

TRANSITIONAL REVIEW MECHANISM¹

Communication from the People's Republic of China

The following communication, dated 5 October 2007, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the People's Republic of China.

Information required by Annex 1A of the Protocol on the Accession of China

IV. POLICIES AFFECTING TRADE IN GOODS

3. 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

China has honoured all its accession commitments since accession into the WTO 6 years ago. 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 14 December 2006, the Ministry of Commerce and the General Administration of Customs jointly promulgated *the Catalogue of Goods Subject to Automatic Import Licensing of 2007* and *the Catalogue of Goods subject to Import License Administration of 2007*, respectively in form of *MOFCOM and GAC Announcement No.113 and No.99 of 2006*. *The Catalogue of Goods Subject to Automatic Import Licensing of 2007* was further revised by *MOFCOM and GAC Announcement No.14 and No.43 of 2007* promulgated on 10 March and 20 May 2007, where automatic import licensing on a large number of products was abolished and free import was applied. 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, there have been no changes to the administration methods since last year.

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

Hereinbefore, the context gives a brief description of changes to the legislation framework on administration of import licensing procedures of China in 2007. All the laws, regulations, decrees and announcements mentioned above can be found in *China Foreign Trade and Economic 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*.
