Committee on Import Licensing

INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE SECRETARIAT

Note by the Secretariat

SWEDEN


Sweden notified the Committee on Import Licensing that all relevant information was contained in that document (see LIC/1/Add.2).

1. Publication
   1.1 Names of publications
      1.1.1 Board of Commerce's collection of laws and regulations (KFS series)
      1.1.2 Collection of laws of the National Board of Agriculture (JNFS series)

   1.2 Copies of publications received.
   1. KFS 1974:15
      Collegium of Commerce's collection of laws. Announcement no. 63: Matters concerning commercial licences with additional rules for the general import prohibition.

   2. KFS 1976:3
      Collegium of Commerce's collection of laws. Announcement no. 85: Matters concerning commercial licences with rules on licence-free imports of textile articles in certain cases.
3. KFS 1977:21  
   KK:15
Collegium of Commerce's regulations concerning changes in the licensing rule for imports of goods from certain State-trading countries in Eastern Europe and Eastern Asia.

4. KFS 1977:25  
   KK:19
Collegium of Commerce's regulation concerning changes in the licensing rules for imports of rubber boots.

5. KFS 1978:1  
   KK:1
Collegium of Commerce's regulations concerning the abolition of the free licensing of imports of certain products of iron and steel.

6. KFS 1978:20  
   KK:16
Collegium of Commerce's regulations concerning changes in the licensing rules for imports of goods from certain State-trading countries in Eastern Europe and Eastern Asia.

7. KFS 1978:21  
   KK:17
Collegium of Commerce's regulations on imports of goods from Japan.

8. KFS 1978:22  
   KK:17
Collegium of Commerce's regulations on licensing for certain textile goods from Yugoslavia.

9. KFS 1979:3  
   KK:3
Collegium of Commerce's regulations on changes in the licensing rules for imports of textile goods.

10. KFS 1979:5  
    KK:5
Collegium of Commerce's regulations on the licensing of certain textile goods from Hong Kong.
11. KFS 1979:6
   KK:6
Collegium of Commerce's regulation on the licensing of certain textile goods from Malta.

12. KFS 1979:7
   KK:7
Collegium of Commerce's regulation on the licensing of certain textile goods from Macao.

13. KFS 1979:8
   KK:8
Collegium of Commerce's regulation on the licensing of certain textile goods from the Republic of Korea (South Korea).

14. KFS 1979:9
   KK:9
Collegium of Commerce's regulation on the licensing of certain textile goods from Malaysia.

15. KFS 1979:10
   KK:10
Collegium of Commerce's regulation on the licensing of certain textile goods from India.

16. KFS 1979:12
   KK:12
Collegium of Commerce's regulation on the licensing of certain textile goods from Thailand.

17. KFS 1979:13
   KK:13
Collegium of Commerce's regulation on the licensing of certain textile goods from Sri Lanka.

18. KFS 1979:16
   KK:16
Collegium of Commerce's regulation on the licensing of certain textile goods from Portugal.
19. KFS 1979:17
KK:17
Collegium of Commerce's regulation on conditions for licence-free imports of goods in certain cases.

20. KFS 1979:19
KK:18
Collegium of Commerce's regulation on the licensing of certain textile goods from the Philippines.

21. KFS 1979:21
KK:20
Collegium of Commerce's regulation on the licensing of certain textile goods from Singapore.

22. KFS 1980:2
KK:2
Collegium of Commerce's regulations for certain imports and exports in connexion with the lifting of the sanctions against Rhodesia.

23. KFS 1980:3
KK:2
Collegium of Commerce's regulations in connexion with certain changes in the statistical classifications of goods in the customs tariff.

24. KFS 1980:5
KK:4
Collegium of Commerce's regulations on the licensing of certain textile goods from Pakistan.

25. JNFS 1980:17
The announcement of a collection of laws from the State Agricultural Board on imports of food products etc.
2. Public Notice
Circulars of the National Agricultural Marketing Board of the Board of Commerce.

3. Notifications
3.1 Document COM.IND/W/55/Add.65/Rev.1-COM.AG/72/Add.65/Rev.1 as amended by Corr.1 and 2 reads as follows: (English and French only)

Outline of systems

1. Basically Sweden has only one licensing system for goods under CCCN Chapters 1-24. The National Agricultural Market Board is the licensing authority for those products with some exemptions. Thus the Board of Commerce is the licensing authority for some raw materials, wines, spirits and tobacco, the National Board of Agriculture for live sperm, fruit trees, herbage seeds and vegetable seeds, and the National Board of Forestry for seedlings, cuttings and seeds of forest trees.

Purpose and coverage of the licensing

2-3. For imports from all countries an import licence from the National Agricultural Market Board is required for the following products:

- meat of asses, mules, hinnies, buffalo, wild boar and goats;
- cod and herring, not in fillets, fresh or chilled;
- herring, not in fillets, frozen;
- herring and mackerel, in fillets, fresh or chilled;
- cod, haddock and hake, in fillets, frozen;
- certain kinds of salted, not dried, herring;
- roe (except cod roe);
- shrimps and prawns, boiled, frozen;
- apples and pears, fresh (seasonal restrictions);
- wheat (except durum wheat) and meslin;
- beet sugar and cane sugar, in solid form;
- table syrup, other syrup and other sugar solutions;
- edible molasses.

For imports from State-trading countries such as Poland, Romania, Czechoslovakia and Hungary an import licence from the National Agricultural Market Board is required also for some other kinds of fish and fish products, certain live animals, meat and meat products, eggs, not in shell, and malt.

1This document replaces the submissions made earlier by Sweden.
4. The main purposes of the licensing system administered by the National Agricultural Market Board are to supervise imports, especially low-price imports, of certain products and to limit, when necessary, such imports. In most cases licences are granted automatically. Licensing requirements combined with quantitative restrictions are thus normally applied only to a small number of products, such as most of the above-mentioned kinds of fish. The seasonal import restrictions on apples and pears are intended to protect the marketing of the domestic crop. The licensing on wheat is aimed at controlling the imports of wheat not suitable for baking.

5. The licensing system administered by the National Agricultural Market Board is based on the following statutory instruments:

   (a) the Government Decree (1947 No. 82) on general import prohibition, which is applicable inter alia to horticultural products, coffee, confectionery, canned fruit and vegetables, soft drinks, beer and fertilizers;

   (b) the Law (1967 No. 340) concerning price regulation of agricultural products, which is applicable inter alia to meat and meat products, dairy produce, eggs, potatoes, cereals, starches, oil seeds, fats and oils, sugar and animal fodder;

   (c) the Law (1974 No. 226) concerning price regulation of fish and fish products, which is applicable to fish, crustaceans and molluscs and products thereof.

Imports of products under the Decree are in principle not allowed without an import licence from the National Agricultural Market Board. The Government may however authorize the Board to allow importation without a licence and such authorizations have also been issued.

In accordance with the two Laws, the Government or the National Agricultural Market Board by authorization of the Government, may stipulate that products under these Laws must not be imported without an import licence from the Board. Such authorizations have also been issued for certain products.

Procedure

6. (a) The National Agricultural Market Board issues circulars in which information concerning the scope of the licensing requirements and formalities of filing applications for licences is published. In the exceptional cases where quotas are applied, each importer is informed directly about the quantity at his disposal for licences during a certain period. As regards new importers see (h) below.

   (b) When quotas in exceptional cases are applied they are determined on a yearly or six-monthly basis.
(c) Domestic producers do not receive any special part of a quantity released. Licences are granted only for current purchases which in principle have to be proved by a sales contract. In order to check the utilization of the licence the Board requires that the licence document should be returned to the Board within a specified period. Unused allocations can be redistributed or carried over to the following period. The names of importers who have obtained licences are in accordance with existing legislation not revealed to authorities and export organizations in the exporting country.

(d) A reasonable period of time. See (a) above.

(e) Normally, each licence application is dealt with immediately. The procedure takes a maximum of one week.

(f) Licences granted are in principle valid for immediate importation.

(g) As a rule, licence applications are handled only by one administrative authority. In any event the importer has only to approach one single instance.

(h) Quotas, if any, are allocated mainly on the basis of the applicants' imports during an earlier base period. A reasonable part of the quota is then reserved for new importers. Applications are examined simultaneously. In cases where restrictions are not combined with fixed quotas, applications are examined on receipt.

(i)-(j) Does not apply to agricultural products.

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

7. (a)-(b) There is no minimum time fixed. A licence can be granted immediately on request.

(c) There is a system of seasonal restrictions on apples and pears. A more detailed description of this system is to be found in GATT document COM.AG/W/68/Add.2/Part 1.

(d) See 6 (g).

8. The reason for a refusal is communicated to the applicant. He can request the Board to reconsider the case and subsequently appeal to the Government.

Eligibility of importers to apply for licence

9. (a)-(b) All persons, firms and institutions domiciled in Sweden are eligible to apply for licences.
Documentational and other requirements for application of licence

10. Applications shall contain information as shown by the annexed form. A sales contract ought to be attached to the application.

11. Normal customs documents and - where required - an import licence shall be presented upon importation.

12. No.

13. No.

Conditions of licensing

14. An import licence is valid for three to six months, or, as regards certain kinds of fish, for a considerable shorter period of time. The validity can be extended on request. A decision in this respect is noted on the licence document.

15. No.

16. No.

17. (a)-(b) A general condition is that payments for goods shall be made through a foreign exchange bank. In principle no other conditions are attached to the granting of a licence.

Other procedural requirements

18. In some cases, import permission from authorities responsible for sanitary and phyto-sanitary regulations may be called for in addition to licensing.

19. Payments for imports may be made through authorized banks without specific permission in each case and without the formality of presenting an import licence provided that the conditions for current payments as defined in the Swedish exchange control regulations are met. Import payments are regarded as current payments (a) if made by a letter of credit with a validity not exceeding nine months and payable either against documents evidencing shipment to Sweden or after the arrival of the goods in Sweden or (b) - where other modes of payment than letter of credit are used - if not made earlier than immediately before delivery. Advance payments are regarded as current payments up to one third of the purchase sum in respect of imports of machinery, if stipulated in the contract, and up to an amount of SKr 50,000 in respect of other imports. Importers have to complete and deliver to the authorized bank a declaration form for import payments exceeding SKr 5,000 (SKr 10,000 in respect of the Nordic countries) and to present such evidencing documents as the bank may require for the verification of the authenticity of the transaction.

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1This sample form is not reproduced in this document.
ANNEX

Form Referred to in Reply to Question 10

Question 10. Import licence application. Information required in the application.

1. Name and address of applicant.
2. Description of goods.
3. Statistical number.
4. Quantity.
5. C.i.f. value, Swedish crowns.
6. Amount of invoice.
7. Estimated time of importation.
9. Estimated time for payment.
10. Name and address of exporter (actual supplier, not agent or other intermediary).
11. Country from which goods are to be delivered.
12. Date, signature of applicant.
3.2 Document COM.IND/W/55/Add.66/Rev.1-COM.AG/W/72/Add.66/Rev.1 as amended by Corr.1 reads as follows: (English and French only).

Outline of systems

1. Basically Sweden has only one licensing system for goods covered by the general import prohibition (see point 5 below). Licences are issued upon written application by the importer. The Board of Commerce is the licensing authority for goods under Chapters 25-99 of the BTN, with the exception of Chapter 31, and certain other commodities in respect of which the National Agricultural Market Board is the licensing authority.

Purposes and coverage of the licensing

2-3. For imports from most State-trading countries, among which Poland, Romania, Czechoslovakia and Hungary, a licence is required for the following goods:

- a limited number of chemical products, certain plastics; most yarns, fabrics, knitwear and ready-made textiles; shoes with outer soles of leather, artificial leather, rubber or plastics; table china; pig iron, most ferro-alloys, rolling mill products, including tubes of iron or steel, certain semi-manufactures of aluminium AC motors, triphase; graphite electrodes.

The importation of certain china from Japan requires an import licence to administrate a quantitative restriction.

The importation of certain textile products from all countries other than EEC and EFTA countries (excluding Portugal), not otherwise subject to import licensing, requires an import licence for surveillance purposes.

Special regulations are valid for importation of certain textile products from far eastern countries as Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea and Singapore as well as from Malta, Mauritius, Portugal and Yugoslavia.
The importation of rubber boots from all countries other than EEC and EFTA countries requires an import licence to administrate a quantitative restriction.

The importation of certain products of iron and steel requires an import licence for surveillance purposes.

1. The main purposes of the licensing are to limit, when necessary, the imported quantity and to provide a means to supervise imports of certain goods in order to make possible rapid action when market conditions give reason for such actions.

5. The licensing is authorized under a Government Decree of 14 March 1947 (No. 82) on general import prohibition. Section 1 of that Decree reads as follows:

"Imports into Sweden of goods other than those indicated in the List No. 1 attached to this Decree (the free list) may not take place without permission (import licence) by the authorities referred to in Section 2. In connexion with the granting of such licence, the conditions for the utilization of the licence may be stipulated."

"Upon authorization by the Government and according to principles decided upon by the Government, the licensing authorities may grant applicants the right to import goods other than those indicated in the free list without licence. Such permission is granted in accordance with requirements deemed necessary."

This Decree is not applicable to goods, for which import prohibition or import control is in force according to Annex 2 of the Decree.\(^1\) Only the basic regulations are laid down by law. The Government or the Board of Commerce may decide which goods should be exempted from the import prohibition. The Government is by law authorized to prescribe instructions concerning importation of goods. The Board of Commerce has the power upon authorization by the Government to decide which goods may be exempted from the general import prohibition prescribed by the Government.

\(^1\)As regards egg albumin and certain starches the licence requirement is maintained under the Decree (No. 340) of 9 June 1967 regarding certain price regulations in the field of agriculture. The National Agricultural Marketing Board is licensing authority.
Procedure

6. (a) The Board of Commerce issues circulars in which information concerning the scope of the licensing requirements and formalities of filing applications for licences is published. Neither the total amount for licensing nor the amount released for each country is in general published in the circulars. This information is however available upon request. Each importer or agent is informed in writing about the amount at his disposal for licences during a certain period. As regards new importers, see (h) below.

(b) Allocations are in principle made for one-year periods. Licences are usually valid for six to nine months, after expiry of the current month. The validity can be extended, however, not exceeding the period of licensing. After this period the importer must apply for a new licence.

(c) Domestic producers as such do not receive any special share of released quantities. The total amount is allocated on the same basis between all importers. Licences are only issued for immediate purchases which have to be certified by a sales contract. Non-utilized parts of a licence are in principle not transferable to a following period. The names of importers who have obtained licences are not revealed to authorities and exporting organizations in the exporting country, on account of the provisions of the legislation concerning official secrets.

(d) The amount allocated is available to the importer for three quarters of the period in respect of which the total allocation is granted. Licence amounts not utilized by one importer are generally reallocated to other importers which are believed to be able to utilize the licence.

(e) Usually the time required for the handling of licence applications is four to ten days.

(f) A licence which has been granted is in principle valid for immediate importation.

(g) Licence applications are in principle only dealt with by one authority. The importer needs to approach one authority only.

(h) If the amounts of licences applied for are greater than available total amounts or quantities, allocation is made on the basis of the applicants' imports during an earlier base period. There is no upper limit for such allocations. New importers are granted a minor share of the total amount or quantity. Applications from such importers are dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Licence applications are in general examined on receipt.
(i) The surveillance licensing requirements on the importation of certain textile products (cf. paragraphs 2-3) are applicable also to such products as those subject to export restraint arrangements. In such cases licences are granted upon application and presentation of the relevant export document.

(j) In the case when imports are permitted subject to the presentation of an export declaration this document is transmitted by the importer to the Board of Commerce with a licence application. The Board of Commerce furthermore periodically receives accounts of export declarations issued by the exporting country.

(k) In Sweden import licences are only exceptionally issued on condition that the goods are re-exported and not sold in the domestic market.

7. (a) Licences for goods, not subject to quantitative restrictions, are dealt with in the same way as other licences, i.e. the time of processing is four to ten days. Exceptionally a licence can be granted immediately.

(b) Licences can be granted immediately on request only under special circumstances.

(c) No.

(d) Licence applications are in principle examined only by one authority. The importer needs to approach one authority only.

8. In principle a licence is issued only to a person or a firm domiciled in Sweden. Reasons for refusals are always communicated to the applicant. In the event of refusal applicants have a right of appeal through written application to the Government.

Eligibility of importers to apply for licence

9. (a)-(b) All persons, firms and institutions domiciled in Sweden are eligible to apply for licences and entitled to expect consideration within the framework of normal procedures.

Documentational and other requirements for application of licence

10. Applications shall contain information as shown by the annexed form.¹ A sales contract or the like shall be attached to the application.

¹This sample form is not reproduced in this document.
11. Normal customs documents and - where required - an import licence shall be presented upon importation.

12. No.

13. No.

Conditions of licensing

14. The normal period of validity of a licence is the current month plus three months, however not exceeding the period of licensing. The validity can be extended by submitting the licence to the licensing authority with a request for extension. A decision regarding extended validity is noted on the licence.

15. No.

16. No.

17. (a)-(b) A general condition is that payments for goods shall be made through a foreign exchange bank. In principle no other conditions are attached to the granting of a licence.

Other procedural requirements

18. Apart from import licensing and similar administrative procedures, no other measures are required prior to importation.

19. Payments for imports may be made through authorized banks without specific permission in each case and without the formality of presenting an import licence provided that the conditions for current payments as defined in the Swedish exchange control regulations are met. Import payments are regarded as current payments (a) if made by a letter of credit with a validity not exceeding nine months and payable either against documents evidencing shipment to Sweden or after the arrival of the goods in Sweden or (b) - where other modes of payment than letter of credit are used - if not made earlier than immediately before delivery. Advance payments are regarded as current payments up to one third of the purchase sum in respect of imports of machinery, if stipulated in the contract, and up to an amount of SKr 50,000 in respect of other imports. Importers have to complete and deliver to the authorized bank a declaration form for import payments exceeding SKr 5,000 (SKr 10,000 in respect of the Nordic countries) and to present such evidencing documents as the bank may require for the verification of the authenticity of the transaction.
Question 10. Import licence application. Information required in the application.

1. Name and address of applicant.
2. Address to which the licence is to be sent if other than the applicant's.
3. Reference.
4. Importer's number.
5. Customs statistical number.
6. Description of goods.
7. Annexes.
8. Quantity.
9. Calculated amount of invoice in foreign currency.
10. Terms of shipments.
11. Calculated c.i.f. value, Swedish crowns.
12. Exporter.
14. Manufacturer.
15. Country of origin.
17. Time of importation.
18. Way of delivery (air, ship etc.).
19. Other information.
20. Date and signature.
21. Telephone number.
22. Application signed by
   [ ] Applicant  [ ] Agent
3.3 The relevant part of document LIC/1/Add.2 reads as follows:

All relevant information contained in existing Swedish regulations in the field of Import Licensing have already been notified to the GATT secretariat and circulated in documents COM.IND/W/55 - COM.AG/W/72/Add.65/Rev.1 and Add.66/Rev.1.

With reference to Article 5.4 of the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures, I wish to inform you that there have been no changes in the Swedish laws or regulations relevant to this Agreement.