AUSTRALIAN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

Addendum

Particulars of the Measures of Intensification

In addition to the communique reproduced in L/350 the following Press Statement, issued in Canberra on 22 March, has been transmitted by the Australian Government. The Australian Government has also supplied copies of Licensing Instructions Nos. 1955/12 and 13, dated 22 and 23 March respectively. These are on file at the Secretariat for consultation.

"Following upon the announcement by the Acting Prime Minister that the Government had found it necessary to impose further restrictions on a large range of goods, the Minister for Trade and Customs, Senator Neil O'Sullivan, to-day released particulars of the operation of the measures, which will apply as from 1 April 1955.

"Quotas for items which have been licensed on the basis of 100 per cent or 90 per cent of base year imports will be regarded as Category "A" quotas. The basis of licensing for Category "A" goods will be 85 per cent of base year imports.

"The level of licensing of Category "B" goods will be reduced by one-third, i.e. from 60 per cent to 40 per cent of base year imports. A similar percentage reduction will be made in special quotas established for Category "B" goods.

"A number of goods which have previously been licensed on a "No Quota Restriction" basis will be brought under quota control. These items, which are listed below, will be licensed on the basis of 100 per cent of imports during the year ended 31 December 1954:

Replacement parts for agricultural machinery
Replacement parts for motor cycles
Replacement parts for motor vehicles
Replacement parts for tractors
Replacement parts for earthmoving equipment
Replacement parts for portable electric hand tools
Electrical insulating materials
Materials for the manufacture of abrasive cloths and papers
Replacement parts for air compressors
Replacement parts for boot and shoe machinery
Replacement parts for engines
Replacement parts for printing and papermaking machinery
Replacement parts for textile machinery
Replacement parts for watches and clocks
Replacement parts for pens and pencils
Tobacco
Coffee
Mustard seed
Iodised salt
Synthetic sausage casings
Rape Seed
Cheese bandages
Iron and Steel
Aluminum and nickel ingots
Nickel and nickel alloy primary shapes
Ball and roller bearings; steel balls for bearings
Mechanical and electrical meters
Portable electric hand tools
Graphite electrodes
Steel fencing posts
Coils for sugar boilers
Plate glass
Drugs
Alarm Clocks
Unexposed cinematograph film
Crude rubber
Pulp and waste paper for paper making
Fruit Wrapping Paper
Valves for pneumatic tyres | Mercury
---|---
Crude asbestos | Greasy and scoured wool
Blankets for machinery | Cotton waste
Fertilizers | Fibres
Manganese Ore | Hides and skins
Chrome Ore | Waste for caffeine
Ferro alloys | Rosin
Corundum and emery | Earths and clays
Abrasives | Animal hair

"Senator O'Sullivan added that, although it had been necessary to reimpose quota controls on these goods, the allocation of quotas on the basis of 100 per cent of imports for the year ended 31 December 1954, should ensure that industry would receive adequate supplies of raw materials to cater for present demands.

"Because of special circumstances, certain items were previously licensed on a basis of more than 100 per cent of base year imports. The scale of licensing of these goods will be reduced to 100 per cent of base year imports.

"In commenting on the reduction of the licensing period from six months to three months, Senator O'Sullivan stated that the Government had considered this necessary because it permits of greater flexibility in control. The Minister added that importers would, from 1 April 1953, be able to apply for licenses up to the full value of their revised quotas for the April/June 1955 licensing period irrespective of debits incurred during previous periods.

"Finally Senator O'Sullivan indicated that, in view of the necessity to impose increased restrictions, the Department of Trade and Customs would be compelled to examine applications for new or increased quotas in the light of the changed circumstances. Applications for new or increased quotas could be considered only in cases of particular importance to the national economy.

"A licensing instruction embodying complete details should be available from offices of Collectors of Customs within two days."