

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/L/264  
2 November 1998

(98-4254)

## REPORT (1998) OF THE COMMITTEE ON IMPORT LICENSING

1. The Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures (the Agreement) 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 (the Committee) 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.
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. In addition, representatives of the IMF, UNCTAD and the World Bank attend meetings of the Committee in an observer capacity.
4. The Committee held two meetings on 24 April and 20 October 1998 (G/LIC/M/7 and 8). The Committee at its meeting in April 1998 elected Mrs. Marie Gosset (Côte d'Ivoire) as Chairperson and Mr. Marshall Couper (New Zealand) as Vice-Chairperson for 1998. Pursuant to the 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, all Members are required to notify their laws, regulations and administrative procedures relevant to import licensing. During the period covered by this report, the Committee received notifications from the following 19 Members: Brazil; Chad; Czech Republic; European Communities; Hong Kong, China; Hungary; Indonesia; St.Kitts & Nevis; Korea; Madagascar; Mauritius; Nigeria; Panama; Philippines; Qatar; Singapore; Trinidad and Tobago; Turkey; and Zimbabwe. Since the entry into force of the WTO Agreement, 57 Members (the European Communities and its member States counted as one) have notified their legislation and/or publications under these provisions. These notifications may be found in document series G/LIC/N/1/-.
6. Article 7.3 of the Agreement requires all Members to provide replies to the Questionnaire on Import Licensing Procedures<sup>1</sup> by 30 September each year. Since the entry into force of the WTO Agreement, 55 Members (the European Communities and its member States counted as one) 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 and 24 Members in 1998. During the period covered by this report, the Committee received notifications from Bolivia; Brazil; Costa Rica; Cyprus; Haiti; Hong Kong, China; Hungary; Iceland; Indonesia; Jamaica; Japan; Korea; Malta; New Zealand; Nigeria; Norway; Panama; Philippines; Qatar; Switzerland; Trinidad and Tobago; Turkey; United States; and Zimbabwe. These notifications may be found in document series G/LIC/N/3/-.
7. The Committee also received pursuant to Article 5 of the Agreement notifications relating to the institution of new import licensing procedures or changes in these procedures from Brazil;

<sup>1</sup> Annexed to document G/LIC/3.

Hong Kong, China; Hungary; India; Japan; Mexico; Nigeria; Panama; Papua New Guinea; and Singapore. These notifications may be found in document series G/LIC/N/2/-.

8. At its meeting on 20 October 1998, the Committee discussed the situation with respect to the invocation of delayed application provisions of the Agreement by 24 developing country Members since the beginning of the WTO Agreement. It was noted that the two-year period of delay allowed under the Agreement had expired for all these Members, and accordingly the obligations of Article 2.2(a)(ii) and (a)(iii) apply to all current WTO Members. It was recalled that the invocation of the above provisions did not exempt the Members concerned from the obligation to notify under the Agreement. The mandatory notifications included publications and legislation relevant to import licensing, and replies to the Questionnaire on Import Licensing Procedures by 30 September each year. Those Members that had not yet made the necessary notifications under the Agreement were urged to do so at the earliest opportunity.

9. The Committee also conducted its second biennial review of the implementation and operation of the Agreement under Article 7.1 on the basis of a factual report prepared by the Secretariat (G/LIC/W/10 and G/LIC/M/8).

10. At the request of the Council for Trade in Goods, the Committee also had a preliminary exchange of views on those aspects of trade facilitation which it regarded as being related to the Agreement. It agreed to continue the discussion at further meetings of the Committee in February 1999 with a view to agreeing on a report to the Council for Trade in Goods for its informal discussions to be held on this subject in March 1999 (G/LIC/M/8).

11. The Committee has provided a regular forum for the discussion of specific notifications submitted by Members and of concerns regarding notifications. It should be noted that the mandatory notification requirements under Articles 1.4(a), 8.2(b) and 7.3 are complied with by only about half of the WTO Members. The Annex reflects the current status of notifications. In light of this situation, the Committee, recognizing the importance of notifications for the effective implementation and functioning of the Agreement, urges Members to fulfil their notification obligations.

## ANNEX

### Notifications

Members	Footnote 5 to Article 2.2 Two-year delayed application (date of WTO Membership)	Articles 1.4.(a)/8.2.(b) Publications/legislation (date of latest communication)	Article 7.3 Replies to Questionnaire - Annual (date of latest communication)	Article 5 - Ad hoc (date of latest communication)
Angola		Not notified	Not notified	
Antigua & Barbuda		Not notified	Not notified	
Argentina		G/LIC/N/1/ARG/1-2 (19.12.97)	G/LIC/N/3/ARG/1 + Corr.1 & ARG/2 (19.12.97)	G/LIC/N/2/ARG/1- 3 (15.1.97)
Australia		G/LIC/N/1/AUS/1 & Add.1 (28.4.97)	G/LIC/N/3/AUS/1 & Rev.1 (28.4.97)	
Bahrain		G/LIC/N/1/BHR/1 (27.5.97)	Not notified	
Bangladesh	G/LIC/1 (1.1.95)	Not notified	Not notified	
Barbados		G/LIC/N/1/BRB/1 (4.10.96)	G/LIC/N/3/BRB/1 (15.9.95)	
Belize		Not notified	Not notified	
Benin		G/LIC/N/1/BEN/1 (18.12.96)	Not notified	
Bolivia	G/LIC/1/Add.2 (13.9.95)	G/LIC/N/1/BOL/1 (29.5.97)	G/LIC/N/3/BOL/1-2 + Corr.1 (24.8.98)	
Botswana		Not notified	Not notified	
Brazil	G/LIC/1 (1.1.95)	G/LIC/N/1/BRA/1 (24.4.98)	G/LIC/N/3/BRA/1 (24.4.98)	G/LIC/N/2/BRA/1 (24.4.98)
Brunei Darussalam		Not notified	G/LIC/N/3/BRN/1 (4.3.97)	
Bulgaria		G/LIC/N/1/BGR/1 (20.3.97)	G/LIC/N/3/BGR/1 (20.3.97)	
Burkina Faso	G/LIC/1/Add.1 (3.6.95)	G/LIC/N/1/BFA/1 (8.1.97)	G/LIC/N/3/BFA/1 (8.1.97)	
Burundi		Not notified	Not notified	
Cameroon	G/LIC/1/Add.3 (13.12.95)	Not notified	Not notified	
Canada		G/LIC/N/1/CAN/1 (29.1.96)	G/LIC/N/3/CAN/1-2 (2.10.97)	
Central African Rep.		Not notified	Not notified	
Chad		G/LIC/N/1/TCD/1 (22.7.98)	Not notified	
Chile		G/LIC/N/1/CHL/1 (16.7.96)	G/LIC/N/3/CHL/1 & Add.1 (9.9.97)	
Colombia	G/LIC/1 (30.4.95)	G/LIC/N/1/COL/1 (12.1.96)	G/LIC/N/3/COL/1 & Add.1 (2.11.96)	
Congo		Not notified	Not notified	
Costa Rica	G/LIC/1 (1.1.95)	G/LIC/N/1/CRI/1 (21.11.95)	G/LIC/N/3/CRI/1-2 (7.5.98)	
Côte d'Ivoire	G/LIC/1 (1.1.95)	Not notified	Not notified	
Cuba		G/LIC/N/1/CUB/1 (11.1.96)	Not notified	
Cyprus		G/LIC/N/1/CYP/1 (30.5.96)	G/LIC/N/3/CYP/1+ Rev.1 & CYP/2 (28.8.98)	
Czech Republic		G/LIC/N/1/CZE/1 (28.10.98)	Not notified	
Dem Rep. of Congo		Not notified	Not notified	
Djibouti		Not notified	Not notified	
Dominica		Not notified	Not notified	
Dominican Rep.	G/LIC/1/Add.2 (9.3.95)	Not notified	Not notified	
Ecuador		Not notified	G/LIC/N/3/ECU/1 (1.8.95)	
European Communities		G/LIC/N/1/EEC/1/Rev.2 & Adds.1-2 & EEC/2 (12.1.98)	G/LIC/N/3/EEC/1 (29.7.97)	G/LIC/N/2/EEC/1- 2 (4.7.97)
Egypt		Not notified	Not notified	
El Salvador	G/LIC/1 (7.5.95)	Not notified	Not notified	
Fiji		G/LIC/N/1/FJI/1 (30.7.97)	G/LIC/N/3/FJI/1 (1.4.97)	
Gabon	G/LIC/1 (1.1.95)	Not notified	Not notified	
Gambia		Not notified	G/LIC/N/3/GMB/1 (31.10.97)	
Ghana		Not notified	Not notified	
Grenada		Not notified	Not notified	
Guatemala	G/LIC/1/Add.1 (21.7.95)	Not notified	Not notified	

Members	Footnote 5 to Article 2.2 Two-year delayed application (date of WTO Membership)	Articles 1.4.(a)/8.2.(b) Publications/legislation (date of latest communication)	Article 7.3 Replies to Questionnaire - Annual (date of latest communication)	Article 5 - Ad hoc (date of latest communication)
Guinea Bissau		Not notified	Not notified	
Guinea, Rep. of		Not notified	Not notified	
Guyana		Not notified	Not notified	
Haiti		Not notified	G/LIC/N/3/HTI/1 (27.2.98)	
Honduras	G/LIC/1 (1.1.95)	G/LIC/N/1/HND/1 (31.10.96)	Not notified	
Hong Kong, China		G/LIC/N/1/HKG/1-4 (20.4.98)	G/LIC/N/3/HKG/1 + Rev.1- 2, HKG/2 (30.9.98)	G/LIC/N/2/HKG/1- 2 (27.1.98)
Hungary		G/LIC/N/1/HUN/1-2 (19.1.98)	G/LIC/N/3/HUN/1-2 (19.1.98)	G/LIC/N/2/HUN/1 (19.1.98)
Iceland		Not notified	G/LIC/N/3/ISL/1 (1.9.98)	
India		G/LIC/N/1/IND/1/Rev.1 (2.5.97)	G/LIC/N/3/IND/1 (29.11.95)	G/LIC/N/2/IND/1 (29.5.98)
Indonesia	G/LIC/1 (1.1.95)	G/LIC/N/1/IDN/1 (27.10.98)	G/LIC/N/3/IDN/1 (27.10.98)	
Israel		Not notified	Not notified	
Jamaica		G/LIC/N/1/JAM/1 (1.7.96)	G/LIC/N/3/JAM/1 (29.5.98)	
Japan		G/LIC/N/1/JPN/1 & JPN/2/Rev.1 (7.1.97)	G/LIC/N/3/JPN/1 + Corr.1 (2.4.98)	G/LIC/N/2/JPN/1-2 (18.8.98)
Kenya	G/LIC/1 (1.1.95)	G/LIC/N/3/KEN/1 (10.11.97)	G/LIC/N/3/KEN/1 (10.11.97)	
Korea		G/LIC/N/1/KOR/1-3 (3.4.98)	G/LIC/N/3/KOR/1-2 (6.4.98)	
Kuwait		Not notified	Not notified	
Lesotho		Not notified	Not notified	
Liechtenstein		G/LIC/N/1/LIE/1 (18.4.97)	G/LIC/N/3/LIE/1 (18.4.97)	G/LIC/N/2/LIE/1 (18.4.97)
Macau		Not notified	Not notified	
Madagascar		G/LIC/N/1/MDG/1 (28.1.98)	Not notified	
Malawi		Not notified	Not notified	
Malaysia	G/LIC/1 (1.1.95)	Not notified	G/LIC/N/3/MYS/1 (4.12.97)	G/LIC/N/2/MYS/1 (31.3.95)
Maldives		Not notified	Not notified	
Mali		Not notified	G/LIC/N/3/MLI/1 (9.5.97)	
Malta		G/LIC/N/1/MLT/1 (29.5.96)	G/LIC/N/3/MLT/1-2 (17.7.98)	
Mauritania		Not notified	Not notified	
Mauritius		G/LIC/N/1/MUS/1 & Adds.1-3 (4.5.98)	G/LIC/N/3/MUS/1 (2.11.95)	
Mexico		Not notified	Not notified	G/LIC/N/2/MEX/1 (16.10.98)
Mongolia		Not notified	Not notified	
Morocco		G/LIC/N/1/MAR/1 (3.7.96)	G/LIC/N/3/MAR/1-2 (22.12.97)	
Mozambique		Not notified	Not notified	
Myanmar	G/LIC/1 (1.1.95)	Not notified	Not notified	
Namibia		Not notified	G/LIC/N/3/NAM/1 (28.2.97)	
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 + Add.1 (2.11.98)	
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 (19.10.98)	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)

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Paraguay		Not notified	Not notified	
Peru		G/LIC/N/1/PER/1 (13.2.96)	G/LIC/N/3/PER/1 (27.8.96)	
Philippines		G/LIC/N/1/PHL/1 (6.4.98)	G/LIC/N/3/PHL/1-2 (6.4.98)	
Poland		Not notified	G/LIC/N/3/POL/1 (7.10.97)	
Qatar		G/LIC/N/1/QAT/1 (24.3.98)	G/LIC/N/3/QAT/1 (24.3.98)	
Romania		G/LIC/N/1/ROM/1 (4.9.96)	G/LIC/N/3/ROM/1 (4.9.96)	G/LIC/N/2/ROM/1 (3.10.95)
Rwanda		Not notified	Not notified	
St. Kitts & Nevis		G/LIC/N/1/KNA/1 (17.7.98)	Not notified	
St. Lucia		Not notified	Not notified	
St. Vincent & Grenadines		Not notified	Not notified	
Senegal		Not notified	G/LIC/N/3/SEN/1 (20.1.97)	
Sierra Leone		Not notified	Not notified	
Singapore		G/LIC/N/1/SGP/1-2 (2.11.98)	G/LIC/N/3/SGP/1-2 (17.11.97)	G/LIC/N/2/SGP/1 (2.11.98)
Slovak Republic		Not notified	Not notified	
Slovenia		G/LIC/N/1/SVN/1 (27.11.96)	G/LIC/N/3/SVN/1 (6.6.97)	
Solomon Islands		Not notified	Not notified	
South Africa		Not notified	G/LIC/N/3/ZAF/1 (13.5.97)	G/LIC/N/2/ZAF/1 (9.7.97)
Sri Lanka	G/LIC/1 (1.1.95)	Not notified	Not notified	
Suriname		Not notified	Not notified	
Swaziland		G/LIC/N/1/SWZ/1 (19.8.96)	Not notified	
Switzerland		G/LIC/N/1/CHE/1 (14.4.97)	G/LIC/N/3/CHE/1-2 (28.10.98)	G/LIC/N/2/CHE/1 (14.4.97)
Tanzania		Not notified	Not notified	
Thailand	G/LIC/1 (1.1.95)	Not notified	Not notified	
Togo		Not notified	Not notified	
Trinidad & Tobago		G/LIC/N/1/TTO/1 (28.10.98)	G/LIC/N/3/TTO/1-2 (28.10.98)	
Tunisia	G/LIC/1 (29.3.95)	G/LIC/N/1/TUN/1 (3.10.96)	G/LIC/N/3/TUN/1 (31.10.96)	
Turkey	G/LIC/1 (26.3.95)	G/LIC/N/1/TUR/1 & TUR/2/Rev.1 (8.5.98)	G/LIC/N/3/TUR/1-2 + Corr.1 (8.5.98)	
Uganda		G/LIC/N/1/UGA/1 (16.8.96)	G/LIC/N/3/UGA/1 (17.6.97)	
United Arab Emirates	G/LIC/1/Add.3 (10.4.96)	G/LIC/N/1/ARE/1 (19.3.97)	Not notified	
United States		G/LIC/N/1/USA/1 & Rev.1 (1.10.96)	G/LIC/N/3/USA/1-2 (1.10.98)	
Uruguay	G/LIC/1 (1.1.95)	G/LIC/N/1/URY/1 (4.9.96)	G/LIC/N/3/URY/1 (4.9.96)	
Venezuela	G/LIC/1 (1.1.95)	Not notified	Not notified	
Zambia		Not notified	Not notified	
Zimbabwe		G/LIC/N/1/ZWE/1-2 (21.9.98)	G/LIC/N/3/ZWE/1 (21.9.98)	
<b>TOTAL NOTIFIED</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>18</b>