

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/AG/N/VEN/6

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(97-2627)

Committee on Agriculture

Original: Spanish

NOTIFICATION

The following notification concerning the administration of tariff quotas (Table MA:1) for 1997 was received from the delegation of Venezuela on 18 June 1997.

MARKET ACCESS: Venezuela

REPORTING PERIOD: 1997

Implementation of Market Access Opportunities: Tariff and Other Quota Commitments

Table MA:1

Description of products	Tariff item number(s) encompassed in product description	Description of import arrangement applicable
(from Section I-B (or I-A) of Part I of the Schedule)	(from Section I-B (or I-A) of Part I of the Schedule)	
1	2	3
Yellow maize (corn)	10059011	(a) Not applicable
Sorghum	10070090	
		(b) Allocation of licences or of access to quotas to importers:
		(i) Government agency competent to grant licences: the Ministry of Agriculture is the government body competent to grant licences after receiving a favourable opinion from the Interministerial Commission set up under Decree No. 988 of 29 June 1990, comprising the Ministries of Finance, Industry and Trade, and Agriculture.
		(ii) Limitations on eligibility of applicants: yellow maize (corn) and sorghum quotas are distributed by means of import licences as follows: 90 per cent to applicant firms that have carried out imports over the last two years; and the remaining 10 per cent among firms entering the market for the first time or which are occasional importers. They must also have fulfilled the following requirements:
		(a) Traditional imports:
		(1) Fill out the import licence application form issued by the Sectoral Directorate-General for Agricultural Marketing;
		(2) certificate of registration as a traditional importer issued by the Autonomous Agricultural Health Service (SASA) of the Ministry of Agriculture;
		(3) information on domestic maize and sorghum purchases, production over the last two years and production plan for 1997, broken down by product line, both for producers of balanced animal feeds and for producers of maize-based foods for human consumption;
		(4) marketing plan indicating the user-purchaser (for marketing firms);
		(5) data on volume of imports carried out over the last two years supported by customs declarations (Form A and B), indicating the purchaser in the case of marketing firms.

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(b) New importers: must fulfil the above requirements, except as regards the volume of imports.

Importers must submit the foregoing together with the import licence application to the Sectoral Directorate-General of Agricultural Marketing, located at Torre Este, Piso 19, Parque Central (correspondence section). In order to withdraw their import licences, importers must submit to the Sectoral Directorate-General of Agricultural Marketing a certificate or authorization on official company paper, with the original duly stamped and signed with the name of the person authorized to withdraw the licence, and a fiscal stamp for 15,000 Bolívars (Article 10, paragraph 4, of the Fiscal Stamp Law).

- (iii) How licences are allocated: Licences are allocated to importers who meet the above-mentioned requirements.
- (iv) Limitations on the period of validity or use of the licences granted: Import licences are valid for three months without possibility of extension. If owing to circumstance or *force majeure* they cannot carry out the imports within the period of validity allowed, beneficiaries must notify the Ministry of Agriculture for consideration of a new licence.

(c) Does not apply.

(d) Other information relevant to the implementation of market access opportunities: For the purposes of quota distribution, the total quantity is considered to be the sum of the partial quantities of the quotas for the above-mentioned products, which may be used indiscriminately by importers.

Finally, it is important to emphasize that this measure is valid for 180 days from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette, No. 36,142 (6 February 1997), and may be extended for a similar period by decision of the Interministerial Commission.