

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/L/493
12 October 2001

(01-5022)

REPORT (2001) OF THE COMMITTEE ON IMPORT LICENSING TO THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS

1. The Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures (the Agreement) which entered into force on 1 January 1995, establishes disciplines on users of import licensing systems with the principal objective of ensuring that the procedures applied for granting import licences do not in themselves restrict trade. It aims to simplify, clarify and minimize the administrative requirements necessary to obtain import licences.
2. The Committee on Import Licensing (the Committee) was established to afford Members the opportunity of consulting on any matters relating to the operation of the Agreement or the furtherance of its objectives. The Committee's Rules of Procedure, which were approved by the Council for Trade in Goods, are contained in document G/L/147.
3. All Members of the WTO are *ipso facto* members of the Committee. Observer governments in the General Council of the WTO have observer status in the Committee. In addition, representatives of the IMF, UNCTAD and the World Bank are invited to attend meetings of the Committee in an observer capacity.
4. The Committee held two meetings on 4 April and 9 October 2001 (G/LIC/M/13 and 14). The Committee at its meeting in April elected Ms. Simone Rudder of Barbados as Chairperson and Ms. Nancy Johnston of the United States as Vice-Chairperson for 2001.
5. Pursuant to Articles 1.4(a) and/or 8.2(b) of the Agreement and procedures agreed by the Committee, all Members are required to notify their laws, regulations and administrative procedures relevant to import licensing and submit copies of any relevant publications or laws and regulations upon becoming a WTO Member. Any subsequent changes to these laws, regulations and administrative procedures are also required to be notified. Since the entry into force of the WTO Agreement, 72 Members (the European Communities and its member States counted as one) have notified their legislation and/or publications under these provisions. During the period covered by this report, the Committee dealt with notifications from the following 15 Members: Burundi, Cameroon, Colombia, Czech Republic, Dominica, Gabon, Hungary, India, Jordan, Liechtenstein, Mali, Mongolia, Oman, Switzerland, Turkey and Uruguay. These notifications may be found in document series G/LIC/N/1/-.
6. Article 7.3 of the Agreement requires all Members to provide replies to the Questionnaire on Import Licensing Procedures¹ by 30 September each year. Since the entry into force of the WTO Agreement, 74 Members (the European Communities and its member States counted as one) have made notifications under this provision. This includes replies to the Questionnaire from 11 Members in 1995, 22 Members in 1996, 25 Members in 1997, 26 Members in 1998, 20 Members in 1999, 32 Members in 2000 and 21 Members in 2001. During the period covered by this report, the Committee dealt with notifications from the following 31 Members: Antigua and Barbuda; Burkina Faso;

¹ Annexed to document G/LIC/3.

Burundi; Chad; Colombia; Costa Rica; Czech Republic; Dominica; Estonia; European Communities; Georgia; Ghana; Hong Kong, China; Hungary; India; Jordan; Liechtenstein; Macao, China; Mali; Oman; Philippines; Romania; Singapore; South Africa; Switzerland; Trinidad and Tobago; Tunisia; Turkey; Uganda; United States; and Zimbabwe. It also received notifications for 2001 from Albania; European Communities; Hong Kong, China; and Philippines. These notifications may be found in document series G/LIC/N/3/-.

7. The Committee also received, pursuant to Article 5 of the Agreement, notifications relating to the institution of new import licensing procedures or changes in these procedures from India, Japan, Jordan, Liechtenstein, Poland, Switzerland and Venezuela. These notifications may be found in document series G/LIC/N/2/-.

8. The Committee has provided a regular forum for the discussion of specific notifications submitted by Members. As evident in the Annex of this report, there is a lack of compliance with the mandatory notification requirements under Articles 1.4(a), 8.2(b) and 7.3 and with the voluntary notification requirement under Article 5. This lack of compliance of Members with the transparency obligations of the Agreement has been the main preoccupation of the Committee for some time now.

9. At the 4 April meeting, the Committee continued its discussion on this issue with a view to agreeing how to ensure full compliance of all Members. The Chairman stated that in spite of reminders and urging from the Committee, and periodic reminders from the Central Registry of Notifications, the situation had not improved. Forty-two Members in fact had not submitted any notification at all since joining the WTO. There existed a large gap between what was required by the Agreement and the actual number of notifications received. Several Members suggested possible ways of remedying the problem (G/LIC/M/13, paragraph 2). Following the above meeting, as a first step, the Chairperson sent letters to all Members who had not notified at all to express the concerns of the Committee and to urge them to undertake all necessary efforts with their authorities to fulfil their notification obligations before the October 2001 meeting. The Chairperson recalled that Members which did not apply any import licensing procedures or had no laws or regulations relevant to the Agreement were also required to notify the Committee of this fact in order to obtain a complete overview of the import licensing regimes of Members. Relevant parts of the handbook on WTO notification requirements, which gives a detailed explanation of the notification requirements as well as examples of notifications, were also attached to these letters. In addition, those who had difficulties in notifying were requested to indicate how they thought the Secretariat could assist to overcome those difficulties. Of the 42 Members to whom the letters were addressed, only five, namely, Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Cameroon, Gabon and Georgia, have submitted notifications so far; and no Member has indicated its difficulties in notifying or any technical assistance needs.

10. At the 9 October meeting, the Committee reviewed 25 notifications submitted under Articles 1.4(a), 8.2(b), 5 and 7.3 of the Agreement. In reviewing the notifications, the Chair recalled the Understanding on Procedures for the Review of Notifications (G/LIC/4) agreed to at the fourth meeting of the Committee. The Chair also drew Members' attention to questions posed by delegations concerning several notifications (G/LIC/Q/- series). Noting that some of these questions had not been replied to yet, the Committee agreed that the Secretariat would, as a monitoring activity, remind delegations before each meeting of the outstanding replies to questions that had been posed.

11. At the same meeting, the Committee reiterated its concern about the paucity of notifications and continued its discussion on steps that could be taken to improve the compliance of all Members with the notification obligations of the Agreement. With a view to improving the situation, it was agreed that the Chair would despatch further reminders to those Members that had not responded to the letters sent following the April meeting. It was also agreed that letters would be addressed to all other Members who had not yet submitted notifications under Articles 1.4(a) and 8.2(b), and to those who had not submitted notifications since 1998 under Article 7.3. In addition, the Committee decided

that a specific deadline would be given for the receipt of these overdue notifications prior to its next meeting, scheduled for early 2002. The Chair was requested to conduct informal consultations, if necessary, specifically on the issue of Members' technical assistance requirements.

ANNEX

Notifications

Member	Footnote 5 to Article 2.2 Two-year delayed application (date of WTO Membership)	Articles 1.4.(a)/8.2.(b) Publications/legislation - First notification upon WTO Membership, ad hoc thereafter (date of latest communication)	Article 7.3 Replies to Questionnaire - Annual, by 30 September (date of latest communication)	Article 5 - Ad hoc (date of latest communication)
Albania		Not notified	G/LIC/N/1/ALB/1 (24.9.01)	
Angola		Not notified	Not notified	
Antigua & Barbuda		Not notified	G/LIC/N/3/ATG/1 (13.5.01)	
Argentina		G/LIC/N/1/ARG/1-2 (19.12.97)	G/LIC/N/3/ARG/1 + Corr.1 & ARG/2 (19.12.97)	G/LIC/N/2/ARG/1 + ARG/2/Rev.1-ARG/6 (26.11.99)
Australia		G/LIC/N/1/AUS/1 + Add.1 (28.4.97)	G/LIC/N/3/AUS/1 + Rev.1 (28.4.97)	
Bahrain		G/LIC/N/1/BHR/1 (27.5.97)	G/LIC/N/3/BHR/1 (5.9.00)	
Bangladesh	G/LIC/1 (1.1.95)	G/LIC/N/1/BGD/1 (31.3.00)	G/LIC/N/3/BGD/1 (31.3.00)	
Barbados		G/LIC/N/1/BRB/1 (4.10.96)	G/LIC/N/3/BRB/1 (15.9.95)	
Belize		Not notified	Not notified	
Benin		G/LIC/N/1/BEN/1 (18.12.96)	Not notified	
Bolivia	G/LIC/1/Add.2 (13.9.95)	G/LIC/N/1/BOL/1 (29.5.97)	G/LIC/N/3/BOL/1-2 + Corr.1 & BOL/3 (20.6.00)	
Botswana		Not notified	Not notified	
Brazil	G/LIC/1 (1.1.95)	G/LIC/N/1/BRA/1 (24.4.98)	G/LIC/N/3/BRA/1 (24.4.98)	G/LIC/N/2/BRA/1 (24.4.98)
Brunei Darussalam		Not notified	G/LIC/N/3/BRN/1 (4.3.97)	
Bulgaria		G/LIC/N/1/BGR/1 (20.3.97)	G/LIC/N/3/BGR/1 (20.3.97)	
Burkina Faso	G/LIC/1/Add.1 (3.6.95)	G/LIC/N/1/BFA/1 (8.1.97)	G/LIC/N/3/BFA/1/Add.1 (24.11.00)	
Burundi		G/LIC/N/1/BUR/1 (3.4.01)	G/LIC/N/3/BUR/1 (3.4.01)	
Cameroon	G/LIC/1/Add.3 (13.12.95)	G/LIC/N/1/CMR/1 (13.7.01)	Not notified	
Canada		G/LIC/N/1/CAN/1 (29.1.96)	G/LIC/N/3/CAN/1-3 (2.9.99)	
Central African Rep.		Not notified	Not notified	
Chad		G/LIC/N/1/TCD/1-2 (18.7.00)	G/LIC/N/3/TCD/1-2 (13.6.01)	
Chile		G/LIC/N/1/CHL/1 (16.7.96)	G/LIC/N/3/CHL/1 + Adds.1- 2 (3.2.99)	
Colombia	G/LIC/1 (30.4.95)	G/LIC/N/1/COL/1 + Add.1 (4.12.00)	G/LIC/N/3/COL/1 + Adds.1- 2 (4.12.00)	
Congo		Not notified	Not notified	
Congo, Dem Rep. of		Not notified	Not notified	
Costa Rica	G/LIC/1 (1.1.95)	G/LIC/N/1/CRI/1 (21.11.95)	G/LIC/N/3/CRI/1-3 (15.12.00)	
Côte d'Ivoire	G/LIC/1 (1.1.95)	Not notified	Not notified	
Croatia		Not notified	Not notified	
Cuba		G/LIC/N/1/CUB/1 (11.1.96)	Not notified	
Cyprus		G/LIC/N/1/CYP/1 (30.5.96)	G/LIC/N/3/CYP/1+ Rev.1- CYP/2 (28.8.98)	
Czech Republic		G/LIC/N/1/CZE/1 + Add.1- CZE/2 (14.3.01)	G/LIC/N/3/CZE/1 (27.3.01)	
Djibouti		Not notified	Not notified	
Dominica		G/LIC/N/1/DMA/1 (8.2.01)	G/LIC/N/3/DMA/1 (8.2.01)	
Dominican Rep.	G/LIC/1/Add.2 (9.3.95)	Not notified	Not notified	
Ecuador		Not notified	G/LIC/N/3/ECU/1 (1.8.95)	

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Egypt		Not notified	Not notified	
El Salvador	G/LIC/1 (7.5.95)	Not notified	Not notified	
Estonia		G/LIC/N/1/EST/1+Add.1 (10.5.00)	G/LIC/N/3/EST/1 (5.10.00)	
European Communities		G/LIC/N/1/EEC/1/Rev.2 + Adds.1-2 EEC/2 + Add.1-2 (10.1.00)	G/LIC/N/3/EEC/1 + Add.1 EEC/2 + Adds.1-27 EEC/3 + Adds.1-26 EEC/4 + Add.1 (7.10.01)	G/LIC/N/2/EEC/1-2 (4.7.97)
Fiji		G/LIC/N/1/FJI/1 (30.7.97)	G/LIC/N/3/FJI/1 (1.4.97)	
Gabon	G/LIC/1 (1.1.95)	G/LIC/N/1/GAB/1 (25.5.01)	Not notified	
Gambia		Not notified	G/LIC/N/3/GMB/1 (31.10.97)	
Georgia		Not notified	G/LIC/N/3/GEO/1 (3.7.01)	
Ghana		Not notified	G/LIC/N/3/GHA/1-2 (17.8.01)	
Grenada		Not notified	Not notified	
Guatemala	G/LIC/1/Add.1 (21.7.95)	G/LIC/N/1/GTM/1-2 (20.1.00)	G/LIC/N/3/GTM/1 20.1.00	
Guinea		Not notified	Not notified	
Guinea Bissau		Not notified	Not notified	
Guyana		Not notified	Not notified	
Haiti		G/LIC/N/1/HTI/1 (8.10.99)	G/LIC/N/3/HTI/1-2 (27.4.00)	
Honduras	G/LIC/1 (1.1.95)	G/LIC/N/1/HND/1 (31.10.96)	Not notified	
Hong Kong, China		G/LIC/N/1/HKG/1-4 (20.4.98)	G/LIC/N/3/HKG/1 + Rev.1- 2, HKG/2 -HKG/3+Corr.1 HKG/4-5 (27.9.01)	G/LIC/N/2/HKG/1-2 (27.1.98)
Hungary		G/LIC/N/1/HUN/1-4 (8.3.01)	G/LIC/N/3/HUN/1-3 + HUN/3/Add.1 (8.3.01)	G/LIC/N/2/HUN/1 (19.1.98)
Iceland		G/LIC/N/1/ISL/1 (8.1.99)	G/LIC/N/3/ISL/1-2 (5.6.00)	
India		G/LIC/N/1/IND/1/Rev.1 + IND/2-4 (27.9.01)	G/LIC/N/3/IND/1-4 (24.10.00)	G/LIC/N/2/IND/1-4 (27.9.01)
Indonesia	G/LIC/1 (1.1.95)	G/LIC/N/1/IDN/1 (27.10.98)	G/LIC/N/3/IDN/1 (27.10.98)	
Israel		Not notified	Not notified	
Jamaica		G/LIC/N/1/JAM/1 (1.7.96)	G/LIC/N/3/JAM/1+ Add.1 (14.3.2000)	
Japan		G/LIC/N/1/JPN/1-2/Rev.1 (7.1.97)	G/LIC/N/3/JPN/1 + Corr.1 (2.4.98)	G/LIC/N/2/JPN/1-3 (12.4.01)
Jordan		G/LIC/N/1/JOR/1-2 (3.9.01)	G/LIC/N/3/JOR/1 (2.10.00)	G/LIC/N/2/JOR/1 (1.12.00)
Kenya	G/LIC/1 (1.1.95)	Not notified	G/LIC/N/3/KEN/1 (10.11.97)	
Korea		G/LIC/N/1/KOR/1-3 (3.4.98)	G/LIC/N/3/KOR/1-2 (6.4.98)	
Kuwait		Not notified	Not notified	
Kyrgyz Republic		G/LIC/N/1/KGZ/1 (6.1.00)	G/LIC/N/3/KGZ/1 (11.4.00)	
Latvia		G/LIC/N/1/LVA/1 (18.5.99)	G/LIC/N/3/LVA/1 (18.5.99)	
Lesotho		Not notified	Not notified	
Liechtenstein		G/LIC/N/1/LIE/1-2 (17.10.00)	G/LIC/N/3/LIE/1 + Add.1- LIE/3/Rev.1(23.3.01)	G/LIC/N/2/LIE/1-2 (17.10.00)
Lithuania		Not notified	Not notified	
Macao, China		Not notified	G/LIC/N/3/MAC/1-3/Rev.1 (28.2.01)	
Madagascar		G/LIC/N/1/MDG/1-2 (31.3.2000)	Not notified	
Malawi		G/LIC/N/1/MWI/1 (10.5.99)	G/LIC/N/3/MWI/1 (10.5.99)	

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Malaysia	G/LIC/1 (1.1.95)	Not notified	G/LIC/N/3/MYS/1 (4.12.97)	G/LIC/N/2/MYS/1-2 (21.7.99)
Maldives		Not notified	Not notified	
Mali		G/LIC/N/1/MLI/1 (23.7.01)	G/LIC/N/3/MLI/1-2 (23.7.01)	
Malta		G/LIC/N/1/MLT/1 (29.5.96)	G/LIC/N/3/MLT/1-2 +Corr.1 & Add.1 (6.6.00)	
Mauritania		Not notified	Not notified	
Mauritius		G/LIC/N/1/MUS/1 + Adds.1- 3 (4.5.98)	G/LIC/N/3/MUS/1 (2.11.95)	
Mexico		Not notified	Not notified	G/LIC/N/2/MEX/1 (16.10.98)
Moldova		Not notified	Not notified	
Mongolia		G/LIC/N/1/MNG/1 (24.4.01)	Not notified	
Morocco		G/LIC/N/1/MAR/1 (3.7.96)	G/LIC/N/3/MAR/1-2 + Add.1 (18.2.99)	
Mozambique		Not notified	Not notified	
Myanmar	G/LIC/1 (1.1.95)	Not notified	Not notified	
Namibia		Not notified	G/LIC/N/3/NAM/1-3 (30.3.2000)	
New Zealand		G/LIC/N/1/NZL/1 (2.8.96)	G/LIC/N/3/NZL/1 + Add.1 (24.3.98)	
Nicaragua		G/LIC/N/1/NIC/1 (18.7.96)	Not notified	
Niger		G/LIC/N/1/NER/1 (10.12.97)	Not notified	
Nigeria		G/LIC/N/1/NGA/1 (16.2.98)	G/LIC/N/3/NGA/1-2 (16.2.98)	G/LIC/N/2/NGA/1-2 (16.2.98)
Norway		G/LIC/N/1/NOR/1-2 (3.11.97)	G/LIC/N/3/NOR/1 + Corr.1- NOR/2 + Adds.1-2 (7.4.00)	
Oman		G/LIC/N/1/OMN/1 (9.1.01)	G/LIC/N/3/OMN/1 (1.4.01)	
Pakistan		G/LIC/N/1/PAK/1 (6.5.96)	Not notified	G/LIC/N/2/PAK/1 (6.5.96)
Panama		G/LIC/N/1/PAN/1-2 (19.10.98)	G/LIC/N/3/PAN/1 (22.1.99)	G/LIC/N/2/PAN/1 (21.7.98)
Papua New Guinea		Not notified	Not notified	G/LIC/N/2/PNG/1 (6.2.98)
Paraguay		Not notified	Not notified	
Peru		G/LIC/N/1/PER/1 (13.2.96)	G/LIC/N/3/PER/1-2 + Add.1 (4.10.99)	
Philippines		G/LIC/N/1/PHL/1 (6.4.98)	G/LIC/N/3/PHL/1-3 + Corr.1-PHL/4 (10.10.01)	
Poland		Not notified	G/LIC/N/3/POL/1 (7.10.97)	G/LIC/N/2/POL/1-5 (4.6.01)
Qatar		G/LIC/N/1/QAT/1 (24.3.98)	G/LIC/N/3/QAT/1 (24.3.98)	
Romania		G/LIC/N/1/ROM/1-2 (1.3.99)	G/LIC/N/3/ROM/1-2 +Add.1 (12.12.00)	G/LIC/N/2/ROM/1-2 (6.7.99)
Rwanda		Not notified	Not notified	
St. Kitts & Nevis		G/LIC/N/1/KNA/1 (17.7.98)	Not notified	
St. Lucia		Not notified	Not notified	
St. Vincent & Grenadines		Not notified	Not notified	
Senegal		Not notified	G/LIC/N/3/SEN/1 (20.1.97)	
Sierra Leone		Not notified	Not notified	
Singapore		G/LIC/N/1/SGP/1-3 (23.02.2000)	G/LIC/N/3/SGP/1-3 (13.10.00)	G/LIC/N/2/SGP/1-2 (23.02.2000)
Slovak Republic		Not notified	Not notified	

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Slovenia		G/LIC/N/1/SVN/1 (27.11.96)	G/LIC/N/3/SVN/1 (6.6.97)	
Solomon Islands		Not notified	Not notified	
South Africa		Not notified	G/LIC/N/3/ZAF/1-3 + ZAF/3/Rev.1(14.8.01)	G/LIC/N/2/ZAF/1 (9.7.97)
Sri Lanka	G/LIC/1 (1.1.95)	Not notified	Not notified	
Suriname		Not notified	Not notified	
Swaziland		G/LIC/N/1/SWZ/1 (19.8.96)	Not notified	
Switzerland		G/LIC/N/1/CHE/1-2 (21.9.00)	G/LIC/N/3/CHE/1-3+Add.1 (21.2.01)	G/LIC/N/2/CHE/1-2 (21.9.00)
Tanzania		Not notified	Not notified	
Thailand	G/LIC/1 (1.1.95)	Not notified	Not notified	
Togo		Not notified	Not notified	
Trinidad & Tobago		G/LIC/N/1/TTO/1 (28.10.98)	G/LIC/N/3/TTO/1-3 (27.2.01)	
Tunisia	G/LIC/1 (29.3.95)	G/LIC/N/1/TUN/1 + Add.1 (21.1.99)	G/LIC/N/3/TUN/1-3 + Add.1 (11.12.00)	
Turkey	G/LIC/1 (26.3.95)	G/LIC/N/1/TUR/1, TUR/2/Rev.1-TUR/3 +Add.1 (3.7.01)	G/LIC/N/3/TUR/1-2 + Corr.1-TUR/4 + Corr.1 (3.7.01)	
Uganda		G/LIC/N/1/UGA/1 (16.8.96)	G/LIC/N/3/UGA/1+ Add.1 (8.11.00)	
United Arab Emirates	G/LIC/1/Add.3 (10.4.96)	G/LIC/N/1/ARE/1 (19.3.97)	G/LIC/N/3/ARE/1 (11.4.00)	
United States		G/LIC/N/1/USA/1 + Rev.1 (1.10.96)	G/LIC/N/3/USA/1-3 (6.11.00)	
Uruguay	G/LIC/1 (1.1.95)	G/LIC/N/1/URY/1-3 (17.9.01)	G/LIC/N/3/URY/1 + Add.1 (27.1.99)	
Venezuela	G/LIC/1 (1.1.95)	Not notified	Not notified	G/LIC/N/2/VEN/1-2 (14.2.01)
Zambia		Not notified	Not notified	
Zimbabwe		G/LIC/N/1/ZWE/1-2 (21.9.98)	G/LIC/N/3/ZWE/1+Add.1- 2 (15.2.01)	
TOTAL MEMBERS =127²	24	72²	74²	21²

² The European Communities and its member States counted as one Member.