

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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INTRODUCTION OF HARMONIZED SYSTEM 1996 CHANGES INTO WTO SCHEDULES OF TARIFF CONCESSIONS

Thailand – Schedule LXXIX

Request for a Waiver

The following communication, dated 8 October 2003, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Thailand.

Reference is made to the fax dated 29 September 2003 concerning the extension of waivers for the introduction of HS96 changes into the WTO schedules.

In this connection, the status of Thailand's waiver is as follows: WT/L/124; 173, 216, 243, 268, 281, 303, 338, 351, 379, 400, 463, 490 and 527. The current waiver has been granted to Thailand by the General Council's decision on 24 July 2003, which extended the waiver until 31 October 2003.

With respect to the date of submission of documents relevant to the HS implementation, Thailand has submitted the document G/SECRET/HS96/17 dated 14 March 1996, G/SECRET/HS96/17/Rev.1 dated 18 October 1996 and G/SECRET/HS96/17/Rev.2 dated 27 November 2001 respectively.

In this regard, reservations by Canada (dated 12.06.1996), Australia (dated 14.01.1997), US (dated 12.07.1996 and 06.01.1998), and EC (dated 11.06.1996, 13.03.1998, and 29.04.1998) were initiated. All questions and concerns had been promptly responded by Thailand and that led to the removal of reservations by all Members. Nevertheless, the reservations by EC and Australia have been re-initiated on 25 February 2002.

Thailand is now considering the questions from the EC and Australia and will be able to provide the answers to concerned Members before the expiry date of current waiver.

In this connection, Thailand has replied to all questions from the EC and Australia on 7 October 2003. However, for the procedural reason, Thailand hereby requests that the waiver granted to it in this respect be extended for the period of 6 months starting from 1 November 2003.