

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/L/753  
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(05-5154)

## REPORT (2005) 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/715), i.e. 1 October 2004-28 September 2005 (hereinafter "the review period"). During the review period, the Committee held two meetings on 15 June and 28 September 2005 (G/LIC/M/21 and G/LIC/M/22). At its meeting on 15 June 2005, the Committee took note of the nomination of Ms. Pamela Cooper (Canada) 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. Peter Govindasamy (Singapore). 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, 91 Members<sup>1</sup> have notified the Committee of their legislation and/or publications under these provisions. During the review period, the Committee received notifications from the following Members: Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Croatia, Ecuador, India, Macedonia, Morocco, Peru, Romania and Chinese Taipei. 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.
6. 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, 85 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<sup>1</sup> in 1997, 26 Members

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

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

in 1998, 20 Members<sup>1</sup> in 1999, 32 Members<sup>1</sup> in 2000, 23 Members<sup>1</sup> in 2001, 41 Members<sup>1</sup> in 2002, 25 Members<sup>3</sup> in 2003, 21 Members in 2004 and 18 Members in 2005. During the review period, the Committee received notifications from the following Members: Armenia, Bangladesh; Brazil; Cameroon; China; Croatia; Georgia; Hong Kong, China; India; Korea; Macao, China; Madagascar; Morocco; Oman; Peru; Qatar; Saint Lucia; Tunisia and Uruguay. These notifications may be found in document series G/LIC/N/3/-.

7. The Committee also received, pursuant to paragraphs 5.1-5.4 of Article 5, notifications relating to the institution of new import licensing procedures or changes in these procedures from Brazil, India, Jordan, Chinese Taipei, Romania and the United States. These notifications may be found in document series G/LIC/N/2/- . Since the entry into force of the WTO Agreement 26 Members<sup>3</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.

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>4</sup>. During the review period, such comments and questions were submitted by the United States to Brazil (G/LIC/Q/BRA/3), China (G/LIC/Q/CHN/15 and G/LIC/Q/CHN/16), the European Communities (G/LIC/Q/EEC/3) and Turkey (G/LIC/Q/TUR/3) and by the European Communities to China (G/LIC/Q/CHN/17) while responses were provided by Bahrain (G/LIC/Q/BHR/2) and Jamaica (G/LIC/Q/JAM/2) to the United States. During the same period, the Committee heard concerns regarding certain import licensing procedures applicable in Guatemala, Indonesia and Venezuela, and the absence of or delays in notifications relating to import licensing regimes maintained by Belize, Colombia, Malaysia and Thailand. Statements of Members in this context, including responses given orally at the meetings, are reflected in the minutes of the meetings.

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 continues to be a low 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. This low level of compliance of Members with the transparency obligations of the Agreement has been the main preoccupation of the Committee for some time now.

10. At its meetings of 15 June and 28 September, 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 28 September, the Committee conducted the fourth 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>5</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/22, paragraphs 3.1-3.20). The report of the Committee to the Council for Trade in Goods on this review is contained in document G/LIC/14.

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<sup>3</sup> The European Communities and its member States counted as one Member.

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

<sup>5</sup> WT/L/432.

## ANNEX

### Notifications

Member	Articles 1.4.(a)/8.2.(b) Publications/legislation - First notification upon WTO Membership, ad hoc thereafter (date of latest communication)	Article 7.3 Replies to Questionnaire - Annual, by 30 September (date of latest communication)	Article 5 - Ad hoc (date of latest communication)
Albania	Not notified	G/LIC/N/3/ALB/1 (28.1.02)	G/LIC/N/2/ALB/1 (20.2.02)
Angola	Not notified	Not notified	
Antigua & Barbuda	G/LIC/N/1/ATG/1 (8.12.01)	G/LIC/N/3/ATG/1-2 (18.12.01)	
Argentina	G/LIC/N/1/ARG/1-2 (19.12.97)	G/LIC/N/3/ARG/1-ARG/2 + Add.1 (8.2.02)	G/LIC/N/2/ARG/1-9 (14.10.05)
Armenia	G/LIC/N/1/ARM/1 (29.9.03)	G/LIC/N/3/ARM/1 + Add.1 – ARM/2 (7.9.05)	
Australia	G/LIC/N/1/AUS/1 + Add.1 (28.4.97)	G/LIC/N/3/AUS/1/Rev.1- AUS/2 (24.5.02)	G/LIC/N/2/AUS/1 (28.5.04)
Bahrain	G/LIC/N/1/BHR/1 (27.5.97)	G/LIC/N/3/BHR/1 (5.9.00)	
Bangladesh	G/LIC/N/1/BGD/1-2 (1.3.05)	G/LIC/N/3/BGD/1-2 (1.3.05)	
Barbados	G/LIC/N/1/BRB/1 (4.10.96)	G/LIC/N/3/BRB/1-2 (8.5.02)	
Belize	Not notified	Not notified	
Benin	G/LIC/N/1/BEN/1 (18.12.96)	Not notified	
Bolivia	G/LIC/N/1/BOL/1 (29.5.97)	G/LIC/N/3/BOL/1-2 + Corr.1 & BOL/3 (20.6.00)	
Botswana	Not notified	Not notified	
Brazil	G/LIC/N/1/BRA/1-2/Rev.1 (1.6.05)	G/LIC/N/3/BRA/1-4/Rev.1 (1.6.05)	G/LIC/N/2/BRA/1-2/ Rev.1(1.6.05)
Brunei Darussalam	Not notified	G/LIC/N/3/BRN/1 (4.3.97)	
Bulgaria	G/LIC/N/1/BGR/1-2 (16.9.04)	G/LIC/N/3/BGR/1-2+Add.1 (16.9.04)	
Burkina Faso	G/LIC/N/1/BFA/1 (8.1.97)	G/LIC/N/3/BFA/1+Add.1 (24.11.00)	
Burundi	G/LIC/N/1/BUR/1 (3.4.01)	G/LIC/N/3/BUR/1-2 (12.10.01)	
Cambodia	Not notified	Not notified	
Cameroon	G/LIC/N/1/CMR/1 (13.7.01)	G/LIC/N/3/CMR/1 (5.11.04)	
Canada	G/LIC/N/1/CAN/1 (29.1.96)	G/LIC/N/3/CAN/1-4 + Corr.1 (2.1.02)	
Central African Rep.	Not notified	Not notified	
Chad	G/LIC/N/1/TCD/1-2 (18.7.00)	G/LIC/N/3/TCD/1-2 (13.6.01)	
Chile	G/LIC/N/1/CHL/1 (16.7.96)	G/LIC/N/3/CHL/1 + Adds.1-2 (3.2.99)	
China	G/LIC/N/1/CHN/1 & Add.1- CHN/3-4 (23.12.04)	G/LIC/N/3/CHN/1-4 (27.9.05)	
Colombia	G/LIC/N/1/COL/1 + Add.1 (4.12.00)	G/LIC/N/3/COL/1 + Adds.1-2 & COL/2-3 12.10.05)	
Congo	Not notified	Not notified	
Congo, Dem Rep. of	Not notified	Not notified	
Costa Rica	G/LIC/N/1/CRI/1 (21.11.95)	G/LIC/N/3/CRI/1-3 (15.12.00)	
Côte d'Ivoire	G/LIC/N/1/CIV/1 (10.1.02)	G/LIC/N/3/CIV/1 (10.1.02)	
Croatia	G/LIC/N/1/HRV/1-3+Corr.1 (23.3.05)	G/LIC/N/3/HRV/1-3 (23.3.05)	
Cuba	G/LIC/N/1/CUB/1 (11.1.96)	G/LIC/N/3/CUB/1-2 + Add.1 (30.9.04)	
Djibouti	Not notified	Not notified	
Dominica	G/LIC/N/1/DMA/1 (8.2.01)	G/LIC/N/3/DMA/1 (8.2.01)	
Dominican Rep.	G/LIC/N/1/DOM/1 (28.4.04)	G/LIC/N/3/DOM/1-2 (28.4.04)	

Member	Articles 1.4.(a)/8.2.(b) Publications/legislation - First notification upon WTO Membership, ad hoc thereafter (date of latest communication)	Article 7.3 Replies to Questionnaire - Annual, by 30 September (date of latest communication)	Article 5 - Ad hoc (date of latest communication)
Ecuador	G/LIC/N/1/ECU/1-2 (13.6.05)	G/LIC/N/3/ECU/1 + Add.1 - ECU/2 (25.10.02)	
Egypt	Not notified	Not notified	
El Salvador	G/LIC/N/1/SLV/1 (13.1.04)	Not notified	
European Communities	G/LIC/N/1/EEC/1/Rev.2 + Adds.1-2 EEC/2 + Adds.1-4 (6.1.03)	G/LIC/N/3/EEC/1 + Add.1 EEC/2 + Adds.1-27 EEC/3 +Adds.1-26 EEC/4 + Add.1 EEC/5 + Add.1 & Add.1/Corr.1 EEC/6 + Add.1+ EEC/6/Corr.1 (30.9.03)	G/LIC/N/2/EEC/1-2 (4.7.97)
Fiji	G/LIC/N/1/FJI/1 (30.7.97)	G/LIC/N/3/FJI/1 (1.4.97)	
Gabon	G/LIC/N/1/GAB/1-2 (5.3.02)	Not notified	
Gambia	Not notified	G/LIC/N/3/GMB/1 (31.10.97)	
Georgia	G/LIC/N/1/GEO/1 (22.3.02)	G/LIC/N/3/GEO/1-2 (8.10.04)	
Ghana	G/LIC/N/1/GHA/1 (15.4.04)	G/LIC/N/3/GHA/1-3 (15.4.04)	
Grenada	G/LIC/N/1/GRD/1 (13.3.02)	Not notified	
Guatemala	G/LIC/N/1/GTM/1-2 (20.1.00)	G/LIC/N/3/GTM/1-2 (3.9.04)	
Guinea	Not notified	Not notified	
Guinea Bissau	Not notified	Not notified	
Guyana	G/LIC/N/1/GUY/1 (5.4.02)	G/LIC/N/3/GUY/1-2 (22.10.03)	
Haiti	G/LIC/N/1/HTI/1 (8.10.99)	G/LIC/N/3/HTI/1-2 (27.4.00)	
Honduras	G/LIC/N/1/HND/1 (31.10.96)	Not notified	
Hong Kong, China	G/LIC/N/1/HKG/1-5 (24.12.02)	G/LIC/N/3/HKG/1 + Rev.1-2, HKG/2 -HKG/3 + Corr.1 HKG/4 -9 (27.9.05)	G/LIC/N/2/HKG/1-2 (27.1.98)
Iceland	G/LIC/N/1/ISL/1 (8.1.99)	G/LIC/N/3/ISL/1-3 (30.9.04)	
India	G/LIC/N/1/IND/1/Rev.1 + IND/2-8 (12.9.05)	G/LIC/N/3/IND/1-7 + Corr.1 (2.6.05)	G/LIC/N/2/IND/1-7 (12.9.05)
Indonesia	G/LIC/N/1/IDN/1 (27.10.98)	G/LIC/N/3/IDN/1-2 (12.5.03)	G/LIC/N/2/IDN/1 (14.4.03)
Israel	Not notified	Not notified	
Jamaica	G/LIC/N/1/JAM/1 (1.7.96)	G/LIC/N/3/JAM/1+ Adds.1-2 (18.9.02)	G/LIC/N/2/JAM/1 (23.9.03)
Japan	G/LIC/N/1/JPN/1-2/Rev.1 (7.1.97)	G/LIC/N/3/JPN/1 + Corr.1- JPN/3 (28.1.04)	G/LIC/N/2/JPN/1-3 (12.4.01)
Jordan	G/LIC/N/1/JOR/1-2 + Add.1 (19.8.03)	G/LIC/N/3/JOR/1 (2.10.00)	G/LIC/N/2/JOR/1-2 (8.6.05)
Kenya	G/LIC/N/1/KEN/1 (9.5.03)	G/LIC/N/3/KEN/1-2 + Add.1 (9.5.03)	
Korea	G/LIC/N/1/KOR/1-3 (3.4.98)	G/LIC/N/3/KOR/1-4 (21.3.05)	
Kuwait	Not notified	Not notified	
Kyrgyz Republic	G/LIC/N/1/KGZ/1 (6.1.00)	G/LIC/N/3/KGZ/1 (11.4.00)	
Lesotho	Not notified	Not notified	
Liechtenstein	G/LIC/N/1/LIE/1-2 (17.10.00)	G/LIC/N/3/LIE/1 + Add.1- LIE/4 +Add.1 (25.2.03)	G/LIC/N/2/LIE/1-2 (17.10.00)
Macao, China	G/LIC/N/1/MAC/1 + Adds.1-3 – MAC/2 (16.1.04)	G/LIC/N/3/MAC/1-7 (23.12.04)	
Macedonia, Former Yugoslav Rep. of	G/LIC/N/1/MKD/1 (14.10.04)	Not notified	
Madagascar	G/LIC/N/1/MDG/1-2 (31.3.00)	G/LIC/N/3/MDG/1-2 (13.6.05)	
Malawi	G/LIC/N/1/MWI/1 (10.5.99)	G/LIC/N/3/MWI/1 + Add.1 (11.10.02)	
Malaysia	Not notified	G/LIC/N/3/MYS/1 (4.12.97)	G/LIC/N/2/MYS/1-2 (21.7.99)
Maldives	Not notified	G/LIC/N/3/MDV/1 (21.3.02)	

Member	Articles 1.4.(a)/8.2.(b) Publications/legislation - First notification upon WTO Membership, ad hoc thereafter (date of latest communication)	Article 7.3 Replies to Questionnaire - Annual, by 30 September (date of latest communication)	Article 5 - Ad hoc (date of latest communication)
Mali	G/LIC/N/1/MLI/1 (23.7.01)	G/LIC/N/3/MLI/1-2 (23.7.01)	
Mauritania	Not notified	Not notified	
Mauritius	G/LIC/N/1/MUS/1 + Adds.1-3 (4.5.98)	G/LIC/N/3/MUS/1-2 + Corr.1 (24.5.02)	
Mexico	G/LIC/N/1/MEX/1 (29.9.04)	G/LIC/N/3/MEX/1 (29.9.04)	G/LIC/N/2/MEX/1 (16.10.98)
Moldova	G/LIC/N/1/MDA/1 (9.1.02)	G/LIC/N/3/MDA/1 (30.1.02)	
Mongolia	Not notified	G/LIC/N/3/MNG/1 (15.5.03)	
Morocco	G/LIC/N/1/MAR/1+Adds.1-2 (6.12.04)	G/LIC/N/3/MAR/1-2 + Add.1- MAR/4+Add.1 (22.9.05)	
Mozambique	Not notified	Not notified	
Myanmar	Not notified	Not notified	
Namibia	G/LIC/N/1/NAM/1 (8.10.02)	G/LIC/N/3/NAM/1-4 (8.10.02)	
Nepal	Not notified	Not notified	
New Zealand	G/LIC/N/1/NZL/1 (2.8.96)	G/LIC/N/3/NZL/1 + Add.1 (24.3.98)	
Nicaragua	G/LIC/N/1/NIC/1 (18.7.96)	Not notified	
Niger	G/LIC/N/1/NER/1 (10.12.97)	Not notified	
Nigeria	G/LIC/N/1/NGA/1 (16.2.98)	G/LIC/N/3/NGA/1-2 (16.2.98)	G/LIC/N/2/NGA/1-2 (16.2.98)
Norway	G/LIC/N/1/NOR/1-2 (3.11.97)	G/LIC/N/3/NOR/1 + Corr.1- NOR/2 + Adds.1-2 (7.4.00)	
Oman	G/LIC/N/1/OMN/1 (9.1.01)	G/LIC/N/3/OMN/1 + Add.1- OMN/2 (2.3.05)	
Pakistan	G/LIC/N/1/PAK/1 (6.5.96)	Not notified	G/LIC/N/2/PAK/1 (6.5.96)
Panama	G/LIC/N/1/PAN/1-2 (19.10.98)	G/LIC/N/3/PAN/1-2 (2.3.04)	G/LIC/N/2/PAN/1 (21.7.98)
Papua New Guinea	Not notified	Not notified	G/LIC/N/2/PNG/1 (6.2.98)
Paraguay	G/LIC/N/1/PRY/1 (21.5.03)	Not notified	
Peru	G/LIC/N/1/PER/1-2/Rev.1 (8.2.05)	G/LIC/N/3/PER/1-2 + Add.1 & PER/3/Rev.1 (8.2.05)	
Philippines	G/LIC/N/1/PHL/1 (6.4.98)	G/LIC/N/3/PHL/1-4 + Add.1 (29.9.03)	
Qatar	G/LIC/N/1/QAT/1 (24.3.98)	G/LIC/N/3/QAT/1-2 (8.3.05)	
Romania	G/LIC/N/1/ROM/1-3 (21.9.05)	G/LIC/N/3/ROM/1-2 +Add.1 (12.12.00)	G/LIC/N/2/ROM/1-4 (21.9.05)
Rwanda	Not notified	Not notified	
Saint Kitts & Nevis	G/LIC/N/1/KNA/1 (17.7.98)	Not notified	
Saint Lucia	G/LIC/N/1/LCA/1 (14.10.02)	G/LIC/N/3/LCA/1-3 (7.4.05)	G/LIC/N/2/LCA/1-2 (14.10.02)
Saint Vincent & Grenadines	Not notified	Not notified	
Senegal	G/LIC/N/1/SEN/1 (14.10.02)	G/LIC/N/3/SEN/1-2 (14.10.02)	
Sierra Leone	Not notified	Not notified	
Singapore	G/LIC/N/1/SGP/1-4 (22.9.04)	G/LIC/N/3/SGP/1-4 (5.11.03)	G/LIC/N/2/SGP/1-3 (22.9.04)
Solomon Islands	Not notified	Not notified	
South Africa	Not notified	G/LIC/N/3/ZAF/1-3 + ZAF/4 (11.9.02)	G/LIC/N/2/ZAF/1 (9.7.97)
Sri Lanka	G/LIC/N/1/LKA/1 (5.5.03)	G/LIC/N/3/LKA/1 (5.5.03)	
Suriname	G/LIC/N/1/SUR/1 (10.12.03)	Not notified	
Swaziland	G/LIC/N/1/SWZ/1 (19.8.96)	Not notified	
Switzerland	G/LIC/N/1/CHE/1-2 (21.9.00)	G/LIC/N/3/CHE/1-4 + Add.1 (21.2.03)	G/LIC/N/2/CHE/1-2 (21.9.00)
Chinese Taipei	G/LIC/N/1/TPKM/1-3/Rev.1 + TPKM/4-6 (17.11.04)	G/LIC/N/3/TPKM/1/Rev.1- TPKM/2 (21.6.04)	G/LIC/N/2/TPKM/1-4 (17.11.04)

Member	Articles 1.4.(a)/8.2.(b) Publications/legislation - First notification upon WTO Membership, ad hoc thereafter (date of latest communication)	Article 7.3 Replies to Questionnaire - Annual, by 30 September (date of latest communication)	Article 5 - Ad hoc (date of latest communication)
Tanzania	Not notified	Not notified	
Thailand	Not notified	Not notified	
Togo	G/LIC/N/1/TGO/1 (8.5.03)	G/LIC/N/3/TGO/1 (8.5.03)	
Trinidad & Tobago	G/LIC/N/1/TTO/1 (28.10.98)	G/LIC/N/3/TTO/1-4 (30.7.04)	
Tunisia	G/LIC/N/1/TUN/1 + Add.1 (21.1.99)	G/LIC/N/3/TUN/1-3 + Adds.1- 3 & TUN/4 (7.4.05)	
Turkey	G/LIC/N/1/TUR/1, TUR/2/Rev.1-TUR/4 (22.9.03)	G/LIC/N/3/TUR/1-5 (22.9.03)	
Uganda	G/LIC/N/1/UGA/1 (16.8.96)	G/LIC/N/3/UGA/1+ Adds.1-2 (29.9.05)	
United Arab Emirates	G/LIC/N/1/ARE/1 (19.3.97)	G/LIC/N/3/ARE/1 (11.4.00)	
United States	G/LIC/N/1/USA/1 + Rev.1- USA/2 (28.4.03)	G/LIC/N/3/USA/1-3 (6.11.00)	G/LIC/N/2/USA/1-2 (20.6.05)
Uruguay	G/LIC/N/1/URY/1-3 (17.9.01)	G/LIC/N/3/URY/1 + Add.1- URY/2/Rev.1 & URY/3 (5.7.05)	
Venezuela	G/LIC/N/1/VEN/1 (12.10.02)	G/LIC/N/3/VEN/1 + Corr.1-2 (8.11.02)	G/LIC/N/2/VEN/1-5 (16.5.03)
Zambia	G/LIC/N/1/ZMB/1-2 (10.2.04)	G/LIC/N/3/ZMB/1-2 (10.2.04)	
Zimbabwe	G/LIC/N/1/ZWE/1-2 (21.9.98)	G/LIC/N/3/ZWE/1+Adds.1-2 (15.2.01)	
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS =123<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>91<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>85<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>26<sup>6</sup></b>

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<sup>6</sup> The European Communities and its member States counted as one Member.