



31 October 2014

(14-6320)

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**REPORT (2014) OF THE COMMITTEE ON IMPORT LICENSING  
TO THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS**

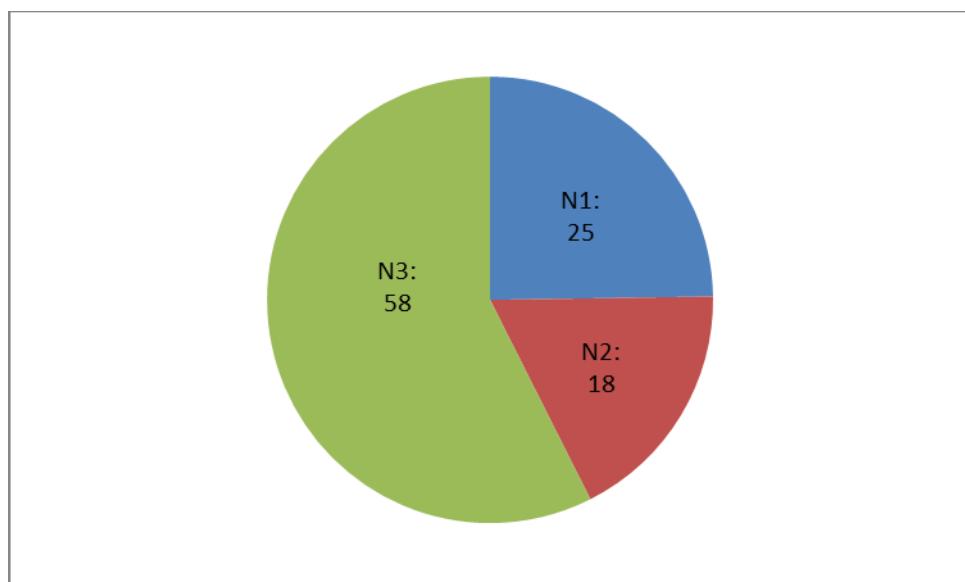
1. The Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures (hereinafter "the Agreement") which entered into force on 1 January 1995, establishes disciplines on users of import licensing systems with the principal objective of ensuring that the procedures applied for granting import licences do not in themselves 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/1048), i.e. 5 October 2013 - 20 October 2014 (hereinafter "the review period"). During the review period, the Committee held two meetings on 15 April and 20 October 2014 (G/LIC/M/39 and G/LIC/M/40). At its meeting on 15 April 2014, the Committee took note of the nomination of Mr. Tsotetsi Makong (Lesotho) as Chairperson of the Committee for the current year and elected him by acclamation. At that meeting, the Committee elected Mr. Juha Niemi (Finland) as Vice-Chairperson for the current year. 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, upon membership to the WTO, to notify the sources of the information pertaining to their laws, regulations and administrative procedures relevant to import licensing. Any subsequent changes to these laws, regulations and administrative procedures are also required to be published and notified. During the review period, the Committee reviewed 25 notifications (Annex 1) from the following 18 Members<sup>1</sup>: Cameroon; Ecuador; Israel; Kyrgyz Republic; Lao PDR; Madagascar; Mexico; Morocco; Paraguay; Peru; Philippines; Russian Federation; Samoa; Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu; Sri Lanka; Trinidad and Tobago; Turkey and Ukraine. These notifications can be found in document series G/LIC/N/1/-.
6. The Committee also reviewed, pursuant to paragraphs 5.1-5.4 of Article 5, 18 notifications (Annex II) relating to the institution of new import licensing procedures or changes in these procedures from 9 Members<sup>2</sup>: Indonesia, Israel; Lao PDR; Malaysia; Mexico; Paraguay; Russian Federation; Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Ukraine. These notifications can be found in documents series G/LIC/N/2/-. 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. No such reverse notifications have been received within the review period.

<sup>1</sup> New notification was received from Brazil (G/LIC/N/1/BRA/6) on 20<sup>th</sup> October, which will be reviewed at the next Committee meeting.

<sup>2</sup> New notifications were received from Brazil (G/LIC/N/2/BRA/6) and Mexico (G/LIC/N/2/MEX/4) on 20 October 2013, which will be reviewed at the next Committee meeting.

7. Article 7.3 of the Agreement requires all Members to provide replies to the Questionnaire on Import Licensing Procedures<sup>3</sup> by 30 September each year. During the review period, the Committee reviewed 58 notifications (Annex 3) from the following 46 Members<sup>4</sup>: Albania; Australia; Burkina Faso; Canada; Cameroon; China; Costa Rica; Côte d'Ivoire; Cuba; European Union; The Gambia; Georgia; Haiti; Honduras; Hong Kong, China; India; Indonesia; Israel; Jamaica; Japan; Kuwait, the State of; Lao PDR; Macao, China; the Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia; Malaysia; Mali; Mauritius; Mexico; New Zealand; Nicaragua; Oman; Panama; Paraguay; Peru; Philippines; Qatar; Russian Federation; Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu; Sri Lanka; Switzerland; Tajikistan; Trinidad and Tobago; Turkey; Ukraine; United States and Viet Nam. These notifications can be found in document series G/LIC/N/3/-.

**NUMBER OF NOTIFICATIONS SUBMITTED DURING THE REVIEWED PERIOD  
(5.Oct 2013 - 20 Oct.2014) UNDER THE DIFFERENT PROVISIONS IN THE AGREEMENT**



8. Written questions and replies to and from Members concerning notifications submitted to the Committee and/or on import licensing procedures maintained by Members, can be found in document series G/LIC/Q/- . During the period under review:

8.1. The following written questions were posed to Members:

- (i) In document G/LIC/Q/ARG/14, the European Union submitted written questions to Argentina with respect to its sworn declaration of product composition (DJCP) and Resolution No. 248/13 (see G/LIC/M/39 para. 2.2).
- (ii) In document G/LIC/Q/BGD/5, the United States submitted written questions to Bangladesh with respect to its administrative procedures associated with a pharmaceuticals directive issued in 1998, as detailed in G/LIC/Q/BGD/3 and questioned the consistency of related measures with the GATT 1994 and Article 1.2 of the Agreement (see G/LIC/M/39 para. 2.7).
- (iii) In document G/LIC/Q/COL/2, the United States submitted written questions to Colombia regarding Decree No. 2261, of November 2012 and expressed concerns on Colombia's use of non-automatic import licences to solve the issue of illegal mining (see G/LIC/M/39 paras. 2.10-2.11).

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

<sup>4</sup> New notifications were received from the EU (G/LIC/N/3/EU/3) and Brazil (G/LIC/N/3/BRA/10) on 20 October 2013, which will be reviewed at the next Committee meeting.

- (iv) In document G/LIC/Q/ECU/5, Canada and the United States submitted additional questions to Ecuador concerning Ecuador's Resolution No. 102 of the Foreign Trade Council (COMEX) and No. 299-A of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Aquaculture and Fisheries (MAGAP) (see G/LIC/M/39 paras. 2.17-2.20).
- (v) In document G/LIC/Q/IDN/30, Canada, the European Union, Japan, New Zealand and the United States submitted follow-up questions to Indonesia concerning Indonesia's certain regulations with respect to import permit systems for animal and animal products and fresh and processed horticulture products (see G/LIC/M/39 paras. 2.28-2.37).
- (vi) In document G/LIC/Q/IDN/31, the United States submitted follow-up questions to Indonesia regarding its regulations on imports of cell phones, handheld computers and tablets (see G/LIC/M/39 paras. 2.40-2.44).
- (vii) In document G/LIC/Q/IND/23, the European Union submitted written questions to India concerning its annual notification (G/LIC/N/3/IND/13.Rev.1) and in particular India's import licensing for live animals and import regime on marble and similar stones (see G/LIC/M/39 paras 2.47-2.50).
- (viii) In document G/LIC/Q/LCA/2, the United States submitted written questions to Saint Lucia, regarding the country's domestic purchase requirement for poultry, pork and pork products (see G/LIC/M/39 para 2.58).
- (ix) In document G/LIC/Q/MYS/6, the United States submitted written questions to Malaysia concerning Malaysia's import licensing regimes on motor vehicles, rice, round cabbages, electrical equipment and other products (see G/LIC/M/39 paras 2.62-2.65).
- (x) In documents G/LIC/Q/MYS/7 and G/LIC/Q/MYS/8, the European Union submitted written questions to Malaysia regarding the extensive use and coverage of its import licensing system, and in particular, the import licensing procedures on electrical equipment, intoxicating liquor, tobacco and denatured spirit, telecommunication equipment and logs (see G/LIC/M/39 paras 2.67-2.69).
- (xi) In document G/LIC/Q/RUS/2, Canada, the European Union, Japan and the United States submitted follow-up questions to Russia concerning the country's compliance with its transparency obligations under the Agreement, the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC)'s Decision No. 143, as well as the import licensing regime for products with cryptographic capacities and quotas on combine harvesters imported into Russia (see G/LIC/M/39 paras 2.73-2.83).
- (xii) In document G/LIC/Q/TUR/7, the European Union submitted written questions to Turkey, seeking further clarification on Turkey's notification G/LIC/N/3/TUR/13 (see G/LIC/M/39 paras 2.93-2.95)
- (xiii) In document G/LIC/Q/VNM/5, the United States submitted written questions to Viet Nam concerning the country's new trading licences regime involving distilled spirits (see G/LIC/M/39 para 2.99).
- (xiv) In document G/LIC/Q/MNG/1, the European Union submitted written questions to Mongolia concerning the transparency of the country's import regime and its compliance of notification obligations under the Agreement. The European Union also seeks further clarification on the country's overall legal framework governing imports, including that on food products.
- (xv) In document G/LIC/Q/ECU/7, the European Union submitted follow-up questions to Ecuador regarding Ecuador's notification G/LIC/N/1/ECU/5, seeking further clarification on COMEX Resolution No. 98 providing for the allocation of annual import quotas for hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) as well as COMEX Resolution Nos. 81, 89 and 95.

- (xvi) In document G/LIC/Q/BRA/18, the European Union submitted follow-up questions to Brazil, seeking further clarification on Brazil's import procedures applicable to industrial nitrocellulose.

8.2. The following written responses to comments and questions were submitted by Members:

- (i) In document G/LIC/Q/BGD/4, Bangladesh responded to the questions posed by the United States (document G/LIC/Q/BGD/3) (see G/LIC/M/39 para. 2.6).
- (ii) In document G/LIC/Q/ECU/4, Ecuador responded to the questions posed by the United States (document G/LIC/Q/ECU/3).
- (iii) In documents G/LIC/Q/IDN/27, G/LIC/Q/IDN/28 and G/LIC/Q/IDN/29, Indonesia responded to the questions posed by the European Union and the United States (in documents G/LIC/Q/IDN/24, G/LIC/Q/IDN/25 and G/LIC/Q/IDN/26). In document G/LIC/Q/IDN/32 and G/LIC/Q/IDN/32/Corr.1, Indonesia responded to the questions posed by Canada, the European Union, Japan, New Zealand and the United States (G/LIC/Q/IDN/30), regarding its import permit system on animal and animal products and related government regulations. In document G/LIC/Q/IDN/33, Indonesia responded to questions posed by the United States (G/LIC/Q/IDN/31).
- (iv) In document G/LIC/Q/ARG/15, Argentina responded to the questions posed by the European Union regarding its annual notification (G/LIC/Q/ARG/11) and its DJCP system.
- (v) In document G/LIC/Q/COL/3, Colombia responded to the questions from the United States (G/LIC/Q/COL/2) regarding Decree No. 2261 published in 2013 and explained the rationale of using non-automatic import licensing to address the issue of illegal mining.
- (vi) In document G/LIC/Q/MYS/9, Malaysia responded to questions posed by the United States (G/LIC/Q/MYS/6). In document G/LIC/Q/MYS/10 and G/LIC/Q/MYS/11, Malaysia responded to questions posed by the European Union in G/LIC/Q/MYS/7 and G/LIC/Q/MYS/8 respectively.
- (vii) In document G/LIC/Q/LCA/3, Saint Lucia responded to questions posed by the United States (G/LIC/Q/LCA/2).
- (viii) In document G/LIC/Q/RUS/3, the Russian Federation responded to questions posed by Canada, the European Union, Japan and the United States (G/LIC/Q/RUS/2).

9. Several Members raised trade concerns, questions or comments on other Members' import licensing procedures as follows:

At the meeting on 15 April:

- (i) The United States raised concerns with regard to the import licensing procedures of India on boric acid (see G/LIC/M/39 paras. 4.1-4.7).
- (ii) The European Union raised concerns regarding Thailand's Regulatory Requirements for imports of nitrocellulose (see G/LIC/M/39 paras. 5.1-5.3).
- (iii) The European Union raised concerns over Brazil's regulatory requirements for imports of nitrocellulose (see G/LIC/M/39 paras. 6.1-6.6).

At the meeting on 20 October:

- (iv) The European Union raised concerns with regard to India's import of marble and marble products and Brazil's regulatory requirements for imports of nitrocellulose.
- (v) The European Union, Iceland, Norway, Uruguay and Chile raised concerns with Nigeria's regulatory requirements for imports of fishery products.

(vi) The United States made statements regarding Indonesia's import licensing regime for cell phones, handheld computers and tablets; India's import licensing requirements for boric acid as well as the import licensing procedures of Bangladesh and Viet Nam.

10. At the meeting on 15 April 2014 under the agenda item "Other Business", the Chairperson reported on his informal consultations with delegations with regard to a draft notification form to notify under Article 7.3 of the Agreement and the preparation of the next biennial review of the implementation and operation of the Agreement. He encouraged Members to provide concrete proposals so as to move the process forward.

**ANNEX I: NOTIFICATIONS REVIEWED DURING THE REVIEW PERIOD PURSUANT TO  
ARTICLES 1.4(A) AND/OR 8.2(B) OF THE AGREEMENT  
[FROM 5 OCTOBER 2013 TO 20 OCTOBER 2014]**

MEMBER	DOCUMENT	DATE OF ISSUANCE OF THE DOCUMENT
CAMEROON	G/LIC/N/1/CMR/2	29-Nov-2013
ECUADOR	G/LIC/N/1/ECU/4/Corr.1 G/LIC/N/1/ECU/5	15-Oct 2013 20-Jun-2014
ISRAEL	G/LIC/N/1/ISR/3	08-Oct-2013
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	G/LIC/N/1/KGZ/2	26-Sep-2014
LAO, PDR	G/LIC/N/1/LAO/1	03-Feb-2014
MADAGASCAR	G/LIC/N/1/MDG/3	23-Sep-2014
MEXICO	G/LIC/N/1/MEX/4 G/LIC/N/1/MEX/5	15-Apr-2014 15-Apr-2014
MOROCCO	G/LIC/N/1/MAR/7 G/LIC/N/1/MAR/8	20-Jun-2014 20-Jun-2014
PARAGUAY	G/LIC/N/1/PRY/3 G/LIC/N/1/PRY/4 G/LIC/N/1/PRY/5	18-Feb-2014 18-Feb-2014 18-Feb-2014
PERU	G/LIC/N/1/PER/4	11-Jun-2014
PHILIPPINES	G/LIC/N/1/PHL/3	05-Feb-2014
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	G/LIC/N/1/RUS/2 G/LIC/N/1/RUS/3 G/LIC/N/1/RUS/4 G/LIC/N/1/RUS/4/Corr.1	06-May-2014 11-Jun-2014 23-Jul-2014 31-Jul-2014
SAMOA	G/LIC/N/1/WSM/1	30-Sep-2014
SEPARATE CUSTOMS TERRITORY OF TAIWAN, PENGHU, KINMEN AND MATSU	G/LIC/N/1/TPKM/9	01-Aug-2014
SRI LANKA	G/LIC/N/1/LKA/2	19-Feb-2014
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	G/LIC/N/1/TTO/3 G/LIC/N/1/TTO/3/Corr.1	20-Jan-2014 24-Jan-2014
TURKEY	G/LIC/N/1/TUR/11	29-Sep-2014
UKRAINE	G/LIC/N/1/UKR/4 G/LIC/N/1/UKR/5	10-Dec-2013 10-Dec-2013

**ANNEX II: NOTIFICATIONS REVIEWED DURING THE REVIEW PERIOD PURSUANT TO  
PARAGRAPHS 5.1-5.4 OF ARTICLE 5 OF THE AGREEMENT  
[From 5 OCTOBER 2013 TO 20 October 2014]**

MEMBER	DOCUMENT	DATE OF ISSUANCE OF THE DOCUMENT
INDONESIA	G/LIC/N/2/IDN/19 G/LIC/N/2/IDN/20 G/LIC/N/2/IDN/21 G/LIC/N/2/IDN/21/Corr.1 G/LIC/N/2/IDN/22 G/LIC/N/2/IDN/23 G/LIC/N/2/IDN/24 G/LIC/N/2/IDN/25 G/LIC/N/2/IDN/26	04-Feb-2014 05-Feb-2014 05-Feb-2014 20-Feb-2014 05-Feb-2014 01-Aug-2014 24-Sep-2014 26-Sep-2014 26-Sep-2014
ISRAEL	G/LIC/N/2/ISR/3	21-Oct-2013
LAO PDR	G/LIC/N/2/LAO/1	03-Feb-2014
MALAYSIA	G/LIC/N/2/MYS/6	23-Jan-2014
MEXICO	G/LIC/N/2/MEX/2 G/LIC/N/2/MEX/3	15-Apr-2014 15-Apr-2014
PARAGUAY	G/LIC/N/2/PRY/2 G/LIC/N/2/PRY/3 G/LIC/N/2/PRY/3/Corr.1	29-Nov-2013 18-Feb-2014 12-Mar-2014
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	G/LIC/N/2/RUS/1	04-Aug-2014
SAUDI ARABIA, KINGDOM OF	G/LIC/N/2/SAU/1 G/LIC/N/2/SAU/1/Corr.1	10-Mar-2014 14-Mar-2014
UKRAINE	G/LIC/N/2/UKR/5	10-Dec-2013

**ANNEX III: NOTIFICATIONS REVIEWED DURING THE REVIEW PERIOD PURSUANT  
ARTICLE 7.3 OF THE AGREEMENT  
[From 5 OCTOBER 2013 TO 20 October 2014]**

MEMBER	DOCUMENT	DATE OF ISSUANCE OF THE DOCUMENT
ALBANIA	G/LIC/N/3/ALB/7	14-Apr-2014
AUSTRALIA	G/LIC/N/3/AUS/6	18-Dec-2013
BURKINA FASO	G/LIC/N/3/BFA/6	28-Jul-2014
CANADA	G/LIC/N/3/CAN/12	04-Apr-2014
CAMEROON	G/LIC/N/3/CMR/4	29-Nov-2013
CHINA	G/LIC/N/3/CHN/10 G/LIC/N/3/CHN/10/Corr.1 G/LIC/N/3/CHN/11 G/LIC/N/3/CHN/12	28-Feb-2014 11-Apr-2014 28-Feb-2014 28-Feb-2014
COSTA RICA	G/LIC/N/3/CRI/10 G/LIC/N/3/CRI/11	08-Oct-2013 03-Oct-2014
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	G/LIC/N/3/CIV/3	20-Nov-2013
CUBA	G/LIC/N/3/CUB/6	26-Sep-2014
EUROPEAN UNION	G/LIC/N/3/EU/2 G/LIC/N/3/EU/2/Add.1	09-Dec-2013 09-Dec-2013
THE GAMBIA	G/LIC/N/3/GMB/4	20-Jan-2014
GEORGIA	G/LIC/N/3/GEO/5	09-Dec-2013
HAITI	G/LIC/N/3/HTI/7	23-Sep-2014
HONDURAS	G/LIC/N/3/HND/8 G/LIC/N/3/HND/9	10-Dec-2013 12-Aug-2014
HONG KONG, CHINA	G/LIC/N/3/HKG/18	25-Sep-2014
INDIA	G/LIC/N/3/IND/14	03-Oct-2014
INDONESIA	G/LIC/N/3/IDN/5 G/LIC/N/3/IDN/6 G/LIC/N/3/IDN/7	26-Sep-2014 26-Sep-2014 26-Sep-2014
ISRAEL	G/LIC/N/3/ISR/3	09-Oct-2013
JAMAICA	G/LIC/N/3/JAM/4	07-Oct-2014
JAPAN	G/LIC/N/3/JPN/13	03-Oct-2014
KUWAIT, STATE OF	G/LIC/N/3/KWT/4	14-Feb-2014
LAO, PDR	G/LIC/N/3/LAO/1	11-Mar-2014
MACAO, CHINA	G/LIC/N/3/MAC/16 G/LIC/N/3/MAC/16/Corr.1 G/LIC/N/3/MAC/17	22-Oct-2013 20-Nov-2013 24-Sep-2014
THE FORMER YUG. REP. OF MACEDONIA	G/LIC/N/3/MKD/4	23-May-2014
MALAYSIA	G/LIC/N/3/MYS/8 G/LIC/N/3/MYS/9 G/LIC/N/3/MYS/9/Corr.1 G/LIC/N/3/MYS/9/Corr.2	24-Jan-2014 24-Jan-2014 10-Mar-2014 22-Jul-2014
MALI	G/LIC/N/3/MLI/5 G/LIC/N/3/MLI/6	10-Apr-2014 23-Sep-2014
MAURITIUS	G/LIC/N/3/MUS/4	26-Sep-2014
MEXICO	G/LIC/N/3/MEX/4	10-Oct-2013
NEW ZEALAND	G/LIC/N/3/NZL/4	07-Oct-2014

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MEMBER	DOCUMENT	DATE OF ISSUANCE OF THE DOCUMENT
NICARAGUA	G/LIC/N/3/NIC/6	30-Sep-2014
OMAN	G/LIC/N/3/OMN/7	26-May-2014
PANAMA	G/LIC/N/3/PAN/5	09-Sep-2014
PARAGUAY	G/LIC/N/3/PRY/2 G/LIC/N/3/PRY/3	29-Nov-2013 15-Apr-2014
PERU	G/LIC/N/3/PER/10	11-Jun-2014
PHILIPPINES	G/LIC/N/3/PHL/10	06-Feb-2014
QATAR	G/LIC/N/3/QAT/10	03-Apr-2014
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	G/LIC/N/3/RUS/1	06-May-2014
SEPARATE CUSTOMS TERRITORY OF TAIWAN, PENGHU, KINMEN AND MATSU	G/LIC/N/3/TPKM/5	01-Aug-2014
SRI LANKA	G/LIC/N/3/LKA/2	19-Feb-2014
SWITZERLAND	G/LIC/N/3/CHE/10	10-Oct-2014
TAJIKISTAN	G/LIC/N/3/TJK/1	06-Oct-2014
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	G/LIC/N/3/TTO/11 G/LIC/N/3/TTO/11/Corr.1	20-Jan-2014 24-Jan-2014
TURKEY	G/LIC/N/3/TUR/13	03-Feb-2014
UKRAINE	G/LIC/N/3/UKR/6 G/LIC/N/3/UKR/7	07-Oct-2013 28-Aug-2014
UNITED STATES	G/LIC/N/3/USA/11	30-Sep-2014
VIET NAM	G/LIC/N/3/VNM/2	26-Sep-2014

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