



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2016/SOM2/CTI/006

Agenda Item: 6.1

Workshop on Import and Export Licensing Regimes - Agenda

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: New Zealand, Singapore



**Second Committee on Trade and Investment
Meeting
Arequipa, Peru
10-11 May 2016**

APEC Workshop on Import Licenses

Wednesday 1 June 2016
APEC Secretariat, Singapore

DAY 1	
8.30 - 9.00	Arrival/Registration/Coffee
9:00 am – 9:15 am	Welcome Remarks New Zealand APEC Deputy Senior Official, Wendy Matthews
9.15 am – 9.30 am	Import Licensing Workshop– APEC’s NTM themes Speaker: CTI Chair Lyn Aquia
Session 1 9.30 am – 10.20 am	Economic and policy rationale for import licensing regimes and policy alternatives <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">Speakers: Dr David Morfesi, Research Fellow, University of South Australia New Zealand Government Speaker (TBC)</div> <p>Import licensing can be defined as administrative procedures requiring the submission of an application or other documentation (other than those required for customs purposes) to the relevant administrative body as a prior condition for importation of goods. Economies may consider implementing an import licensing regime for a variety of reasons, such as to collect statistics or factual information about imports, to assess the balance of payments situation, to implement quantitative restrictions on imports, or the protection of domestic industry. This session examines the economic and policy rationales for import licensing regimes, notes how these differing rationales could impact the design of import licensing regimes and presents policy alternatives that could be considered instead of import licenses.</p> <p>Economist and government policy perspective (20 mins per speaker)</p> <p>Discussion (Questions & Answers) (10 mins)</p>
10.25 am – 10.40 am	Coffee Break

<p>Session 2</p> <p>10.40 am – 11.45 am</p>	<p>Legal Frameworks: Relevant rules</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Speakers: Ms Carrie I-Jen Wu, Chair of the WTO Import Licensing Committee</p> <p>Speaker 2 TBC</p> </div> <p>A number of WTO Agreements contain provisions that apply to the design and operation of import and/or export licensing regimes. The main aim of this session is to make participants aware of the relevant WTO rules in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the Agreement on Agriculture, and the Import Licensing Agreement. The session will also outline the role of the WTO Committee on Import Licenses and notification obligations and FTA rules that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WTO rules relevant to the design and operation of import and export licences, including GATT, Agreement on Agriculture, Import Licensing Agreement • Role of the WTO Committee on Import Licenses and notification obligations • APEC Economy speaker on how import licences have been addressed in FTAs/RTAs <p>25 minutes per speaker followed by Questions & Answers for 15 minutes</p>
<p>11.45 am – 1.00 pm</p>	<p>Lunch</p>
<p>Session 3</p> <p>1.00 pm – 1.45 pm</p>	<p>Export Licenses: Relevant rules, economic and policy rationale, and policy alternatives</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Speaker: Deputy Director Mary Chelliah, former CTI Chair</p> </div> <p>Discussion (Questions & Answers) (10 minutes)</p>
<p>Session 4</p> <p>1.45 pm – 2.30 pm</p>	<p>SME/Business Perspectives</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Speakers: Clara Reyes Lopus, President of Marigold Manufacturing Corporation</p> <p>Speaker 2 TBC</p> </div> <p>Import and export licensing regimes may have impacts upon businesses, particularly SMEs, that are unforeseen when the regimes are implemented. Speakers from APEC businesses will talk about the impact import and export licensing regimes have on their businesses.</p>

	<p>2 Speakers representing business/SMEs in APEC region (15 mins each)</p> <p>Discussion (Questions & Answers) (10-15 minutes)</p>
2.30 pm – 3.00 pm	Coffee Break
<p>Session 5</p> <p>3.00 pm – 4.15 pm</p>	<p>Best Practices: Designing and administering import licensing regimes in a least-trade restrictive manner</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> <p>SPEAKERS TBC:</p> <p>2 speakers from APEC economies</p> <p>1 speaker from NGO/Academic sectors</p> </div> <p>It will be clear from the morning sessions that economies opting to use import licensing have choices to make on design and administration that can increase or decrease the impact on trade and costs to business/consumers. This session will involve presentations on import and export licensing regimes in place in the APEC region, answering the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Brief overview of regime:</i> products affected, policy reason(s) for implementing regime, how long regime has been in place, is regime automatic or non-automatic, which ministry/department is responsible for administration, is an application fee charged • <i>Statistics:</i> how many applications are received annually, percentage of licences granted to new vs incumbent applicants, how long on average does it take between receipt of the application and issuance of the licence, how long are licences valid for, how much is spent annually on administering the licensing regime, how many people are employed to administer the licensing regime • <i>Neutral, fair and equitable application:</i> How does your economy ensure that applicants are treated fairly and equitably? How does your economy ensure that there is no discrimination between foreign and domestic applicants? How is the impact on SMEs considered in the design/administration of the regime? • <i>Simple procedures:</i> How is the principle of simplicity reflected in the regime? How is technology used in the licensing regime? (e.g. web-based application platforms, electronic submission of documents, communication by email with applicants) • <i>Transparency:</i> How are businesses made aware of licensing requirements? • <i>Review:</i> How is the continuing need for the licensing regime reviewed to ensure that unnecessary requirements are not perpetuated?

	<p>[3 speakers from APEC PSU/PECC/APEC governments, 20 mins per speaker]</p> <p>Discussion (Questions & Answers) (10 minutes)</p>
<p>Session 6</p> <p>4.15 pm -5.30 pm</p>	<p>Interactive session: moderated panel discussion or regulator round table</p> <p>Panel Members:</p> <p>Carrie I-Jen Wu, Chair of the WTO Import Licensing Committee</p> <p>Others TBC</p> <p>In this session, we will invite a panel of speakers to the podium to offer their thoughts about the issues raised during the workshop, and answer questions from the moderator. Workshop participants will also have the opportunity to give their impressions and ask questions. The aim will be to compile a set of recommendations for reducing the impact of import licenses on trade.</p> <p>[Questions for discussion around continued economic/policy rationale for import and export licences; are review mechanisms in place to reconsider need for import and export licensing regimes; what changes could be made in your economies to decrease impact on SMEs/trade]</p> <p>Discussion (Questions & Answers) (10 minutes)</p>
<p>5.30 pm – 5.50 pm</p>	<p>Wrap- up and evaluations</p>