



7 November 2023

(23-7518)

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**REPORT (2023) 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 matter 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/1433](#)), namely 8 October 2022 – 31 October 2023 (hereinafter "the reporting period"). In 2023, the Committee held two formal meetings, on 23 May 2023 ([G/LIC/M/56](#)), under the chairpersonship of Mr Jia Jie Loh (Singapore), and on 31 October 2023 ([G/LIC/M/57¹](#)), under the chairpersonship of Mr Nat Tharnpanich (Thailand). Both meetings took place in hybrid mode with in-person and remote attendance. The Committee also held two informal meetings, which took place in hybrid mode, on 14 March 2023 under the chairpersonship of Mr Jia Jie Loh (Singapore) and on 29 September 2023 under the chairpersonship of Mr Nat Tharnpanich (Thailand). On 8 June 2023, through written procedures, the Committee elected Mr Nat Tharnpanich (Thailand) by acclamation as Chairperson of the Committee for 2023. Pursuant to the Committee's Rules of Procedure, the officers shall hold office until the end of the first meeting of the following year.
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 to 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 published and notified. Pursuant to subparagraphs 1-4 of Article 5, Members are also required to notify the institution of new import licensing procedures or changes in these procedures to the Committee within 60 days of publication.
6. During the reporting period, the Committee reviewed 102 notifications under these three provisions (Annex I) from the following 14 Members: Argentina; Dominican Republic; European Union; Hong Kong, China; Korea, Republic of; Kyrgyz Republic; Macao, China; Myanmar; Philippines; Switzerland-Liechtenstein; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; and Ukraine.
7. 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 within the reporting period.

¹ To be issued.

8. Article 7.3 of the Agreement requires all Members to provide replies to the Questionnaire on Import Licensing Procedures² by 30 September each year. During the reporting period, the Committee reviewed 47 notifications (Annex II) from the following 36 Members: Albania; Argentina; Australia; Brazil; Burkina Faso; Canada; Colombia; Costa Rica; El Salvador; European Union; The Gambia; Honduras; Hong Kong, China; India; Israel; Japan; Kazakhstan; Korea, Republic of; Kyrgyz Republic; Macao, China; Mauritius; Myanmar; New Zealand; Nicaragua; Panama; Philippines; Singapore; Switzerland-Liechtenstein; Chinese Taipei; Tunisia; Türkiye; Ukraine; United Kingdom; United States; Uruguay. These notifications can be found in document series G/LIC/N/3/.

9. The Committee has provided a regular forum for exchanging views on notifications submitted by Members. Written comments and questions concerning notifications submitted to the Committee and/or on import licensing procedures maintained by Members, and replies thereto, may be found in the document series G/LIC/Q/- . During the review period, the United States posed questions to Argentina ([G/LIC/Q/ARG/22](#)), India ([G/LIC/Q/IND/29](#)), Indonesia ([G/LIC/Q/IDN/50](#)) and the Philippines ([G/LIC/Q/PHL/11](#)). The following Members provided written responses to comments and questions: the Philippines to the follow-up questions from the United States ([G/LIC/Q/PHL/10](#)) and Indonesia to the United States ([G/LIC/Q/IDN/51](#)). At the Committee meetings, Members exchanged views on the issues raised.

10. A number of specific trade concerns were raised by Members during the reporting period. Table 1 shows the specific trade concerns raised by Members during the formal meetings of the Committee.

Table 1 - List of trade concerns considered at the formal meetings of the Committee on Import Licensing on 23 May and 31 October 2023

No.	Measure (implemented by)	Member(s) raising the concern	Additional intervention(s) by	Link to trade concerns database:
1	Angola: Import Licensing Requirements	European Union	United States	IL ID45
2	Dominican Republic: New Import Licensing System	European Union		IL ID47
3	Egypt: Import Licensing Requirements for Certain Agricultural and Processed Products	European Union		IL ID43
4	India: Importation of Pneumatic Tyres	European Union, Indonesia, Chinese Taipei and Thailand	Japan, United States	IL ID41
5	Indonesia: Commodity Balancing Mechanism	European Union, Japan	Republic of Korea, United States	IL ID46
6	Indonesia: Import Licensing Regime for Certain Textile Products	European Union, Japan		IL ID37
7	Indonesia: Import restriction: Compulsory Registration by Importers of Steel Products	Japan	European Union, United States	IL ID36
8	Indonesia: Import restriction on air conditioners	Japan	Republic of Korea	IL ID35
9	Thailand: Importation of Feed Wheat	European Union		IL ID33
10	India: import licensing measures on pcs, tablets, and other electronic products	China	Japan, Republic of Korea	IL ID48
11	India: Import on Viscose Staple Fiber (VSF)	Indonesia		IL ID49

11. At the Committee meetings held on 14 March, 23 May and 29 September, the Secretariat made presentations on the new online Import Licensing Notification Portal developed with the aim to facilitate Members' drafting and submission of N2 and N3 notifications and building of the Import Licensing database. A pilot version of the Import Licensing Notification Portal was made available by the Secretariat for testing between 9 June 2023 and its launch. The Import Licensing Notification

² Annexed to document [G/LIC/3](#).

Portal was launched and became operational as from the Committee meeting of 31 October 2023. At the Committee Meeting held on 23 May 2023, the Committee approved the inclusion of specific trade concerns on import licensing into the WTO Trade Concerns Database, which was accordingly modified by the Secretariat.

12. Between October 2022 and October 2023, the Secretariat organized and participated to several virtual and in-person activities focusing on import licensing procedures and notification obligations. On 13 March 2023, the Secretariat delivered a presentation on Import Licensing notifications obligations to a meeting of the LDC Group. On 25-27 October 2023, the Secretariat organised an Import Licensing and Notifications workshop for capital-based officials from developing and least-developed WTO country Members in Geneva. Upon the request of Ecuador, a Member specific technical assistance workshop on import licensing and notifications was held in a virtual format in September 2023. On-line presentations and interactive workshops were delivered to government officials as part of the RTPCs for Latin America, the Caribbean and French-speaking Africa (in English, French, and Spanish). In addition, training sessions on import licensing were also presented during the Advanced Trade Policy Course (ATPC) in Geneva in 2023.

ANNEX I: NOTIFICATIONS REVIEWED DURING THE REPORT PERIOD PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 1.4(A) AND/OR 8.2(B), ARTICLE 5.1-5.4 OF THE AGREEMENT

FROM 8 OCTOBER 2022 – 31 OCTOBER 2023

MEMBER	DOCUMENT	DATE OF ISSUANCE OF THE DOCUMENT
	G/LIC/N/2/PHL/160 G/LIC/N/2/PHL/161 G/LIC/N/2/PHL/162 G/LIC/N/2/PHL/163 G/LIC/N/2/PHL/164 G/LIC/N/2/PHL/165 G/LIC/N/2/PHL/166 G/LIC/N/2/PHL/167 G/LIC/N/2/PHL/168 G/LIC/N/2/PHL/169 G/LIC/N/2/PHL/170 G/LIC/N/2/PHL/171 G/LIC/N/2/PHL/172 G/LIC/N/2/PHL/173 G/LIC/N/2/PHL/174 G/LIC/N/2/PHL/175 G/LIC/N/2/PHL/176 G/LIC/N/2/PHL/177 G/LIC/N/2/PHL/178 G/LIC/N/2/PHL/179 G/LIC/N/2/PHL/180 G/LIC/N/2/PHL/181 G/LIC/N/2/PHL/182 G/LIC/N/2/PHL/183 G/LIC/N/2/PHL/184 G/LIC/N/2/PHL/185 G/LIC/N/2/PHL/186 G/LIC/N/2/PHL/187 G/LIC/N/2/PHL/188 G/LIC/N/2/PHL/189 G/LIC/N/2/PHL/190 G/LIC/N/2/PHL/191 G/LIC/N/2/PHL/192 G/LIC/N/2/PHL/193	19/12/2022 19/12/2022 19/12/2022 19/12/2022 19/12/2022 19/12/2022 19/12/2022 19/12/2022 20/12/2022 20/12/2022 20/12/2022 20/12/2022 20/12/2022 16/01/2023 16/01/2023 16/01/2023 16/01/2023 16/01/2023 16/01/2023 16/01/2023 16/01/2023 16/01/2023 07/02/2023 07/02/2023 07/02/2023 07/02/2023 07/02/2023 07/02/2023 07/02/2023 07/02/2023 07/02/2023 21/02/2023 21/02/2023 21/02/2023 21/02/2023 21/02/2023 21/02/2023
Switzerland-Liechtenstein	G/LIC/N/2/CHE/7	26/09/2023
Thailand	G/LIC/N/2/THA/7	17/08/2023
Chinese Taipei	G/LIC/N/2/TPKM/18 G/LIC/N/2/TPKM/19 G/LIC/N/2/TPKM/20	17/01/2023 17/01/2023 17/01/2023
Ukraine	G/LIC/N/2/UKR/22 G/LIC/N/2/UKR/23 G/LIC/N/2/UKR/24 G/LIC/N/2/UKR/25	28/10/2022 28/10/2022 31/01/2023 31/08/2023

**ANNEX II: NOTIFICATIONS REVIEWED DURING THE REPORT PERIOD
PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 7.3 OF THE AGREEMENT**

FROM 8 OCTOBER 2022 – 31 OCTOBER 2023

MEMBER	DOCUMENT (YEAR NOTIFIED FOR)	DATE OF ISSUANCE OF THE DOCUMENT
Albania	G/LIC/N/3/ALB/12	2022
Argentina	G/LIC/N/3/ARG/19	2023
Australia	G/LIC/N/3/AUS/16	2023
Brazil	G/LIC/N/3/BRA/12	2023
Burkina Faso	G/LIC/N/3/BFA/7	2019
	G/LIC/N/3/BFA/8	2020
	G/LIC/N/3/BFA/9	2022
Canada	G/LIC/N/3/CAN/21	2022
	G/LIC/N/3/CAN/22	2023
Colombia	G/LIC/N/3/COL/16	2022
Costa Rica	G/LIC/N/3/CRI/19	2022
El Salvador	G/LIC/N/3/SLV/5	2020, 2021
European Union	G/LIC/N/3/EU/12	2023
The Gambia	G/LIC/N/3/GMB/5	2023
Honduras	G/LIC/N/3/HND/14	2023
Hong Kong, China	G/LIC/N/3/HKG/27	2023
India	G/LIC/N/3/IND/22	2022
	G/LIC/N/3/IND/23	2023
Israel	G/LIC/N/3/ISR/6	2022
	G/LIC/N/3/ISR/7	2023
Japan	G/LIC/N/3/JPN/21	2022
	G/LIC/N/3/JPN/22	2023
Kazakhstan	G/LIC/N/3/KAZ/7	2023
Korea, Republic of	G/LIC/N/3/KOR/15	2022
	G/LIC/N/3/KOR/16	2023
Kyrgyz Republic	G/LIC/N/3/KGZ/3	2022
	G/LIC/N/3/KGZ/3/Corr.1	2022
Macao, China	G/LIC/N/3/MAC/26	2023
Mauritius	G/LIC/N/3/MUS/12	2022
Myanmar	G/LIC/N/3/MMR/1	2023
New Zealand	G/LIC/N/3/NZL/9	2022
	G/LIC/N/3/NZL/10	2023
Nicaragua	G/LIC/N/3/NIC/15	2023
Panama	G/LIC/N/3/PAN/14	2023
Philippines	G/LIC/N/3/PHL/15	2022
	G/LIC/N/3/PHL/15/Rev.1	2022
Singapore	G/LIC/N/3/SGP/18	2022
	G/LIC/N/3/SGP/19	2023
Switzerland-Liechtenstein	G/LIC/N/3/CHE/19	2023
Chinese Taipei	G/LIC/N/3/TPKM/13	2022
	G/LIC/N/3/TPKM/14	2023
Tunisia	G/LIC/N/3/TUN/7	2022
Türkiye	G/LIC/N/3/TUR/20	2023
Ukraine	G/LIC/N/3/UKR/16	2023
United Kingdom	G/LIC/N/3/GBR/3	2023
United States	G/LIC/N/3/USA/20	2023
Uruguay	G/LIC/N/3/URY/16	2022