

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/L/836
9 November 2007

(07-4865)

REPORT (2007) 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/800), i.e. 30 October 2006 - 8 October 2007 (hereinafter "the review period"). During the review period, the Committee held two meetings on 2 April and 8 October 2007 (G/LIC/M/25 and G/LIC/M/26). At its meeting on 2 April 2007, the Committee took note of the nomination of Mr. Marco J. Kassaja (Tanzania) as Chairperson of the Committee for the current year and elected him by acclamation. At that meeting, the Committee elected as Vice-Chairperson for the current year, Mrs. Anna Ashikali (Cyprus). 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, 94 Members¹ have notified the Committee of their legislation and/or publications under these provisions. During the review period, the Committee received twelve notifications from the following nine Members: Armenia, Colombia, Costa Rica, India, Kuwait, Mauritius, Thailand, Tunisia and Turkey. 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. The Committee also received, pursuant to paragraphs 5.1-5.4 of Article 5, seven notifications relating to the institution of new import licensing procedures or changes in these procedures from four Members: Argentina, Costa Rica, India and Korea. These notifications may be found in document series G/LIC/N/2/. Since the entry into force of the WTO Agreement 27 Members¹ have submitted

¹ The European Communities and its member States counted as one Member.

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.

7. Article 7.3 of the Agreement requires all Members to provide replies to the Questionnaire on Import Licensing Procedures² by 30 September each year. Since the entry into force of the WTO Agreement, 89 Members¹ have made notifications under this provision. This includes replies to the Questionnaire from 11 Members in 1995, 22 Members in 1996, 25 Members¹ in 1997, 26 Members in 1998, 20 Members¹ in 1999, 32 Members¹ in 2000, 23 Members¹ in 2001, 41 Members¹ in 2002, 25 Members¹ in 2003, 21 Members¹ in 2004, 19 Members¹ in 2005, 38 Members¹ in 2006 and 33 Members¹ in 2007. During the review period, the Committee received 39 notifications from the following 33 Members: Argentina; Armenia; Bangladesh; Barbados; Brazil; Cameroon; Canada; Chile; China; Colombia; Costa Rica; Cote d'Ivoire; Dominica; European Communities; Gambia; Grenada; Haiti; Hong-Kong, China; India; Indonesia; Japan; Korea; Macao, China; Morocco; Nigeria; Peru; the Philippines; Qatar; Singapore; Thailand; Trinidad and Tobago; Tunisia and Turkey. These notifications may be found in document series G/LIC/N/3/-.

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/-³. During the review period, such comments and questions were submitted by Australia to Malaysia (G/LIC/Q/MYS/4), Mexico to Guatemala (G/LIC/Q/GTM/2), the United States to Argentina (G/LIC/Q/ARG/3), to Brazil (G/LIC/Q/BRA/3/Add.2 and Add. 3) and to Indonesia (G/LIC/Q/IDN/7/Add. 1 and Add.2). Responses were provided by Argentina to the United States (G/LIC/Q/ARG/4), by China to Australia (G/LIC/Q/CHN/20), by Guatemala to Mexico (G/LIC/Q/GTM/3), by India to the United States (G/LIC/Q/IND/10), by Indonesia to the United States (G/LIC/Q/IDN/8/Add. 1 and Add.2), by Malaysia to Australia (G/LIC/Q/MYS/5), and by the United States to China (G/LIC/Q/USA/2).

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 2 April and 8 October 2007, 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 8 October, the Committee conducted the sixth 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 Accession⁴, 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/26, paragraphs 3.1-3.7). The United States posed questions to China (G/LIC/Q/CHN/21). China submitted a communication containing information required by paragraph IV:3 of Annex 1A of the Protocol of Accession, circulated in document G/LIC/W/30. The report of the Committee to the Council for Trade in Goods on this review is contained in document G/LIC/17.

² Annexed to document G/LIC/3.

³ See understanding on Procedures for the Review of Notifications (G/LIC/4).

⁴ WT/L/432.

ANNEX

Notifications⁵

MEMBER ⁶	N/1 ⁷	DATE	N/2 ⁸	DATE	N/3 ⁹	DATE
ALBANIA			N/2/ALB/1	22.02.02	N/3/ALB/1	04.02.02
ANGOLA						
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	N/1/ATG/1	31.01.02			N/3/ATG/2	30.01.02
ARGENTINA	N/1/ARG/2	22.01.98	N/2/ARG/13	21.09.07	N/3/ARG/4	31.08.07
ARMENIA	N/1/ARM/4	24.09.07			N/3/ARM/4	21.09.07
AUSTRALIA	N/1/AUS/1/Add.1	22.05.97	N/2/AUS/1	14.06.04	N/3/AUS/2	23.10.06
BAHRAIN	N/1/BHR/1	13.06.97			N/3/BHR/1	15.09.00
BANGLADESH	N/1/BGD/2	01.04.05			N/3/BGD/4	05.10.07
BARBADOS	N/1//BRB/1	04.10.96			N/3/BRB/4	27.09.07
BELIZE						
BENIN	N/1/BEN/1	10.02.97				
BOLIVIA	N/1/BOL/1	16.06.97			N/3/BOL/3	29.06.00
BOTSWANA						
BRAZIL	N/1/BRA/3	18.10.06	N/2/BRA/3	18.10.06	N/3/BRA/6	88.10.07
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM					N/3/BRN/1	10.04.97
BURKINA FASO	N/1/BFA/1	10.02.97			N/3/BFA/1/A.1	18.12.00
BURUNDI	N/1/BUR/1	27.04.01			N/3/BUR/2	07.11.01
CAMBODIA						
CAMEROON	N/1/CMR/1	18.09.01			N/3/CMR/2	05.09.07
CANADA	N/1/CAN/1	16.02.96			N/3/CAN/6	08.10.07
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC						
CHAD	N/1/TCD/2	16.08.00			N/3/TCD/2	20.08.01
CHILE	N/1/CHL/1	31.07.06			N/3/CHL/3	27.09.07
CHINA	N/1/CHN/5	20.03.06			N/3/CHN/6	08.10.07
COLOMBIA	N/1/COL/2	08.10.07			N/3/COL/5	08.10.07
CONGO						
COSTA RICA	N/1/CRI/2	15.03.07	N/2/CRI/1	15.03.07	N/3/CRI/4	15.03.07
COTE D'IVOIRE	N/1/CIV/1	08.02.02			N/3/CIV/2	05.10.07
CROATIA	N/1/HRV/3	04.04.05			N/3/HRV/3	04.04.05
CUBA	N/1/CUB/1	24.01.96			N/3/CUB/2/Add.1	15.09.04
CONGO DEM. REP. OF THE	N/1/COD/1	19.10.06			N/3/COD/1	18.10.06
DJIBOUTI						
DOMINICA	N/1/DMA/1	22.02.01			N/3/DMA/2	06.12.06
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	N/1/DOM/1	04.05.04			N/3/DOM/2	04.05.04
EC COMMISSION	N/1/EEC/2/A.4	10.01.03	N/2/EEC/2	14.07.97	N/3/EEC/10/Add.1	26.09.07
ECUADOR	N/1/ECU/2	15.06.05			N/3/ECU/2	20.12.02
EGYPT						
EL SALVADOR	N/1/SLV/1	03.02.04				

⁵ The title "Date" refers to the date of issuance of the document.

⁶ The European Communities and its members States counted as one Member

⁷ Art. 1.4(a) and/or 8.2(b) publications and/or legislation (date of latest communication)

⁸ Article 5.1-5.4 – Ad hoc New import licensing procedures or changes (date of latest communication)

⁹ Article 7.3 – Annual Replies to Questionnaire (date of latest communication)

MEMBER ⁶	N/1 ⁷	DATE	N/2 ⁸	DATE	N/3 ⁹	DATE
REP. OF THE FIJI ISLANDS	N/1/FJI/1	03.09.97			N/3/FJI/1	16.04.97
FMR. YUGOSLAV REP. OF MACEDONIA	N/1/MKD/1	29.10.04				
GABON	N/1/GAB/2	13.03.02				
GAMBIA					N/3/GMB/2	27.09.07
GEORGIA	N/1/GEO/1	08.04.02			N/3/GEO/3	04.09.06
GHANA	N/1/GHA/1	21.04.04			N/3/GHA/3	21.04.04
GRENADA	N/1/GRD/1	10.04.02			N/3/GRD/2	25.09.07
GUATEMALA	N/1/GTM/2	28.01.00			N/3/GTM/3	18.10.06
GUINEA BISSAU						
GUINEA, REP.OF						
GUYANA	N/1/GUY/1	10.04.02			N/3/GUY/2	28.10.03
HAITI	N/1/HTI/2	27.10.06			N/3/HTI/4	21.09.07
HONDURAS	N/1/HND/1	03.12.96				
HONG KONG, CHINA	N/1/HKG/5	07.01.03	N/2/HKG/2	09.02.98	N/3/HKG/11	05.10.07
ICELAND	N/1/ISL/1	26.01.99			N/3/ISL/3	28.10.04
INDIA	N/1/IND/10	24.09.07	N/2/IND/9	24.09.07	N/3/IND/9	03.09.07
INDONESIA	N/1/IDN/1	02.11.98	N/2/IDN/1	22.04.03	N/3/IDN/3	27.11.06
ISRAEL	N/1 ISR/1	19.10.06	N/2 ISR/1	19.10.06	N/3 ISR/1	19.10.06
JAMAICA	N/1/JAM/1	11.07.96	N/2/JAM/1	01.10.03	N/3/JAM/2	06.10.06
JAPAN	N/1/JPN/2/R.1	26.02.97	N/2/JPN/3	27.04.01	N/3/JPN/5	05.09.07
JORDAN	N/1/JOR/2/A.1	03.09.03	N/2/JOR/2	10.06.05	N/3/JOR/1	11.12.00
KENYA	N/1/KEN/1	12.06.03			N/3/KEN/2/A.1	12.06.03
KOREA, REP. OF	N/1/KOR/3	14.04.98	N/2/KOR/1	12.01.07	N/3/KOR/6	27.09.07
KUWAIT	N/1/KWT/1	18.05.07				
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	N/1/KGZ/1	18.01.00			N/3/KGZ/2	09.10.06
LESOTHO						
LIECHTENSTEIN	N/1/LIE/2	26.10.00	N/2/LIE/2	26.10.00	N/3/LIE/4/A.1	14.04.03
MACAO, CHINA	N/1/MAC/2	03.02.04			N/3/MAC/10	27.09.07
MADAGASCAR	N/1/MDG/2	25.04.00			N/3/MDG/2	21.06.05
MALAWI	N/1/MWI/1	13.10.99			N/3/MWI/2	03.10.06
MALAYSIA			N/2/MYS/2	06.09.99	N/3/MYS/2	11.09.06
MALDIVES					N/3/MDV/1	15.04.02
MALI	N/1/MLI/1	27.08.01			N/3/MLI/2	27.08.01
MAURITANIA						
MAURITIUS	N/1/MUS/2	11.05.07			N/3/MUS/2	04.07.02
MEXICO	N/1/MEX/2	18.10.06			N/3/MEX/2	18.10.06
MOLDOVA	N/1/MDA/1	22.01.02			N/3MDA/1	08.02.02
MONGOLIA	N/1/MNG/1	27.04.01			N/3/MNG/1	12.06.03
MOROCCO	N/1/MAR/1/A.2	20.01.05			N/3/MAR/6	08.10.07
MOZAMBIQUE						
MYANMAR						
NAMIBIA	N/1/NAM/1	29.10.02			N/3/NAM/4	29.10.02
NEPAL						
NEW ZEALAND	N/1/NZL/1	22.08.96			N/3/NZL/1/A.1	06.04.98
NICARAGUA	N/1/NIC/1	05.08.96				
NIGER	N/1/NER/1	12.01.98				
NIGERIA	N/1/NGA/1	18.02.98	N/2/NGA/2	18.02.98	N/3/NGA/3	24.04.07
NORWAY	N/1/NOR/2	03.12.97			N/3/NOR/2/A.2	25.04.00

MEMBER ⁶	N/1 ⁷	DATE	N/2 ⁸	DATE	N/3 ⁹	DATE
OMAN	N/1/OMN/1	20.02.01			N/3/OMN/2	01.04.05
PAKISTAN	N/1/PAK/1	29.05.96	N/2/PAK/1	29.05.96		
PANAMA	N/1/PAN/2	16.11.98	N/2/PAN/1	18.08.98	N/3/PAN/2	04.03.04
PAPUA NEW GUINEA			N/2/PNG/1	17.02.98		
PARAGUAY	N/1/PRY/1	12.06.03				
PERU	N/1/PER/2/r.1	31.05.05			N/3/PER/5	21.09.07
PHILIPPINES	N/1/PHL/1	14.04.98			N/3/PHL/5	21.09.07
QATAR	N/1/QAT/1	02.04.98			N/3/QAT/4	08.10.07
RWANDA					N/3/RWA/1	20.07.06
ST. KITTS AND NEVIS	N/1/KNA/1	07.08.98				
ST. LUCIA	N/1/LCA/2	18.10.06	N/2/LCA/2	17.10.02	N/3/LCA/4	06.10.06
ST. VINCENT & GRENADINES						
SAUDI ARABIA					N/3/SAU/1	19.10.06
SENEGAL	N/1/SEN/1	23.10.02			N/3/SEN/2	23.10.02
SIERRA LEONE						
SINGAPORE	N/1/SGP/4	24.09.04	N/2/SGP/3	24.09.04	N/3/SGP/5	23.11.06
SOLOMON ISLANDS						
SOUTH AFRICA			N/2/ZAF/1	15.07.97	N/3/ZAF/4	17.09.02
SRI LANKA	N/1/LKA/1	20.05.03			N/3/LKA/1	27.05.03
SURINAME	N/1/SUR/1	15.12.03				
SWAZILAND	N/1/SWZ/1	04.10.96				
SWITZERLAND	N/1/CHE/2	26.09.00	N/2/CHE/2	26.09.00	N/3/CHE/4/A.1	14.04.03
TAIPEI, CHINESE	N/1/TPKM/6	20.12.04	N/2/TPKM/4	20.12.04	N/3/TPKM/2	30.07.04
TANZANIA						
THAILAND	N/1/THA/1	27.09.07			N/3/THA/1	22.03.07
TOGO	N/1/TGO/1	12.06.03			N/3/TGO/1	12.06.03
TONGA						
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	N/1/TTO/1	10.11.98			N/3/TTO/6	19.07.07
TUNISIA	N/1/TUN/2	14.02.07			N/3/TUN/5	05.10.07
TURKEY	N/1/TUR/6	18.09.07			N/3/TUR/7	18.09.07
UGANDA	N/1/UGA/1	03.10.96			N/3/UGA/1/A.2	07.10.05
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	N/1/ARE/1	18.04.97			N/3/ARE/	25.04.00
UNITED STATES	N/1/USA/3	24.04.06	N/2/USA/2	21.06.05	N/3/USA/4	25.06.06
URUGUAY	N/1/URY/3	25.09.01			N/3/URY/3	27.07.05
VENEZUELA, BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF	N/1/VEN/1	25.10.02	N/2/VEN/5	20.05.03	N/3/VEN/1	27.05.02
VIET NAM						
ZAMBIA	N/1/ZMB/2	18.02.04			N/3/ZMB/2	18.02.04
ZIMBABWE	N/1/ZWE/2	28.09.98			N/3/ZWE/1/A.2	16.03.01
TOTAL:	124	94		27		89