



AN OUTLINE OF VIETNAM IMPORT-EXPORT POLICY IN 1995

On Dec 10, 1994, the Prime Minister issued Decision No 752/TTg and other documents on policy and mechanism for controlling exportation and importation in 1995. Implementing this Decision, the Ministry of Trade has issued some guidelines and the latest one was the Circular No 07/TM-XNK dated March, 15, 1995 directing the implementation of commodity policy and import-export control in 1995. The following are main problems resolved by the said circular.

I. LIST OF COMMODITIES BANNED FROM EXPORTING AND IMPORTING

According to the Circular No 96/TM-XNK dated Feb 14, 1995 and Official letter No 3229/TM-XNK dated March 14, 1995 of the Ministry of Trade (these documents came into effect since April 1, 1995), commodities banned from exporting and importing are:

1. **Commodities banned from exporting**
 - Weapon, ammunition, explosive, military equipment.
 - Antiques.
 - Narcotics.

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- Poisonous chemicals
- Timber, plank, unfinished wooden objects, rattan as raw materials.

- Wild animals, scarce and precious plants and animals.

2. **Commodities banned from importing**

- Weapon, ammunition, explosive, military equipment.
- Narcotics
- Poisonous chemicals.
- Bad and reactionary publications.

- Firecrackers of all kinds, toys having bad effects on development of children's personality and on security.

- Cigarettes (excluding permitted amount in tourists' luggage)

- Used commodities (excluding under-12-vehicles cars, motorbikes, movable property, permitted amount in personal luggage).

- Car and vehicle with right-hand steering wheel along with their spare parts.

II. **EXPORTED GOODS CONTROLLED BY QUOTAS**

In 1995, only textiles and garments exported under agreements be-

tween Vietnam and the EU, Canada and Norway are controlled by quotas. This control is subject to the inter-ministerial circular of the ministries of Trade and of Light Industry No 14/TB-LB dated Nov 15, 1995.

Textiles and garments exported to other markets (except the EU, Canada and Norway) are encouraged and not under control of quotas.

III. **EXPORTED AND IMPORTED GOODS CONTROLLED BY ORIENTATION PLAN**

Unlike 1994, oriented exports reduced from 3 to 1 item, and oriented imports from 15 to 7 items. They are:

1. Oriented exports: rice
2. Oriented imports: oil, fertilizer, steel and iron, black cement, sugar, under-12-seat vehicle, motor-bike.

The importation and exportation of the said goods are regulated by the following documents:

a. **Rice:** According to inter-ministerial circular of the Ministries of Trade, Agriculture and Food Industry No 02/TTLB-TM dated Feb 6, 1995, the planned exportation of rice is 2 million tonnes, for the time being, licences to exporters are issued up to 1.6 million tonnes. In 1995, the following exporters are issued licences: Vinafood 2 (the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry), Food Vinh Long, Angifood An Giang, Imex Trà Vinh, HCMC Food Company, Imex Vinh Long, Afex An Giang, Mekofood Sóc Trăng, Dagrimex Đồng Tháp, Vinafood 1 (of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry), HCMC Phuthexim, Tigifood Tiền Giang, Food Long An, HCMC Tamexco, HCMC Imexco, Unimex Thái Bình.

b. **Oil (lubricant excluded):** according to the guideline No 16007/TM-KH of the Ministry of Trade dated Dec 30, 1994, 4.8 million tonnes will be imported this year, 4.5 of which are licenced.

c. **Fertilizer:** according to inter-ministerial circular of the ministries of Trade and of Agriculture and Food Industry No 04/TTLB/NN-TM dated Feb 10, 1995, 1.3 million tonnes will be imported. Licences were given in the first months of 1995 to twenty-six exporters: Vigecam (Vietnam Agricultural Materials Company), Import-Export Company I of the Ministry of Trade, Hà Anh General Materials Company (Hà Nội), Hải Phòng Import-Export-Service and Trading Company (Tradimexco), Thanh Hóa Import Company, Thái Bình Import-Export Company, Vietnam Food Import-Export Company III (Vinafood III) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, Import-Export Company III of the Ministry of Trade, Phú Yên Agricultural Materials Company

(Tamco), Quảng Nam-Đà Nẵng Agricultural Materials (Amexco), Vietnam Food Import-Export Company II (Vinafood II) of the Ministry of Agricultural and Food Industry, Grain Export-Import and Investment for Agricultural Development Company (Grainco) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, Export-Import and Packing Company of the Ministry of Trade (Packsimex), HCMC Agricultural Product Export-Import Company (Agrimexco), An Giang Agricultural Export-Import Company, Bà Rịa-Vũng Tàu Agricultural Product and Handicraft Export-Import Company, Cần Thơ Agricultural Material Company, Đồng Tháp Food and Agricultural Material Export-Import Company (Dagrimex), Long An Food Company, Giá Rai Export-Import Company (Girimex) of Minh Hải province, Vinh Long Food Company, Sóc Trăng Trading Company, Tây Ninh Forestry Company (Tanifo), Tiền Giang Food Company, Trà Vinh Export-Import Company, Long An Export-Import-Trading Company Ltd. (Ladfecco).

d. Steel: according to the official letter of the State Planning Committee No 603/UB-TMDV dated Feb 28,1995 and the official letter No 452/KH of the Ministry of Heavy Industry dated March 8,1995, it was planned to import 600,000 tonnes, 70% of which will be imported by the Vietnam Steel Corporation of the Ministry of Heavy Industry, and 30% by 18 other importers.

e. Cement: according to the interministerial circular of the ministries of Trade and of Construction No 1971/LB/TM dated Feb 28,1995, it was planned to import 2.2 million tonnes of black cement including 1 million tonnes of clinker. Two million tonnes have been licenced to import.

f. Sugar: Around 70,000 tonnes will be imported in 1995. Brown sugar will be imported by sugar factories, and refined sugar by central and local businesses in response to market demand.

g. Under-12-seat vehicle: according to official letter of the Ministry of Trade No 2404/TM-XNK dated Feb 28,1995, 6,500 vehicles will be imported (1,500 to 2,000 ones will be assembled in Vietnam). Licences have been given.

h. Motorbike: Importation of motorbike will be carried out according to the official letter No 2532/TM-XNK of the Ministry of Trade dated March 1,1995, and importation of spare parts for motorbike is regulated by the official letter No 2403/TM-XNK dated Feb 28,1995 of the Ministry of Trade. We planned to import

350,000 motorbikes, 180,000 of which will be assembled in Vietnam, 170,000 will be imported directly. Licences were given at the year's beginning in order to help businesses to make their plans more easily.

IV. EXPORTS AND IMPORTS UNDER DIRECTION OF GOVERNMENTAL BODIES

In 1995, there's no change in governmental bodies who control exports and imports. The following are detailed assignment:

- The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry controls importation of live animals and plants used for breeding; botanical and veterinary medicines.

- The Ministry of Health controls importation of medicines used for human being.

- The Ministry of Heavy Industry controls exportation of minerals and and salvage of ferrous and non-ferrous metals.

- The Ministry of Culture and Information controls importation and exportation of all publications, paintings, pictures, and other art objects.

- The State Bank controls exportation and importation of precious and semi-precious stones, jewelry, pearl, coin, and valuable metals.

- The General Department of Post controls importation and exportation of transmitters of all kinds, radar equipment and remote control used for navigation.

- The Ministry of Forestry controls exportation of wild animals.

V. OTHER COMMODITIES

1. Exportation of wooden products in 1995 is still under directions stated in the Decision No 624/TTg dated Dec 29,1993 and the directive No 595/KH-XNK dated March 24,1995 of the Ministry of Forestry.

2. Exportation of coffee is carried out according to the guideline No

16076/TM-XNK dated Dec 31,1994 of the Ministry of Trade.

3. Importation of milk and other substitutes for mother's milk will be realized according to the interministerial circular No 18/TT-LB dated Nov 3,1994 of the Ministries of Health, Trade, Culture and Information and Vietnam Committee for Protection, Care and Education of Children.

VI. MANAGEMENT OF IMPORTED CONSUMER GOODS

Under the direction of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Trade should keep importation of consumer goods under 20% of export turnover in 1995.

As of April 1,1995, importers of consumer goods submit their import plans to the Ministry of Trade twice a year (in May and October). Upon receiving seal of approval, they can realize their plan.

VII. MANAGEMENT OF USED IMPORTS

1. The Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment is authorized by the Government to issue regulations on importation of used equipment. Businesses that want to import used equipment should:

- bear full responsibility for the efficiency of the equipment.

- have licence to import the needed equipment.

- have seal of approval of corresponding ministries or provincial people's committees.

Qualified businesses could apply for import licence at Licence Office of the Ministry of Trade.

Importation of complete equipment and spare parts worth over US\$100,000 per unit should be evaluated by the General Department of Standards - Measurement - Quality Control according to the regulation No 171/THKH issued by the Department on May 6,1994 before completing procedure for importing at the Customs.

2. Importation of complete equipment and spare parts with fund from the public treasury should be carried out according to the Decision No 91/TTg dated Nov 13,1992 and the Circular No 04/TM-ĐT issued by the Ministry of Trade on July 30,1993.

VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM IN MANAGEMENT OF EXPORT-IMPORT BUSINESS

Administrative procedure for exporting and importing is reformed by the Ministry of Trade recently. The issuance of separate licence was revoked: the revocation of first stage will be carried out in July 1,1995, and the second stage will be realized afterwards ■

