GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE ON IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES

ARGENTINA

The following notification has been received from the delegation of Argentina in response to the questionnaire on Import Licensing Procedures annexed to document L/5106.

Outline of systems

1. Under Decrees 4/68 and 117/68, imports of carbon steel sheets and plates and of alloy steel bars falling within NADI chapter 73 and subject to payment of customs duties are required to be authorized by the Directorate-General for Military Manufactures.

Note: Apart from the system described above, every importer must communicate his import needs in the form of a sworn declaration which does not constitute an import licence within the meaning of the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures. This regulation was reproduced in document LIC/1 of 18 March 1980.

Purposes and coverage of the licensing

2. A. Under Decree 4/68, import licences for carbon steel sheets and plates are granted by the Directorate-General for Military Manufactures.

B. Under Decree 117/68, import licences for bars of alloy steel and high carbon steel are granted by the Directorate-General for Military Manufactures.

3. The system applies whatever the country of origin or of consignment.

4. The system is not intended to restrict the quantity or value of imports. The purpose is to evaluate and determine rapidly the breakdown of imports for statistical purposes in order to ascertain market needs and encourage technological development of new products, and also to ensure that there is no production of substitutes that are not justified technologically. There is no other adequate method for accomplishing this purpose.

5. As indicated in point 2, imports of carbon steel sheets are governed by Decree 4/68 and imports of alloy steel bars by Decree 117/68. The procedure is mandatory; however, the Executive is empowered to abolish it.
Procedures

6. Licence applications are not subject to any restriction as to quantity or value.

7. As regards applications not subject to any quantitative limit:
   (a) Applications can be made at any time, either in advance of importation or when the goods have arrived at the port.
   (b) Licences are granted within seventy-two hours after the relevant application is filed.
   (c) There are no limitations as to the period of the year during which applications may be filed and importation may be made.
   (d) Licence applications are examined solely by the Directorate-General for Military Manufactures.

8. If the price of the imported product including customs duties is higher than that of the corresponding domestic product, the applicant is asked to give the reasons for importing in order to determine whether the domestic product does not fulfil the relevant technical requirements.

Eligibility of importers to apply for licence

9. A. Not applicable
   B. All persons, firms and institutions are eligible to apply.

Documentational and other requirements for application of licence

10. Only a form has to be filed.

11. The same documents as for any importation

12. There are no fees or administrative charges for granting a licence.

13. No deposit or advance payment is required for obtaining a licence.

Conditions of licensing

14. In general, the period of validity is six months, but it may be longer and in addition, an extension can be granted by setting a new time-limit or extending the original one.

15. There are no penalties for non-utilization of a licence or portion of a licence.
16. No such cases having arisen, but upon request, licences can be transferred to any firm; there are no limitations.

17. There are no other conditions attached to the issue of a licence.

Other procedural requirements

18. No other prior procedures are required for any import transaction.

19. Not applicable