

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/L/59  
10 January 1996

(96-0072)

## DECISION ON NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES FOR QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS

Adopted by the Council for Trade in Goods on 1 December 1995

The Committee, in pursuance of its mandate (paragraph (d) of document WT/L/47<sup>1</sup>), agrees that:

- Members shall make complete notifications of the quantitative restrictions which they maintain by 31 January 1996 and at two-yearly intervals thereafter, and shall notify changes to their quantitative restrictions as and when these changes occur;
- such notifications shall contain:
  - a full description of the products and tariff lines (or parts of tariff lines) affected together with the relevant heading or sub-heading in the Harmonised System nomenclature;
  - a precise indication of the type of restriction, using the agreed symbols (BISD 32S/108) as annexed;
  - an indication of the grounds and WTO justification for the measures maintained, including the precise provisions which they cite as a justification;
  - a statement on the trade effects of the measure; in order to ensure full transparency, the notification should include a description of the administrative mechanism associated with the measure, unless this mechanism has been notified under the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures or another WTO Agreement. Also under trade effects, the notification should include information on the quantity of permissible imports, on the degree of quota utilization (in the case of exiting quotas) and, where available, on the level of production or consumption.
- Members which have made, under other WTO provisions, notifications of quantitative restrictions (including notifications to the GATT Technical Committee on Quantitative Restrictions and Other Non-Tariff Measures) which fulfil the requirements for quantitative restrictions notifications under the 1984 and 1985 decisions and which are up-to-date, shall notify the fact; thereupon, the Secretariat shall input such notifications into the quantitative restrictions data base;

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<sup>1</sup>The statement or understanding contained in document PC/IPL/M/9, paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 applies also to this Decision.

- it will be open to Members to make reverse notifications where they deem appropriate;
- the Secretariat shall provide, to assist delegations in the preparation of their notifications, on request, the extract of the quantitative restrictions data base pertaining to its own restrictions;
- the notifications shall be stored in a new data base, identical to the existing quantitative restrictions data base. The latter shall cease to exist when the GATT 1947 is terminated;
- the Secretariat shall publish periodically a document listing the WTO Members having made a notification. The Secretariat shall make available to Members, as and when requested, on paper or computer tape, detailed extracts of the quantitative restrictions data base. The notifications themselves shall be available for consultation in the Secretariat;
- the Committee shall, at two-yearly intervals after receipt of the complete notifications, review the notifications received, on the basis of Secretariat summaries similar to the summaries prepared for the GATT Technical Group on Quantitative Restrictions and Other Non-Tariff Measures.

ANNEX TO THE DECISION ON NOTIFICATION OF  
QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS

Symbols to be used in notifications of quantitative restrictions<sup>2</sup>

- P Prohibition
- CP Prohibition except under defined conditions
- GQ Global quota
- GQC Global quota allocated by country
- BQ Bilateral quota (i.e. anything less than a global quota)
- AL Automatic licensing
- NAL Non-automatic licensing
- STR Quantitative restriction made effective through state-trading operations
- MXR Mixing regulation
- MPR Minimum price, triggering a quantitative restriction
- VER "Voluntary" export restraint

add the following suffixes to the above as appropriate:

- S Seasonal restriction
- X Export restriction
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<sup>2</sup>BISD 32S/108