

of consular fees and customs clearance will be carried out at the port of entry.

ii) Pre-shipment Inspection

The "Clean Report of Findings" by SGS Control Services Inc. must be presented to banking entities in Ecuador or payment for the imports concerned will not be permitted. This document may also be required to clear goods through customs. Additional copies of shipping documents, as well as supporting documentation, will be required by the pre-shipment inspector and by the importer and his or her bank. Follow their instructions in this matter.

iii) Import Controls

With few exceptions, all permitted imports into Ecuador must be covered by import licences obtained prior to shipment. Exceptions include medicines, spare parts for machinery and automobiles (when valued less than US \$500), books, newspapers, periodicals and printed and recorded music. Duties would still be applicable.

Permitted imports into Ecuador fall into one of four lists: LIST I is a special list covering basic foodstuffs, medicines and other high priority items; LIST I-A covers other essential items; LIST I-B covers semi-essential products; and LIST II covers luxury items or commodities produced locally.

The Monetary Board is authorized to shift items from one list to another, to establish and rescind import prohibitions when the country's economic situation and balance of payments so require.

Import licences are obtained from the exchange department of the Central Bank and are usually valid for 180 days. Securing an import licence normally takes a short time and if the required levies, deposits, etc., have been paid, there is seldom difficulty obtaining one.

iv) Tariffs and Import Taxes

Ecuador uses the NABANDINA tariff nomenclature (based on the Customs Co-operating Council Nomenclature) adopted by ANCOM. Dutiable value is C&F value.