the bilateral agreements.

(k) Import licences are sometimes issued on the condition that the product should be exported and not sold in the domestic market.

7. Applications for the import of products under the automatic licensing régime under E may be filled at any time to the Import and Export Permits Office. The applied licence is granted in 1-2 days.

8. Reasons for a refusal are always communicated to the applicant. The applicant may renew his application for a licence in the event of refusal. He has also a right of appeal to the Surveillance Body on Licensing Affairs.

Eligibility to importers to apply for licence

9. (a-b) All persons, firms or institutions engaged in business activities in Finland are eligible to apply for licences for products in their sectors. There is no authorization of importers, nor any register of authorized ones.
Documentational or other requirements for application of licence

10. The application should include the following data: name and address of applicant, commodity, BTN position, quantity and amount of currency required, country of consignment, country of purchase and country of origin, expected time of importation and payment terms, sales conditions.

11. Upon actual importation the following documents are required:
   - invoice
   - customs declaration
   - declaration of dutiable value
   - import licence.

12. The licensing fees vary from Fmk 10 to Fmk 440 depending on the value of the products to be imported under a licence.

13. There are no deposit or advance payment requirements associated with the issue of licences.

Conditions of licensing

14. The period of validity of a licence is usually three months. It may be extended subject to the import periods if the licence is presented for renewal before expiry date.

15. No.

16. Licences are not transferable without approval by the Import and Export Permits Office.

17. No.

Other procedural requirements

18. No.

19. Licence is required as a condition for obtaining foreign exchange for products under non-automatic licensing systems. Foreign exchange is available to cover licences issued. Foreign exchange is granted by the Bank of Finland upon application.

---

1 The application form is available for reference in the secretariat (Room 1073, Centre William Rappard).
ANNEX

Multilateral Import Treatment
As Applied from 1 July 1980

Afghanistan
Albania
Algeria
Andorra
Angola
Argentina
Australia
Christmas Islands
Cocos Islands
Norfolk Islands
The southern islands of Australia
Austria
Bahamas
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belgo-Luxembourg Economic Union
Benin
Bhutan
Bolivia
Botswana
Brazil
Burma
Burundi
Cameroon
Canada
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
Chile
Easter Island
Juan Fernandez Islands
Colombia
Comores
Congo
Costa Rica
Cuba
Cyprus
Denmark
Faroe Islands
Greenland
Djibouti

Dominica
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Galapagos Islands
Egypt
El Salvador
Equatorial Guinea
Ethiopia
Federal Republic of Germany
Fiji
France
French Antilles (Guadeloupe, Martinique and French part of the Islands of St. Martin)
French Guyana
French Polynesia
French southern islands in the Indian Ocean
New Caledonia
New Hebrides
Réunion
Saint-Pierre and Miquelon
Gabon
Gambia
Ghana
Greece
Granada
Guatemala
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Guyana
Haiti
Honduras
Iceland
India
Union territories (Sikkim etc.)
Indonesia
Iran
Iraq
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Ivory Coast
Jamaica
Japan
Jordan
Kampuchea
Kenya
Kiribati
Korea, Republic of
Kuwait
Laos
Lebanon
Lesotho
Liberia
Libya
Madagascar
Malawi
Malaysia (Malaya, Sabah, Sarawak)
Maldives
Mali
Malta
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mexico
Monaco
Mozambique
Morocco
Namibia
Nauru
Nepal
Netherlands
Netherlands' Antilles (Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, Saba, St. Eustatius and the Netherlands' part of the Islands of St. Martin)
New Zealand
Chatham Islands
Stewart Islands
Other outlying islands and Pacific islands
Nicaragua
Niger
Nigeria
Norway
Bouvet Island
Jan Mayen
Peter I Island
Spitsbergen

Oman
Pakistan
Panama
Papua New Guinea
Paraguay
Peru
Phillipines
Portugal
Azores
Cabinda-Landava
Macao
Madeira
Qatar
Rwanda
St. Lucia
Samoa
San Marino
Sao Tome and Principe
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Singapore
Somalia
Solomon Islands
Puerto Rico
Swains Islands
Virgin Islands of the United States
Upper Volta
Uruguay
Venezuela
Viet-Nam
South Africa, Republic of
Prince Edward's Islands
Spain
Balearic Islands and Pine Islands
Canaries
Spanish Africa
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Surinam
Swaziland
Switzerland and Liechtenstein
Syria
Tanzania
Thailand
Togo
Tonga
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkey
Tuvalu
Uganda
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom
Ascension
Belize
Bermuda
British Pacific Islands
British West Indies (Antigua, Montserrat, St. Kitts-Nevis, St. Vincent)
Brunei
Falkland Islands
Gibraltar
Hong Kong
Labuan
New Hebrides
Rodriguez and Diego Garcia
St. Helena
Tristan da Gunha
British Virgin Islands

United States
American Samoa
Canton and Enderbury Islands
Caroline Islands
Howland and Baker Islands
Jarvis Island
Johnston Islands
Kure Island
Mariana Islands
Marshall Islands
Midway
Palmyra Island and Kingman Reef
Wake Islands
Other trust territories in the Pacific
Yemen, Arab Republic of
Yemen, People's Democratic Republic of
Yugoslavia
Zaire
Zambia
Zimbabwe