

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/L/903  
23 October 2009

(09-5264)

## REPORT (2009) 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/868), i.e. 21 October 2008 - 19 October 2009 (hereinafter "the review period"). During the review period, the Committee held two meetings on 30 April and 19 October 2009 (G/LIC/M/29 and G/LIC/M/30). At its meeting on 30 April 2009, the Committee took note of the nomination of Mr. Marco J. Kassaja (Tanzania) as Chairperson of the Committee for the current year and elected him by acclamation. At that meeting, the Committee elected as Vice-Chairperson for the current year, Mrs. Anna Ashikali (Cyprus). 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 ten notifications from the following ten Members: Albania; Argentina; Brazil; Canada; Croatia; Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; India; Morocco; Turkey 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.

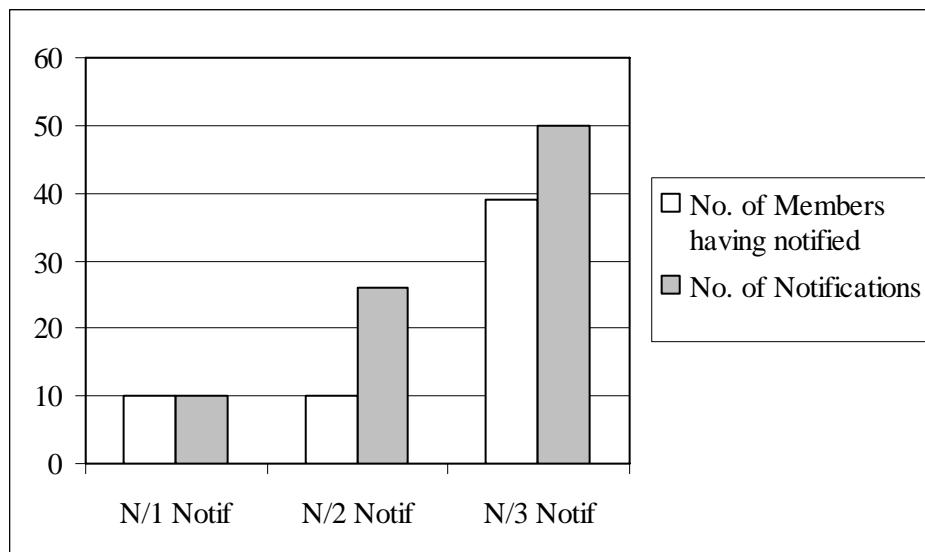
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<sup>1</sup> The European Communities and its Member States counted as one Member.

6. The Committee also received, pursuant to paragraphs 5.1-5.4 of Article 5, twenty-six notifications relating to the institution of new import licensing procedures or changes in these procedures from ten Members: Albania; Argentina; Brazil; Croatia; Hong Kong, China; Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Indonesia; Korea; Singapore and the United States (see Figure 1). These notifications may be found in document series G/LIC/N/2/. Since the entry into force of the WTO Agreement 32 Members<sup>1</sup> 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, 95 Members<sup>1</sup> 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 and 31 Members in 2008<sup>1</sup>. During the review period, the Committee received 50 notifications from the following 39 Members: Albania; Brazil; Cameroon; Canada; Chile; China; Colombia; Costa Rica; Cuba; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; European Communities; Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Ghana; Grenada; Honduras; Hong Kong, China; Japan; Korea; Macao, China; Madagascar; Mauritius; Morocco; Nicaragua; Nigeria; Norway; Oman; Senegal; Singapore; Suriname; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; the Philippines; Qatar; Trinidad and Tobago; Turkey; Ukraine; Uruguay and the United States. (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 2008-2009



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

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

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

were submitted by Australia to China (G/LIC/Q/CHN/22/Add.1 and Corr.1); by Canada, China, the European Communities, Japan and the United States to Argentina (G/LIC/Q/ARG/6); by Canada to Brazil (G/LIC/Q/BRA/8), to China (G/LIC/Q/CHN/24) and to Indonesia (G/LIC/Q/IDN/12); by China to Brazil (G/LIC/Q/BRA/5/Add.1); by Korea to India (G/LIC/Q/IND/13); by Mexico to Brazil (G/LIC/Q/BRA/10) and to Venezuela (G/LIC/Q/VEN/5); by Peru to Argentina (G/LIC/Q/ARG/7); by Thailand to Brazil (G/LIC/Q/BRA/7) and to Indonesia (G/LIC/Q/IDN/10); by the United States to Argentina (G/LIC/Q/ARG/3/Add.1), to India (G/LIC/Q/IND/11/Add.1) and to Indonesia (G/LIC/Q/IDN/9/Add.1); by the United States and the European Communities to Indonesia (G/LIC/Q/IDN/11). Responses were provided by Argentina to questions from Canada, China, the European Communities, Japan and the United States (G/LIC/ARG/8) and to questions from Peru (G/LIC/Q/ARG/9); by Brazil to questions from Canada (G/LIC/Q/BRA/9), from China (G/LIC/Q/BRA/11), from Thailand (G/LIC/Q/BRA/12), and from the United States (G/LIC/Q/BRA/6 and G/LIC/Q/BRA/13); by China to questions from Australia (G/LIC/Q/CHN/26) and from Canada (G/LIC/Q/CHN/25); by India to questions from the United States (G/LIC/Q/IND/14); by India to Korea (G/LIC/Q/IND/15); by Indonesia to questions from the United States (G/LIC/Q/IDN/13) and from the United States and the European Communities (G/LIC/Q/IDN/14); and, by the Philippines to questions from the United States (G/LIC/Q/PHL/3).

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 stills some important gaps. Members' compliance with the transparency obligations of the Agreement has been the main preoccupation of the Committee for some time now.

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: Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; and, under Article 7.3: Nicaragua; the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Suriname. Nevertheless, at its meetings of 30 April and 19 October 2009, the Chair expressed continuing concern over the failure of 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 19 October 2009, the Committee conducted the eighth transitional review, as appropriate to its mandate, of the implementation by China of the WTO Agreement and of the related provisions of its Protocol of Accession<sup>4</sup>, as provided for in Paragraph 18 of the Protocol on the Accession of the People's Republic of China to the WTO (G/LIC/M/30, paragraphs 3.1-3.7). The report of the Committee to the Council for Trade in Goods on this review is contained in document G/LIC/20.

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<sup>4</sup> WT/L/432.

## ANNEX

### Notifications<sup>1</sup>

#### **NOTIFICATIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS SINCE THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE AGREEMENT UNTIL 13 OCTOBER 2009**

MEMBERS <sup>2</sup>	N/1 <sup>3</sup>	DATE	N/2 <sup>4</sup>	DATE	N/3 <sup>5</sup>	DATE
ALBANIA	N/1/ALB/3	07.10.09	N/2/ALB/2	28.11.08	N/3/ALB/3	22.12.08
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/21	17.09.09	N/3/ARG/5	10.09.08
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/4	27.09.07
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/4	01.12.08	N/2/BRA/4	08.12.08	N/3/BRA/7	01.12.08
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM					N/3/BRN/1	10.04.97
BURKINA FASO	N/1/BFA/1	10.02.97			N/3/BFA/1/A.1	18.12.00
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/7	17.10.08
CAPE VERDE						
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/4	17.03.09
CHINA	N/1/CHN/5	20.03.06			N/3/CHN/7	17.10.08

<sup>1</sup> The title "Date" refers to the date of issuance of the document.

<sup>2</sup> The European Communities and its Member States counted as one Member.

<sup>3</sup> Article 1.4(a) and/or Article 8.2(b) publications and/or legislation (date of latest communication).

<sup>4</sup> Article 5.1-5.4 – Ad hoc New import licensing procedures or changes (date of latest communication).

<sup>5</sup> Article 7.3 – Annual Replies to Questionnaire (date of latest communication).

<b>MEMBERS<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>N/1<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>N/2<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>N/3<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>DATE</b>
COLOMBIA	N/1/COL/2	08.10.07			N/3/COL/7	17.03.09
CONGO						
COSTA RICA	N/1/CRI/2	15.03.07	N/2/CRI/1	15.03.07	N/3/CRI/6	09.10.09
COTE D'IVOIRE	N/1/CIV/1	08.02.02			N/3/CIV/2	05.10.07
CROATIA	N/1/HRV/4	18.09.09	N/2/HRV/1	09.10.09	N/3/HRV/3	04.04.05
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/3+A.1	28.08.09
EC COMMISSION	N/1/EEC/2/A.4	10.01.03	N/2/EEC/2	14.07.97	N/3/EEC/12/A.1	09.10.09
ECUADOR	N/1/ECU/2	15.06.06			N/3/ECU/2	20.12.02
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/2	17.03.09	N/2/MKD/1	17.04.09	N/3/MKD/1	17.04.09
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/3	09.10.09
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/4	21.09.07
HONDURAS	N/1/HND/1	03.12.96	N/2/HND/3	12.11.07	N/3/HND/3	23.09.09
HONG KONG, CHINA	N/1/HKG/5	07.01.03	N/2/HKG/4	18.09.09	N/3/HKG/13	18.09.09
ICELAND	N/1/ISL/1	26.01.99			N/3/ISL/3	28.10.04
INDIA	N/1/IND/12	19.10.09	N/2/IND/10	22.09.08	N/3/IND/10	22.09.08
INDONESIA	N/1/IDN/1	02.11.98	N/2/IDN/3	06.07.09	N/3/IDN/3	27.11.06
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>2</sup></b>	<b>N/1<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>N/2<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>N/3<sup>5</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/8	07.10.09
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
KOREA, REP. OF	N/1/KOR/3	14.04.98	N/2/KOR/1/R 1	27.07.09	N/3/KOR/7	28.11.08
KUWAIT	N/1/KWT/1	18.05.07				
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/12	06.10.09
MADAGASCAR	N/1/MDG/2	25.04.00			N/3/MDG/4	01.04.09
MALAWI	N/1/MWI/1	13.10.99			N/3/MWI/2	03.10.06
MALAYSIA			N/2/MYS/3	17.10.08	N/3/MYS/4	17.10.08
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/2	18.10.06			N/3/MEX/2	18.10.06
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/4	29.10.02
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/1	13.10.09
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/5	21.07.09
NORWAY	N/1/NOR/2	03.12.97			N/3/NOR/4	29.09.09
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
PAPUA NEW GUINEA			N/2/PNG/1	17.02.98		

<b>MEMBERS<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>N/1<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>N/2<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>N/3<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>DATE</b>
PARAGUAY	N/1/PRY/1	12.06.03				
PERU	N/1/PER/2/R.1	31.05.05			N/3/PER/5	21.09.07
PHILIPPINES	N/1/PHL/1	14.04.98			N/3/PHL/6	25.02.09
QATAR	N/1/QAT/1	02.04.98			N/3/QAT/6	17.04.09
RWANDA					N/3/RWA/1	20.07.06
ST. KITTS AND NEVIS	N/1/KNA/1	07.08.98				
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						
SAUDI ARABIA					N/3/SAU/1	18.10.06
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/4/A.1	14.04.03
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/3/THA/2	09.10.09
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/8	08.10.09
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/9	29.09.09
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/5	13.10.09	N/2/USA/2/A1	06.04.09	N/3/USA/6	13.10.09
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>2</sup></b>	<b>N/1<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>N/2<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>N/3<sup>5</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/2	18.10.07
<b>TOTAL: 126</b>	<b>96</b>		<b>32</b>		<b>95</b>	