

**REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE ON IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES<sup>1</sup>**

Notification under Article 7.3 of the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures

ARMENIA

The following communication, dated 24 November 2003, has been received from the delegation of Armenia.

Outline of system

1. Imports of botanical collections and separate samples, as well as wild animals, zoological collections and separate samples are regulated by Government Decree No. 1173 of 18 July 2002 "On Order of Export from and Import to the Republic of Armenia of Botanical Collections and Separate Samples" and Government Decree No. 1174 of 18 July 2002 "On Order of Export from and Import to the Republic of Armenia of Wild Animals, Zoological Collections and Separate Samples".

Purposes and coverage of licensing

2. The permits shall be given for imports of:
  - (a) Botanical collections and separate samples,
  - (b) Wild animals, zoological collections and separate samples.
3. The system applies to goods originating in and coming from all countries.
4. The system is aimed to protect, preserve and effectively utilize biodiversity of the Republic of Armenia, ensure the protection of biosafety of natural ecosystems as well as peculiar and diverse gene pools, composing the national wealth of the Republic of Armenia.
5. Imports of botanical collections and separate samples, as well as wild animals, zoological collections and separate samples are regulated by Government Decree No. 1173 of 18 July 2002 "On Order of Export from and Import to the Republic of Armenia of Botanical Collections and Separate Samples", published in Official Bulletin No. 36 of 28 August, 2002, Government Decree No. 1174 of 18 July 2002 "On Order of Export from and Import to the Republic of Armenia of Wild Animals, Zoological Collections and Separate Samples", published in Official Bulletin No. 36 of 28 August 2002, Law "On Fauna", Law "On Flora" of the Republic of Armenia, Convention on Biodiversity and Protocol on Biosafety attached to Convention on Biodiversity. Permits for imports of botanical collections and separate samples, wild animals, zoological collections and separate samples are issued

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<sup>1</sup> See document G/LIC/3, Annex, for the Questionnaire.

by the Ministry of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia. The system could not be abolished without legislative approval.

#### Procedures

6. No quantitative restrictions.
7. Where there is no quantitative limit on importation of a product or on imports from a particular country:
  - (a) The application for permit may be submitted to the Ministry of Nature Protection at any time. Beginning from the date of submission of all necessary documents by the applicant, at a stated period, which must not exceed 10 days, the Ministry of Nature Protection processes the application for permit and makes appropriate decision.
  - (b) There are no circumstances under which the permit can be granted immediately on request.
  - (c) There are no limitations as to the period of the year during which application for permit and /or importation may be made. The application for permit may be submitted to the Ministry of Nature Protection at any time.
  - (d) Only the Ministry of Nature Protection processes the application for a permit and the importer has to apply only to the Ministry of Nature Protection.
8. The application for permit shall be dismissed if:
  - (a) The applicant failed to submit the required documents or the submitted information is false.
  - (b) The wild animals or wild plants mentioned in application are registered in importing countries as well as in International Red Books as rare and endangered species.

The reasons for dismissal are given to the applicant in written form.

Decision on dismissal of an application may be appealed according to judicial procedures or may be appealed to higher authorities.

#### Eligibility of importers to apply for licence

9. All legal and natural persons are eligible to apply for permit.

#### Documentational and other requirements for application for licence

10. The application for permit<sup>2</sup> should specify the name and address of legal or natural person, the name and type as well as the quantity and weight of wild animal or wild plant, the place and time of acquisition, the place and purpose of exportation or importation.
11. Only the permit for import, given by the Ministry of Nature Protection, is required upon actual importation.
12. There is no licensing fee or administrative charge.

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<sup>2</sup> Available for consultation in the Secretariat (Market Access Division) (in English only).

13. There is no deposit or advance payment requirement associated with the issuance of permit.

Conditions of licensing

14. Permit is a non-recurrent document, issued for a period of time needed for import of respective plant, animal or collection. The validity of a permit cannot be extended, therefore the natural or legal person shall apply for a new permit in accordance with procedures prescribed by Government Decree No. 1174 and Government Decree No. 1173.

15. There is no penalty for the non-utilization of permit or a portion of it.

16. Permits are not transferable between importers.

17. There are no other conditions attached to the issuance of permit.

18. There are no other administrative procedures, required prior to importation.

19. Not applicable.
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