

TRANSITIONAL REVIEW MECHANISM¹

Communication from the People's Republic of China

The following communication, dated 20 October 2006, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of the People's Republic of China.

Information required by Annex 1A of the Protocol of Accession

IV. POLICIES AFFECTING TRADE IN GOODS

3. Import licensing (to be notified to the Committee on Import Licensing)

(a) implementation of the provisions of the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures and the WTO Agreement applying the measures set out in Section 8 of the Protocol including provision of the time taken to grant an import licence

After five years since China's accession into the WTO, China has fulfilled all its accession commitments. At present, import licensing procedures maintained by China, i.e. import license administration, automatic import licensing and tariff rate quota administration, are consistent with WTO rules.

Since the last transitional review in 2005, no major change has occurred to the import licensing regime of China. On 10 and 27 December 2005, the Ministry of Commerce and the General Administration of Customs jointly promulgated *the Catalogue of Goods Subject to Automatic Import Licensing of 2006* and *the Catalogue of Goods Subject to Import License Administration*, respectively in form of *MOFCOM and GAC Announcement No.101 and No.90 of 2005*. These two catalogues list all the products subject to import licensing procedures except for those under Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) administration.

As for commodities under TRQ administration, pursuant to China's accession commitment, MOFCOM published on 7 December 2005, *MOFCOM Announcement No. 93 of 2005*, which stipulated that tariff rate quota administration on vegetable oil (palm oil, rape seed oil and soybean oil) would be abolished on 1 Jan 2006 while automatic import licensing would apply to them. As for other products subject to tariff rate quota administration, there have been no changes to the administration methods since last year.

Hereinbefore, the context gives a brief description of changes to the legislation framework on administration of import licensing procedures of China in 2006. All the laws, regulations, decrees and announcements mentioned above can be found in *China Foreign Trade and Economic*

¹ Pursuant to Paragraph 18 of the Protocol on the Accession of the People's Republic of China (WT/L/432).

Cooperation Gazette and can also be obtained at the website of MOFCOM (WWW.MOFCOM.GOV.CN). In addition to reply to the annual questionnaire pursuant to Article 7.3 of *the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures*, we will update the information relating to laws and regulations about China's import licensing procedures pursuant notification obligations under *the Agreement*.
