

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

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Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions

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NOTIFICATION UNDER PARAGRAPH 9 OF THE UNDERSTANDING ON
THE BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS PROVISIONS OF THE
GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE 1994

Poland - Lowering of the Import Surcharge¹

The following communication, dated 10 January 1996, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Poland.

With reference to, and in the implementation of the commitment made on behalf of the Government of Poland, as reflected in the Report on the Consultation under Article XII:4(b) with the Republic of Poland, held on 29 and 30 June 1995 (BOP/R/228), the Government of Poland wishes to notify the following:

The import surcharge, established by Poland in December 1992 under the balance-of-payments provisions of Article XII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, has been lowered from 5 per cent to 3 per cent, effective as of 1 January 1996, and has been in application at this level since that date.²

The surcharge is no longer applied to most categories of medical equipment falling under HS codes 8419, 8421, 8543, 9010, 9018, 9019, 9021, 9022 and 9027 specified in detail in the Ordinance of the Minister of Finance of 21 November 1995 (Official Gazette No. 61, item 685). This exemption, granted to public health service utilities which benefit from import tax exemptions, has been motivated by the essential nature of such products, in conformity with the provisions of paragraph 4 of the Understanding on the Balance-of-Payments Provisions of the GATT 1994. Other terms of the application of the surcharge, including in particular its coverage in respect of products and sources of importation, have remained unchanged.

¹The notifications on the introduction and extension of the surcharge are contained in GATT document L/7461 and Add.1.

²The surcharge was subject to consultation in the Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions (BOP/R/206, Corr.1, BOP/R/216 and BOP/R/228).