

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/L/941  
9 November 2010

(10-5984)

## REPORT (2010) OF THE COMMITTEE ON IMPORT LICENSING TO THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS

1. The Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures (hereinafter "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 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. The International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and UNCTAD have regular Observer status in the Committee.

4. The focus of this report is on the period since the Committee's last annual report (G/L/903), i.e. 20 October 2009 - 29 October 2010 (hereinafter "the review period"). During the review period, the Committee held two meetings on 26 April and 29 October 2010 (G/LIC/M/31 and G/LIC/M/32). At its meeting on 26 April 2010, the Committee took note of the nomination of Mrs. Anna Ashikali (Cyprus) as Chairperson of the Committee for the current year and elected her by acclamation. At that meeting, the Committee elected as Vice-Chairperson for the current year, Mr. Homero Larrea Monard (Ecuador). Pursuant to Committee's Rules of Procedure, they took office at the end of that meeting.

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, 96 Members<sup>1</sup> have notified the Committee of their legislation and/or publications under these provisions. During the review period, the Committee received 7 notifications from the following 7 Members: Brazil; China; Croatia; Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Mexico, Paraguay and the United States. (see Figure 1). These notifications may be found in document series G/LIC/N/1/. Copies of publications and legislation submitted with these notifications are available for consultation in the Secretariat.

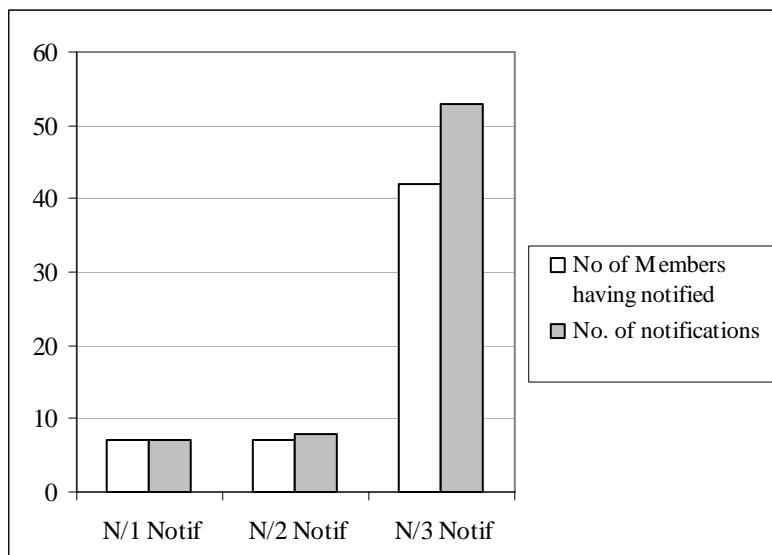
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<sup>1</sup> The European Union and its Member States counted as one Member.

6. The Committee also received, pursuant to paragraphs 5.1-5.4 of Article 5, 8 notifications relating to the institution of new import licensing procedures or changes in these procedures from 7 Members: Argentina; Brazil; Costa Rica; Honduras; Malawi; Malaysia and Thailand (see Figure 1). These notifications may be found in document series G/LIC/N/2/. Since the entry into force of the WTO Agreement 34 Members have submitted notifications under these provisions. Article 5.5 of the Agreement allows Members to submit reverse notifications, where a Member considers that another Member has not notified the institution of a licensing procedure or changes in the procedures. However, no such reverse notifications have been received under this provision since the entry into force of the Agreement.

7. Article 7.3 of the Agreement requires all Members to provide replies to the Questionnaire on Import Licensing Procedures<sup>2</sup> by 30 September each year. Since the entry into force of the WTO Agreement, 97 Members 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, 23 Members in 2001, 41 Members in 2002, 25 Members in 2003, 21 Members in 2004, 19 Members in 2005, 46 Members in 2006; 37 Members in 2007, 31 Members in 2008, 42 Members in 2009 and 34 Members up to present in 2010. During the review period, the Committee received 53 notifications from the following 42 Members: Albania; Argentina; Barbados; Brazil; Burkina Faso; Canada; Cape Verde; Chile; China; Colombia; Costa Rica; Croatia; Ecuador; European Union; Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Grenada; Haiti; Honduras; Hong Kong China; India; Indonesia; Japan; Republic of Korea; Kuwait; Macao China; Madagascar; Malaysia; Mexico; Namibia; Nicaragua; Nigeria; Norway; Peru; Philippines; Qatar; St. Kitts & Nevis; Switzerland; Thailand; Trinidad and Tobago; Turkey; United States and Zimbabwe.. (see Figure 1). These notifications may be found in document series G/LIC/N/3/-.

FIGURE 1: NUMBER OF MEMBERS HAVING NOTIFIED AND NUMBER OF NOTIFICATIONS SUBMITTED DURING THE REVIEW PERIOD 2009-2010



<sup>2</sup> Annexed to document G/LIC/3.

8. Written comments and questions from Members concerning the notifications submitted to the Committee and/or on import licensing procedures maintained by Members, and replies thereto, may be found in document series G/LIC/Q/-<sup>3</sup>. During the review period, such comments and questions were submitted by: (i) Peru, (ii) Canada, China, the European Union, Japan, Mexico, Peru and the United States and (iii) Turkey to Argentina (G/LIC/Q/ARG/7/Add.1, G/LIC/Q/ARG/10 and G/LIC/Q/ARG/12); (iii) Chile to Colombia (G/LIC/Q/COL/1); (iv) the European Union to Indonesia (G/LIC/Q/IDN/15) and (v) the United States to India (G/LIC/Q/IND/11/Add.1) and to Turkey (G/LIC/Q/TUR/5). Responses were provided by (i) Argentina to questions from Canada, China, the European Union, Japan, Mexico, Peru and the United States (G/LIC/Q/ARG/11); (ii) Brazil to questions from China (G/LIC/Q/BRA/15), the United States (G/LIC/Q/BRA/13) and Mexico (G/LIC/Q/BRA/14); (iii) India to questions from Korea (G/LIC/Q/IND/15); (iv) Turkey to questions from the United States and (v) Venezuela to questions from Mexico.

9. The Committee has provided a regular forum for the discussion of specific notifications submitted by Members. As evident in the Annex to this report, there has been an improvement in the level of compliance with the mandatory notification requirements under Articles 1.4(a), 8.2(b) and 7.3 and with the ad hoc notification requirement under Article 5; but there still remain some important gaps. Members' compliance with the transparency obligations of the Agreement has been the main preoccupation of the Committee for some time now. Informal meetings have taken place, preceded by informal consultations with various delegations from a large geographical range. During this process, delegations who have attended the informal consultations as well as those who have intervened at the informal Committee meetings, have unanimously highlighted the importance of improving compliance with notification obligations. Some delegations submitted ideas and suggestions that have been discussed; some of these suggestions have been implemented by the Chair and the Secretariat. The Chair has also been encouraged to continue, within the Committee, the informal discussion on ways and means to improve timeliness and completeness of notifications in order to take the discussion forward and allow the Committee to reach concrete results.

10. During the review period, some Members had submitted, for the first time, notifications to the Committee under various Articles of the Agreement: under Article 5 Malawi and Thailand; and, under Article 7.3 Saint Kitts and Nevis. Nevertheless, at its meetings of 26 April and 29 October 2010, the Chair expressed continuing concern over the failure by many Members to submit the required notifications and once again urged Members who had not yet notified and had not updated their notifications or provided clarifications sought by other Members to do so as soon as possible.

11. At its meeting of 29 October 2010, the Committee conducted the Eight Biennial Review of the Implementation and Operation of the Agreement under Article 7.1. The Committee's report to the Council for Trade in Goods on this review is contained in document G/L/941.

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<sup>3</sup> See understanding on Procedures for the Review of Notifications (G/LIC/4).

## ANNEX

### NOTIFICATIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS SINCE THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE AGREEMENT UNTIL 29 October 2010

<b>MEMBERS<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>N/1<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>N/2<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>N/3<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>DATE</b>
ALBANIA	N/1/ALB/3	07.10.09	N/2/ALB/2	28.11.08	N/3/ALB/4	23.10.09
ANGOLA						
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	N/1/ATG/1	31.01.02			N/3/ATG/2	30.01.02
ARGENTINA	N/1/ARG/3	17.09.09	N/2/ARG/23	27.11.09	N/3/ARG/6 N/3/ARG/7	20.10.10 20.10.10
ARMENIA	N/1/ARM/4	24.09.07			N/3/ARM/5	03.10.08
AUSTRALIA	N/1/AUS/1/A.1	22.05.97	N/2/AUS/1	14.06.04	N/3/AUS/3	23.10.06
BAHRAIN	N/1/BHR/1	13.06.97			N/3/BHR/1	15.09.00
BANGLADESH	N/1/BGD/2	01.04.05			N/3/BGD/4	05.10.07
BARBADOS	N/1//BRB/1	04.10.96			N/3/BRB/5	26.01.10
BELIZE						
BENIN	N/1/BEN/1	10.02.97				
BOLIVIA	N/1/BOL/1	16.06.97			N/3/BOL/3	29.06.00
BOTSWANA						
BRAZIL	N/1/BRA/5	19.04.10	N/2/BRA/5	19.04.10	N/3/BRA/8	19.04.10
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM					N/3/BRN/1	10.04.97
BURKINA FASO	N/1/BFA/1	10.02.97			N/3/BFA/3	29.06.10
BURUNDI	N/1/BDI/1	27.04.01			N/3/BDI/2	07.11.01
CAMBODIA						
CAMEROON	N/1/CMR/1	18.09.01			N/3/CMR/3	25.09.09
CANADA	N/1/CAN/2	10.06.09			N/3/CAN/9	18.10.10
CAPE VERDE					N/3/CPV/1	30.10.09
CENTRAL AFRICAN REP.						
CHAD	N/1/TCD/2	16.08.00			N/3/TCD/2	20.08.01
CHILE	N/1/CHL/1	31.07.06			N/3/CHL/5	17.09.10
CHINA	N/1/CHN/6	24.03.10			N/3/CHN/8	20.10.09
COLOMBIA	N/1/COL/2	08.10.07			N/3/COL/8	19.04.10

<sup>1</sup> The European Union and its Member States counted as one Member.

<sup>2</sup> Article 1.4(a) and/or Article 8.2(b) publications and/or legislation (date of latest communication).

<sup>3</sup> Article 5.1-5.4 – Ad hoc New import licensing procedures or changes (date of latest communication).

<sup>4</sup> Article 7.3 – Annual Replies to Questionnaire (date of latest communication).

<b>MEMBERS<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>N/1<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>N/2<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>N/3<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>DATE</b>
CONGO						
COSTA RICA	N/1/CRI/2	15.03.07	N/2/CRI/2	20.10.10	N/3/CRI/7	14.10.10
COTE D'IVOIRE	N/1/CIV/1	08.02.02			N/3/CIV/2	05.10.07
CROATIA	N/1/HRV/5	21.10.10	N/2/HRV/1	09.10.09	N/3/HRV/5	07.09.10
CUBA	N/1/CUB/1	24.01.96			N/3/CUB/3	20.01.09
CONGO DEM. REP. OF	N/1/COD/1	19.10.06			N/3/COD/1	18.10.06
DJIBOUTI						
DOMINICA	N/1/DMA/1	22.02.01			N/3/DMA/2	06.12.06
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	N/1/DOM/1	04.05.04			N/3/DOM/4	29.10.10
EU	N/1/EEC/2/A.4	10.01.03	N/2/EEC/2	14.07.97	N/3/EEC/13+ A.1	18.10.10
ECUADOR	N/1/ECU/2	15.06.06			N/3/ECU/3/A.1	19.04.10
EGYPT						
EL SALVADOR	N/1/SLV/1	03.02.04				
REP. OF THE FIJI ISLANDS	N/1/FJI/1	03.09.97			N/3/FJI/1	16.04.97
FMR. YUGOSLAV REP. OF MACEDONIA	N/1/MKD/3	18.10.10	N/2/MKD/1	17.04.09	N/3/MKD/2	18.10.10
GABON	N/1/GAB/2	13.03.02				
GAMBIA					N/3/GMB/2	27.09.07
GEORGIA	N/1/GEO/1	08.04.02			N/3/GEO/3	04.09.06
GHANA	N/1/GHA/1	21.04.04			N/3/GHA/4	29.09.09
GRENADA	N/1/GRD/1	10.04.02			N/3/GRD/4	08.09.10
GUATEMALA	N/1/GTM/2	28.01.00			N/3/GTM/4	09.11.07
GUINEA BISSAU						
GUINEA, REP.OF						
GUYANA	N/1/GUY/1	10.04.02			N/3/GUY/2	28.10.03
HAITI	N/1/HTI/2	27.10.06			N/3/HTI/5	30.10.09
HONDURAS	N/1/HND/1	03.12.96	N/2/HND/4	18.01.10	N/3/HND/1/ Add1+Corr.1	16.09.10
					N/3/HND/5	25.10.10
HONG KONG, CHINA	N/1/HKG/5	07.01.03	N/2/HKG/4	18.09.09	N/3/HKG/14	24.09.10
ICELAND	N/1/ISL/1	26.01.99			N/3/ISL/3	28.10.04
INDIA	N/1/IND/12	16.10.09	N/2/IND/10	22.09.08	N/3/IND/11	27.07.10
INDONESIA	N/1/IDN/1	02.11.98	N/2/IDN/3	06.07.09	N/3/IDN/4	23.02.10
ISRAEL	N/1/ISR/1	19.10.06	N/2/ISR/1	19.10.06	N/3/ISR/1	19.10.06
JAMAICA	N/1/JAM/1	11.07.96	N/2/JAM/1	01.10.03	N/3/JAM/3	03.09.08

<b>MEMBERS<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>N/1<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>N/2<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>N/3<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>DATE</b>
JAPAN	N/1/JPN/2/R.1	26.02.97	N/2/JPN/3	27.04.01	N/3/JPN/9	06.10.10
JORDAN	N/1/JOR/2/A.1	03.09.03	N/2/JOR/2	10.06.05	N/3/JOR/1	11.12.00
KENYA	N/1/KEN/1	12.06.03			N/3/KEN/2/A.1	12.06.03
KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA					N/3/SAU/1	18.10.06
KOREA, REP. OF	N/1/KOR/3	14.04.98	N/2/KOR/1/R1	27.07.09	N/3/KOR/9	29.09.10
KUWAIT	N/1/KWT/1	18.05.07			N/3/KWT/1	25.10.10
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	N/1/KGZ/1	18.01.00			N/3/KGZ/2	09.10.06
LESOTHO					N/3/LSO/1	06.06.08
LIECHTENSTEIN	N/1/LIE/2	26.10.00	N/2/LIE/2	26.10.00	N/3/LIE/4/A.1	14.04.03
MACAO, CHINA	N/1/MAC/3	10.12.07			N/3/MAC/13	15.09.10
MADAGASCAR	N/1/MDG/2	25.04.00			N/3/MDG/5	26.01.10
MALAWI	N/1/MWI/1	13.10.99	N/2/MWI/1	10.05.10	N/3/MWI/2	03.10.06
MALAYSIA			N/2/MYS/4	19.04.10	N/3/MYS/5	26.01.10
MALDIVES					N/3/MDV/1	15.04.02
MALI	N/1/MLI/1	27.08.01			N/3/MLI/2	27.08.01
MAURITANIA						
MAURITIUS	N/1/MUS/2	11.05.07	N/2/MUS/1	17.03.08	N/3/MUS/3	17.03.08
MEXICO	N/1/MEX/3	18.01.10			N/3/MEX/3	18.01.10
MOLDOVA	N/1/MDA/1	22.01.02	N/2/MDA/1	16.10.08	N/3/MDA/1	08.02.02
MONGOLIA	N/1/MNG/1	27.04.01			N/3/MNG/1	12.06.03
MOROCCO	N/1/MAR/1/A.1/R.1	08.10.09			N/3/MAR/7/R.1	09.10.09
MOZAMBIQUE						
MYANMAR						
NAMIBIA	N/1/NAM/1	29.10.02			N/3/NAM/6	30.08.10
NEPAL						
NEW ZEALAND	N/1/NZL/1	22.08.96			N/3/NZL/1/A.1	06.04.98
NICARAGUA	N/1/NIC/1	05.08.96			N/3/NIC/2	19.07.10
NIGER	N/1/NER/1	12.01.98				
NIGERIA	N/1/NGA/1	18.02.98	N/2/NGA/2	18.02.98	N/3/NGA/6	26.07.10
NORWAY	N/1/NOR/2	03.12.97			N/3/NOR/5	07.07.10
OMAN	N/1/OMN/1	20.02.01			N/3/OMN/4	08.05.09
PAKISTAN	N/1/PAK/1	29.05.96	N/2/PAK/1	29.05.96		
PANAMA	N/1/PAN/2	16.11.98	N/2/PAN/1	18.08.98	N/3/PAN/2	04.03.04

<b>MEMBERS<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>N/1<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>N/2<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>N/3<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>DATE</b>
PAPUA NEW GUINEA			N/2/PNG/1	17.02.98		
PARAGUAY	N/1/PRY/2	14.09.10				
PERU	N/1/PER/2/R.1	31.05.05			N/3/PER/6	27.08.10
PHILIPPINES	N/1/PHL/1	14.04.98			N/3/PHL/7	27.10.09
QATAR	N/1/QAT/1	02.04.98			N/3/QAT/7	06.10.10
RWANDA					N/3/RWA/1	20.07.06
ST. KITTS AND NEVIS	N/1/KNA/1	07.08.98			N/3/KNA/1	08.12.09
ST. LUCIA	N/1/LCA/3	10.07.08	N/2/LCA/2	17.10.02	N/3/LCA/5	29.09.08
ST. VINCENT & GRENADINES						
SENEGAL	N/1/SEN/1	23.10.02			N/3/SEN/3	07.10.09
SIERRA LEONE						
SINGAPORE	N/1/SGP/5	04.04.08	N/2/SGP/5	05.10.09	N/3/SGP/7	06.10.09
SOLOMON ISLANDS						
SOUTH AFRICA			N/2/ZAF/1	15.07.97	N/3/ZAF/4	17.09.02
SRI LANKA	N/1/LKA/1	20.05.03			N/3/LKA/1	27.05.03
SURINAME	N/1/SUR/1	15.12.03			N/3/SUR/1	09.10.09
SWAZILAND	N/1/SWZ/1	04.10.96				
SWITZERLAND	N/1/CHE/2	26.09.00	N/2/CHE/2	26.09.00	N/3/CHE/6	05.10.10
CHINESE TAIPEI	N/1/TPKM/6	20.12.04	N/2/TPKM/4	20.12.04	N/3/TPKM/2/R.1	31.08.09
TANZANIA						
THAILAND	N/1/THA/1	28.09.07	N/2/THA/1	29.09.10	N/3/THA/3	30.09.10
TOGO	N/1/TGO/1	12.06.03			N/3/TGO/1	12.06.03
TONGA						
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	N/1/TTO/1	10.11.98			N/3/TTO/9	22.09.10
TUNISIA	N/1/TUN/2	14.02.07			N/3/TUN/5	05.10.07
TURKEY	N/1/TUR/8	29.09.09			N/3/TUR/10	07.09.10
UGANDA	N/1/UGA/1	03.10.96			N/3/UGA/1/A.2	07.10.05
UKRAINE	N/1/UKR/1	03.09.08			N/3/UKR/2	07.10.09
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	N/1/ARE/1	18.04.97			N/3/ARE/1	25.04.00
UNITED STATES	N/1/USA/6	06.10.10	N/2/USA/2/A1	06.04.09	N/3/USA/7	06.10.10
URUGUAY	N/1/URY/3	25.09.01			N/3/URY/4	09.10.09
VENEZUELA	N/1/VEN/1	25.10.02	N/2/VEN/5	20.05.03	N/3/VEN/1	27.05.02
VIETNAM						

<b>MEMBERS<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>N/1<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>N/2<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>N/3<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>DATE</b>
ZAMBIA	N/1/ZMB/2	18.02.04			N/3/ZMB/2	18.02.04
ZIMBABWE	N/1/ZWE/2	28.09.98			N/3/ZWE/3	24.06.10
<b>TOTAL: 126</b>	96		34		98	