

REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE ON IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES¹

Notification under Article 7.3 of the Agreement
on Import Licensing Procedures

EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Addendum

Import Licensing Procedures for WTO Tariff Quotas
for Broken Rice

Outline of system

1. The object of the import licensing system is to ensure a sound administration of the EC's WTO tariff rate quota for 1,000 tonnes of broken rice of tariff heading 1006 40 00, intended for the production of foodstuffs of tariff heading 1901 10. The relevant legislation related to the import licensing system for this tariff quota is mentioned in reply 5. As regards the requirements for applicants for import licences see reply 6.

Purpose and coverage of licensing

2. See reply 1.

3. The system applies in the European Community to the product mentioned in reply 1 originating in third countries.

4. See reply 1. As referred to in reply 1, the licensing system covers the relevant WTO tariff quota. The EC considers the method adopted to be the most appropriate to administer this tariff rate quota.

5. The relevant legislation for the administration of import licences for the tariff quota mentioned in reply 1 is:

Commission Regulation (EC) No 2058/96 of 28 October 1996 (OJ L 276).

The licensing is statutorily required. The legislation does not leave designation of products to be subjected to licensing to administrative discretion. The system cannot be abolished without legislative approval.

¹ See G/LIC/3, Annex, for the Questionnaire.

Procedures

6. Answer to questions 6.I to VIII and to 6. XI. Questions 6.IX and X are not relevant.

The information related to the allocation of the quota and the formalities for licence application is published in the Official Journal of the European Communities (see reply 5). There is no derogation from the licensing requirement.

The tariff quota is an annual tariff quota.

Applications for import licences have to be accompanied by the proof that the applicant is a natural or legal person who has carried out a commercial activity in the rice sector for at least 12 months and who is registered in the Member State in which the application is submitted. On the day on which licence applications are lodged, the competent authorities in the Member States have to inform the Commission on the applications submitted. Import licences are issued on the 11th working day following that on which the application was lodged provided that the quantities applied for do not exceed the tariff quota volume. If the quantities in respect of which licences have been applied for exceed the quantities available, the Commission shall fix a single percentage of acceptance for the quantities applied for and notify this to the competent authorities in the Member States.

Imports are only known to the competent authority in the Member States to which the import licence application has been submitted and to the Commission.

The applicant for an import licence must approach only one administrative organ.

7. Question 7 is not relevant in the present case.

8. The application for an import licence can only be refused if the relevant criteria are not fulfilled. Applicants can appeal to courts in the Member States according to the legislation in force in the respective Member States.

Eligibility of importers to apply for licence

9. See reply 6. Applicant must be entered in a VAT register and there is no registration fee.

Documentational and other requirements for application for licence

10. A specimen of the import licence is set out at Annex XI to the Community's general Article 7.3 notification for 1999 (G/LIC/N/3/EEC/2). Regarding the information required, see the import licence and Commission Regulation (EC) No 2058/96 of 28.10.96 (published in OJ L 276, page 7).

11. The import licence, and on entry into free circulation, a written undertaking that all the goods entered will be processed within six months of the date of acceptance of the entry for free circulation.

12. No.

13. The issuance of import licence is subject to a security in order to guarantee that the imported broken rice will be processed into the product indicated in the import licence. Where rice entered for free circulation has not been processed within the specified time limit the security released is reduced by two per cent for each of the days by which the time limit is exceeded.

Conditions of licensing

14. Import licences are valid until the end of the third months following that of issue and the period of validity cannot be extended.

15. See reply 13.

16. Import licences are not transferable.

17. No.

Other procedural requirements

18. No.

19. Not relevant.
