Information on import licensing procedures of Finland, submitted in response to the questionnaire annexed to the document L/5106/Rev.2 has been made available to contracting parties in documents L/5130, L/5130/Corr.1 and L/5130/Suppl.1. The following notification, describing the present import licensing system, replaces the data previously submitted by Finland with the exception of L/5130/Suppl.1, which remains valid.

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 is applied for imports from countries which are granted a so-called multilateral treatment (see annex).

B. Individual (discretionary) licensing is applied to the imports of certain agricultural products, oil and coal from countries which are granted a so-called multilateral treatment (see annex).

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

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

E. Automatic licensing.

3-4. A. Global licensing for the administration of quotas, the values of which are fixed annually: importers applying for an import licence may import the products within the quotas from any country which is granted multilateral treatment provided that the country of origin is also one of those countries. The global quota programme covers the following products:

84-0058
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 (discretionary) licensing for the administration of imports according to domestic needs: importers applying for an import licence are free to select the country of imports among the countries which are granted multilateral treatment, provided the country of origin is also one of those countries.

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.

Individual licensing 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
  ex 12 Oilseeds, fodder, sugar beet
  ex 15 Animal and vegetable fats
  ex 16 Meat preparations
  ex 17 Sugar and molasses
BTN Chapter

ex 20 Preparations of vegetables, ...it 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

C. Licensing for the administration of bilateral quotas under bilateral trade agreements applies to products from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The import régime also applies to products enumerated under A and B when imported from this country.

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 régimes 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 filed 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 20 to Fmk 700 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 maximum period of validity of a licence is three to six months, which is not usually extended.

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 in cases where the country of origin is a country with which Finland has a payment agreement and the licence permits payment in convertible currency. Foreign exchange is available to cover licences issued.

---

1 The application form is available for reference in the secretariat (Room 1063, Centre William Rappard).
ANNEX

Multilateral Import Treatment as Applied from 1 July 1980

Afghanistan
Albania
Algeria
Andorra
Angola
Antigua-Barbuda
Argentina
Australia
- Christmas Islands
- Cocos Islands
- Norfolk Islands
  The southern islands of Australia
Austria
Bahamas
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belgo-Luxembourg Economic Union
Belize
Benin
Bhutan
Bolivia
Botswana
Brazil
Burma
Burundi
Cameroon
Canada
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
Chile
  Easter Island
  Juan Fernandez Islands
China
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
  Réunion
  Saint-Pierre and Miquelon
Gabon
Gambia
Ghana
Greece
Grenada
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
Mongolia
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
Spitzbergen
Oman
Pakistan
Panama
Papua New Guinea
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Portugal
Azores
Cabinda-Landava
Macao
Madeira
Qatar
Romania
Rwanda
St. Christopher and Nevis
St. Lucia
St. Vincent and Grenadines
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
South Africa, Republic of Prince Edward's Islands
Spain
Balearic Islands and Pine Islands
Canaries
Spanish Africa
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Suriname
Swaziland
Sweden
Switzerland and Liechtenstein
Syria
Tanzania
Thailand
Togo
Tonga
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkey
Tuvalu
Uganda
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom
Ascension
Bermuda
British Pacific Islands
British West Indies (Montserrat)
Brunei
Falkland Islands
Gibraltar
Hong Kong
Labuan
Rodriguez and Diego Garcia
St. Helena
Tristan da Cunha
British Virgin Islands
United States
American Samoa
Canton and Enderbury Islands
Caroline Islands
Howland and Baker Islands
Jarvis Island
United States (cont'd)
Johnston Islands
Kure Island
Mariana Islands
Marshall Islands
Midway
Palmyra Island and Kingman Reef
Wake Islands
Other trust territories in the Pacific
Upper Volta
Uruguay
Vanuatu
Venezuela
Viet-Nam
Yemen, Arab Republic of
Yemen, People's Democratic Republic of
Yugoslavia
Zaire
Zambia
Zimbabwe