

Committee on Customs Valuation

Original: English/
Spanish

**COMMUNICATION FROM BOLIVIA CONCERNING ANNEX III, PARAGRAPH 1
OF THE AGREEMENT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE VII OF
THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE 1994**

Draft Decision

Addendum

The following communication, dated 8 November 2000, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Bolivia.

TAKING NOTE of the Government of Bolivia's request under Paragraph 1 of Annex III of the Agreement on Implementation of Article VII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 ("WTO Agreement on Customs Valuation") done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994, to extend its delay in the application of the provisions of that Agreement;

RECOGNIZING that on 13 September 1995, Bolivia became a contracting party to the WTO Agreement on Customs Valuation and invoked paragraph 1 of Article 20 of that Agreement to delay application of its provisions for a period of five years from the date of entry into force of the Agreement on 13 September 1995, and was therefore scheduled to apply the provisions of that Agreement by 13 September 2000;

CONSIDERING Bolivia has made substantial efforts to implement the provisions of the WTO Agreement on Customs Valuation;

CONSIDERING also that Bolivia has recently requested and received technical assistance and has a continuing interest in taking advantage of technical assistance in support of implementation and application of the WTO Agreement on Customs Valuation;

NOTING Bolivia's long-standing commitment and considerable efforts in reforming and modernizing its customs administration;

NOTING also Bolivia's objective of ensuring the effective implementation and administration of the WTO Agreement on Customs Valuation;

NOTING that Bolivia's authorities have established a detailed work programme¹, involving the relevant ministries and agency, to enable the elaboration and approval of its legislation and the completion of its domestic administrative and legal procedures, including training, dissemination of information, and other actions, for implementing and applying the WTO Agreement on Customs Valuation;

¹ Annex I – Work Programme.

NOTING that Bolivia, in regard of paragraph 2 of Annex III of the WTO Agreement on Customs Valuation, does not apply currently minimum values and its intention not to apply minimum values in the future;

NOTING the provisions of the WTO Agreement on Preshipment Inspection and the Reports of the Working Party on Preshipment Inspection²;

NOTING, furthermore, Bolivia's intention, should it decide to continue to use preshipment inspection after implementing the WTO Agreement on Customs Valuation, to limit the use of preshipment inspection services in accordance with the WTO Agreement on Preshipment Inspection and that Bolivia has established a Government mechanism to address expeditiously any problems exporters from other countries might encounter with preshipment inspection services;

NOTING that the Government of Bolivia will implement and apply by 31 December 2001 paragraph 2 of the Decision on the Valuation of Carrier Media-Bearing Software for Data Processing Equipment³;

RECOGNIZING Bolivia's indication that this would be a single request for an extension to delay its implementation of the WTO Agreement on Customs Valuation;

Members, acting pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 1 of Annex III of the WTO Agreement on Customs Valuation,

DECIDE, in view of the exceptional circumstances set out above, that:

1. Subject to the terms and conditions set out hereunder, Bolivia may delay further the application of the provisions of the WTO Agreement on Customs Valuation for a period not extending beyond 31 December 2001.
2. The Government of Bolivia shall report to the Committee on Customs Valuation by the end of March and October 2001 on the progress in fulfilling the work programme in Annex I and the status of its implementation of the WTO Agreement on Customs Valuation under the terms and conditions of this Decision.

This Decision shall not prejudice the rights and obligations of Bolivia under the WTO Agreements, in particular those rights and obligations under the WTO Agreement on Customs Valuation.

²G/L/214 (2 December 1997) and G/L/300 (18 March 1999).

³G/VAL/5.

Annex I

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WTO AGREEMENT ON CUSTOMS VALUATION IN BOLIVIA

ACTIVITIES		2000		2001												2002							
		N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	
1.	DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGULATIONS																						
1.1	Development of Bolivian regulations on customs valuation																						
1.2	Design of customs administrative procedures and systems on valuation																						
1.3	Drafting of procedures in conformity with the WTO Agreement on Customs Valuation and the Bolivian regulations on customs valuation																						
1.4	Development of systems and programmes for risk evaluation																						
1.5	Discussion and improvement of draft texts (inside and outside the Customs Service)																						
1.6	Visit by a mission of the World Customs Organization to review the draft regulations																						
1.7	Review of the regulations and procedures by the World Customs Organization																						
1.8	Approval by the Customs Directorate of the regulations and procedures																						
1.9	Referral to the WTO and replies to questionnaires																						
1.10	Definitive approval by the Customs Directorate of the regulations and procedures																						
1.11	Trial period																						
1.12	Implementation of the Agreement																						
2.	HUMAN RESOURCES AND TRAINING																						
2.1	Strengthening of the local valuation units																						
2.2	Strengthening of the central unit of valuation services																						
2.3	General training and instruction of staff for the application of WTO regulations on customs valuation																						
2.4	Training and instruction of staff in the regulations and procedures of the National Customs Service for Customs Valuation																						
2.5	Training of the users of the customs services																						
2.6	Preparation of operating manuals for the Valuation Department																						
2.7	Supervision, follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the Agreement by IBD consultants																						
2.8	Incorporation of IBD consultants into the staff of the Customs Service																						
3.	ANALYSIS OF PRICES AND SOFTWARE																						
3.1	Development of a valuation system																						
3.2	Incorporation of reference prices into the database																						
3.3	Analysis of prices and classification of value characteristics																						
3.4	Adaptation of the communications infrastructure and other hardware requirements																						
3.5	Pilot trials																						
3.6	Implementation of the Valuation System																						
3.7	Training of the officials of the National Customs Service in the use of the system																						