IMPORT DOCUMENTATION INCLUDING CONSULAR FORMALITIES

In response to the request to report on consular formalities and import documents, information has been received from the following countries:

Brazil
Chile
Romania

The information is reproduced below.

BRAZIL

The Brazilian governmental and administrative authorities do not apply any fees or restrictive or protectionist formalities on import transactions.

The documentation requirements in force in Brazil are briefly as follows:

(a) Certification of origin: The Brazilian Government has approved documents for the certification of origin of exports, for example within the framework of LAFTA and the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP). The "Carteira de Comércio Exterior" (CACEX), the federations of industry and the chambers of commerce are the bodies authorized to issue certificates of origin and/or to certify the origin of exported goods. As regards the Generalized System of Preferences, however, CACEX is the only authorized body. Certificates of origin of goods to be exported are drawn up in English and French (GSP) and Spanish (LAFTA), and these are likewise the languages accepted by the customs authorities for certificates of origin of imported goods.

(b) Import licence: See Brazilian reply to the GATT questionnaire on this subject (COM.IND/W/55/Add.35).

(c) Commercial invoice: Under Decree No. 66,175 of 4 February 1970, the procedure for commercial invoices has been simplified in that a consular visa is no longer required.

(d) Bill of lading.
Under Legislative Decree No. 1024 of 21 October 1969, the Brazilian Government has revised the system of fines imposed in respect of errors in documents presented to the customs, so that these fines have been practically eliminated. Where necessary, the trader may present a revised invoice to correct errors and/or omissions that can easily be rectified and do not constitute any grave negligence. If the trader fails to present a revised invoice, then the administration imposes a fine by way of warning.

As regards preliminary indication of the weight of goods embarked, this is necessary for the identification of imported goods. The Brazilian Government does not consider this measure to be complicated or restrictive.

CHILE

Under Legislative Decree No. 6, published in the Official Gazette of 30 September 1967, a consular fee on the bill of lading and invoice was established, equivalent to 24.30 gold pesos of six peniques per 200 tons or fraction thereof on the weight recorded in the bill of lading, and 2.5 per cent of the F.O.B. value of the corresponding invoice; the Legislative Decree has never been applied, however, because under Laws No. 16,735 of 1968, 17,072 of 1969, 17,271 of 1970 and 17,399 of 1971, these consular fees were suspended. Subsequently, Law No. 17,692, published in the Official Gazette on 16 August 1972, Legislative Decree No. 6 of 1967 was definitively rescinded with retroactive effect as from 1 January 1972, so that at present there are no legal provisions for the charging of consular fees on invoices or bills of lading in respect of trade documents covering goods exported to Chile.

The Executive Committee of the Central Bank of Chile is the official body responsible for issuing import permits, ordering payments abroad in foreign exchange, and supervising all international exchange transactions in the country. Under the legal provisions in force regarding import documentation, it may impose fines in the following cases of infringement:

(a) Embarkation of goods abroad before the effective date of the relevant import certificate;

(b) embarkation of goods abroad after the relevant import certificate has expired;

(c) late compliance with the prior formalities for obtaining foreign exchange;

(d) late presentation of declarations of loss or damage to goods.

ROMANIA

Romania does not apply any consular formalities on imports.