

Annex A. Trade restrictive measures: examples of recent administrative decisions in Viet Nam

Price controls implemented from 1 October 2010 on a range of products including infant milk powder:

- all wholesalers and retailers of listed products must register prices;
- conditions that could prompt state intervention are broad and ill-defined.

Ban on trade in frozen animal and poultry offals effective from 14 July 2010:

- No consultation on the ban nor notification to trading partners unable to advise exporters against shipping affected product.

“Automatic” import licensing (Circular 24) extended with broad coverage, including key export items *e.g.* meat, seafood, wine:

- difficulties in submitting documentation (only through mail); processing (*e.g.* applications rejected due to typos); backlogs at ports (delays extending beyond prescribed seven-day period).

List of “non-essential import items and consumer goods” issued by MOT on 16 April 2010:

- includes 1 500 tariff lines; some also subject to Circular 24;
- has the effect of preventing importers accessing foreign exchange through official channels.

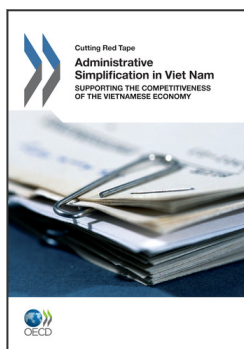
Changes to regulations on food hygiene and safety control for meat products introduced by Circular 25 (which had been notified to the WTO but not for comment):

- most major trading partners face difficulties complying; require information from individual producers in exporting countries; approval by their quarantine agency and then approval by Vietnamese authorities.

Similarly burdensome regulations are being drafted for products of plant origin such as fruits, vegetables (the drafting is being notified to WTO – however no English text has been distributed for comments by trade partners).

Certificate of Free Sale to accompany certain imported goods, notably food:

- guidelines to assist authorities in implementation have yet to be issued despite entry into force on 1 May 2010;
- required information can be found in existing import documentation.



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