

Hereby agree as follows:

Article 1

General provisions

1. For the purpose of this Agreement, import licensing is defined as administrative procedures¹ used for the operation of import licensing regimes requiring the submission of an application or other documentation (other than that required for customs purposes) to the relevant administrative body as a prior condition for importation into the customs territory of the importing country.
2. The Parties shall ensure that the administrative procedures used to implement import licensing regimes are in conformity with the relevant provisions of the GATT including its annexes and protocols, as interpreted by this Agreement, with a view to preventing trade distortions that may arise from an inappropriate operation of those procedures, taking into account the economic development purposes and financial and trade needs of developing countries.
3. The rules for import licensing procedures shall be neutral in application and administered in a fair and equitable manner.
4. The rules and all information concerning procedures for the submission of applications, including the eligibility of persons, firms and institutions to make such applications, and the lists of products subject to the licensing requirement shall be published promptly in such a manner as to enable governments and traders to become acquainted with them. Any changes in either the rules concerning licensing procedures or the list of products subject to import licensing shall also be promptly published in the same manner. Copies of these publications shall also be made available to the GATT Secretariat.
5. Application forms and, where applicable, renewal forms shall be as simple as possible. Such documents and information as are considered strictly necessary for the proper functioning of the licensing regime may be required on application.

¹ Those procedures referred to as "licensing" as well as other similar administrative procedures.