This document is one in a series which updates the information originally circulated in the MTN/3E/DOC/10 and Addenda series. For non-tariff measures (NTM) applicable to agricultural products other than those covered by this document please refer to document AG/DOC/1 which provides an overview of the way in which NTM information is organized within the AG/DOC/- series.
Product (CCCN) Country or group maintaining measure: Countries indicating an interest:
Rice (10.06) Switzerland Pakistan

(a) **Description:**

Various charges

(b) **Comments by other countries:**

Besides the customs duty, a statistical fee of 3 per cent is levied on all rice imports into Switzerland.

**Compulsory stocks:** Civil defence regulations in Switzerland oblige every company which applies for import licences for rice, to keep proportionate stocks of rice at the Government's disposal. These compulsory stocks cover the equivalent of eight months of each company's total annual turnover in rice which means actual provisions for about eighteen months in case of emergency. The proportion of stocks is assessed in terms of three years, according to actual turnover and market share for each rice dealer at the time.

(c) **Comments by country maintaining the measures:**

The voluntary contribution to the fund for general rice publicity (RISO) is currently at the rate of Sw F 2 per 100 kg. of milled rice equivalent.

The charge for compulsory stocks is at the rate of Sw F 17 per 100 kg. of rice imported (milled rice equivalent).

July 1982
(a) **Description:**

Supplementary charges (phytosanitary regulations).

(b) **Comments by other countries:**

(c) **Comments by country maintaining the measures:**

The phytosanitary regulations make provision for a charge on all imports of products of any origin, in order to cover services rendered. Products which may possibly carry a contamination are in fact subject to a phytosanitary inspection.

July 1982
(a) Description:

Monopoly duty.

The rate of the ordinary monopoly duty is currently Sw F 2,370 per gross metric quintal. A higher rate of Sw F 3,540 is charged on a number of products (whisky, gin, vodka, rum and other spirits made from grains, potatoes, molasses or sugar, also brandy, including cognac and armagnac).

Importation in bottle. A special monopoly duty is applied to gin, whisky, cognac, armagnac, aquavit and certain other liqueurs. For whisky, cognac and armagnac the rate is Sw F 55 per litre of pure alcohol. For gin and aquavit it is Sw F 45.50 and for some liqueurs Sw F 30.50. The amount of tax payable on these products by degree of alcohol is, however, the same when they are imported in the barrel and not blended.

(b) Comments by other countries:

European Communities: This discrimination is not warranted by the nature of the products. The different rates of duty applied to the various products imported in bottle do not appear invariably to depend upon whether or not production is authorized in Switzerland.

(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

The Swiss Constitution provides for measures against alcoholism; these are applied in a different manner for domestic products and imported products.

Thus the production of certain spirits is prohibited in Switzerland (spirits made from grains, sugar and potatoes, for example), but these beverages can be imported without restriction.

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(22.08, 22.09) (cont’d)

(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures: (cont’d)

In the case of other spirits, Swiss production is restricted either by reduction of raw material availabilities, or by control of the raw materials' utilization. The duty charged at the frontier cannot therefore be considered separately and is not comparable with the duty the domestic producer is required to pay, particularly since the latter is charged at a later stage of marketing.

Import duty is higher for products the production of which is forbidden in Switzerland: this proves the taxation system to be non-protectionist.

July 1982