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PRELIMINARY DRAFT
 NATIONAL TRADE OPERATIONS AND PROCEDURE GUIDE
 (TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO)



UNITED NATIONS
 ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA Office for the Caribbean

The preliminary version of the "National Trade Operations and Procedure Guide" is being distributed for comments and observations from the relevant authorities. A revised version of this Guide will be prepared once the observations regarding the contents of this preliminary version have been received.

DEADLINE: Comments should be received by this Office
by 10 September 1983.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

1. IMPORT REGIME

1.1. Customs Duty Policy

Trinidad and Tobago is a member of the CARICOM and as such adheres to the Common Market provisions.^{1/} Trinidad and Tobago is also a signatory to the Lomé Convention II.^{2/} Trinidad and Tobago tariff system is based on the Customs Co-operation Council Nomenclature (CCCN). The tariff schedule has one column the CET (Common External Tariff of the Caribbean Community Common Market). There is also a separate tariff schedule for duties applicable to imports from CARICOM members.

1.1.1. Import Tariffs

Ad valorem duties are assessed on the c.i.f. value in bond at the port of importation including the cost of containers and charges for preparing goods for shipment. All buying commission and all other charges connected with the sale of goods are dutiable in accordance with the amended definition of value in section 17 of the Customs Ordinance, based on the Brussels definition of value.

Buying commissions can be excluded up to 5 percent if the supplier of the goods produces a statutory declaration stating that he is the bona fide buying agent of the importer, that ^{he is} not the manufacturer and specifying the rate and basis for establishing the commission. Suppliers outside the Commonwealth must attest to such declaration before a Consul of Trinidad and Tobago (or in the absence of such a British Consul) in the country of supply.

When goods are dutiable by weight, the CARICOM criteria of net weight is applied.

In addition to customs duties certain chargeable goods (approximately 300) are subject to purchase tax. This ad valorem tax ranges from 3 to 65 percent of the c.i.f. value plus the customs duty.

An excise tax is levied on several items, domestic and imported, including beer and spirits, edible oil, matches and petroleum products.

Goods imported for repairs, processing and similar activities and subsequent re-export, upon submission of satisfactory proof to the Comptroller of Customs and Excise, may be exempted from payment of duty. Duty exemptions also may be granted to temporary imports upon their return to the country of origin within

^{1/} See annex I

^{2/} See annex II

three (3) months.

1.2. Trade Requirements

The import regulations of Trinidad and Tobago include prohibition or strict control, state trading, individual licensing and open general licensing.

As a matter of policy, no restrictions are imposed on payments for current international transactions, except where payments to South Africa are concerned. Nevertheless, payments for all imports require exchange control approval.

- Currency Exchange Controls

If prescription of currency exchange controls are complied with, foreign exchange is granted without restriction or undue delay, provided the authorities are satisfied that no unauthorized capital transfer is involved. Exchange control in Trinidad and Tobago is designed to prevent the illegal outflow of capital. It provides for the compulsory surrender of foreign currency and for control over currency and capital transactions. The authority to administer exchange control is vested in the Central Bank, acting as agent for the Government. The Central Bank has delegated its exchange control authority with respect to the approval of payments for visible imports to the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Affairs and with respect to payments up to specified amounts for certain current invisibles to authorized banks. Short-term credit transactions such as the granting of credit, loan or overdraft facilities by resident banks to non-resident and local non-resident controlled companies are also subject to control.

Trade with CARICOM countries may be effected in the currency of the exporting member. Imports from all other countries may be paid for in any currency in which the goods are satisfactorily invoiced.

1.2.1. Import Permit or License

(Other than is provided for CARICOM origin goods):

Effective since September 1939, and amended from time to time, a system of import controls has been in operation. Import licenses, when required, are issued by the Trade and Commerce Division of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

While most commodities may be imported under open general license arrangements, some imports are subject to the provisions of a Negative List. The list covers 400 items that are subject to regulation by specific license and also identifies countries that are accorded special treatment. Thus, trade with South Africa is prohibited and all imports from Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia,

German Democratic Republic, Hungary, North Korea, Poland, Romania, U.S.S.R. and Yugoslavia are subject to specific licensing, irrespective of the negative list status of the import concerned. At present, trade with these countries may be settled in US dollars.

All other commodities than those on the negative list from all sources may be imported under open general license. Most licenses are valid for six (6) months^{3/} and must be obtained before the goods are ordered. Goods should arrive before expiration of the license. Application for exclusion of the license may be submitted with an explanation for the delay of arrival. Failure to do so may render the goods subject to forfeiture.

(i) Negative List

The main items that are subject to the Negative List include cement, clothing, corrugated iron sheeting, saccharin, coffee and cocoa beans, and completely assembled motor vehicle. Firearms, ammunition and narcotics are either prohibited or rigidly controlled for security and health reasons^{4/}. Imports of horses is banned because of an outbreak of equine metritis in some supplier countries, exempted from the ban are yearlings, weanlings and geldings. The importation and sale of thalidomide is specifically prohibited.

Certain food products are covered by the Agricultural Marketing Protocol (AMP) of the CARICOM treaty (see annex I). Imported rice, oils and fats are also subject to state trading; rice is normally imported from Guyana at agreed prices (packaged rice may be imported through normal commercial channels, but such imports are not usually allowed from other countries unless the contracted supplies are not forthcoming).

All imports of meat, live animals and plants are subject to specific regulations as are imports of mining materials.

Bona fide Unsolicited gifts not exceeding TT\$100.00 and cut samples of no commercial value are exempt from license. All advertising material supplied free of charge may be imported on open license.

Household effects which have been used by the owner for at least one (1) year and are brought for personal use and not for sale or exchange may be admitted duty free.

(ii) Government Procurement

Government procurement is conducted under competitive bidding, with tenders well advertised in the local press. Prospective bidders are normally

^{3/} or until end of period for which import quota is established provided it doesn't extend validity beyond the calendar year.

^{4/} Toy guns capable of being mistaken for real weapons are also prohibited.

required to establish their qualifications, to show proof of purchase of the tender documents, and to post a performance bond. While contracts are awarded under the supervision of the Central Tenders Board, tender documents, specifications, and information concerning the bids are frequently available through the purchasing ministry or agency or through the contracting engineers supervising the project. On some key development projects, the Government has turned to friendly foreign governments, to assist in identifying appropriate firms and to assist in the screening of bids, particularly for construction and consultancy contracts. The Board also maintains a register, updated yearly, of suppliers for items of relatively small value.

1.2.2. Invoices

(i) Commercial Invoice

The CARICOM invoice is required (see annex I, section 4). Alternatively ECE format invoices may be used.

Under Trinidad and Tobago regulations, in the case of all imports under general import licenses, the following declaration of origin on the commercial invoice is essential: "We hereby declare that the within goods were manufactured (or produced or grown) in (name of country)".

For Trinidad and Tobago customs purposes, the invoice must contain the usual careful description of goods and all details necessary to arrive at the c.i.f. value. Where a c.i.f. quotation/^{is} given it is preferable to show a detailed statement giving cost of goods, cost of outside packages, packing charges inland transport etc. at the bottom of the invoice to demonstrate how the c.i.f. cost is arrived at.

Where a c.i.f. quotation is not made, it is necessary that the invoice should contain such particulars as will indicate clearly that all charges which should be included in the value for the duty (the c.i.f. value) are in fact included. All discounts must be listed and explained on the invoice. Facsimile signatures will not be accepted. If a copy of the commercial invoice should be presented at the customs by the importer, such copy would have to bear the actual signatures. The invoice should be furnished in at least four copies. The importer must endorse the invoice with a declaration reading: "I declare that this is the only invoice received in connection with the goods enumerated therein...".

The customs clearance documents must show the tariff and trade classification number based on the CCCN for each item covered by them.

For many products net weight is necessary for classification even though customs duty is ad valorem. While these requirements affect importers only,

and do not apply to the commercial invoice, it will be useful to furnish additional particulars on the commercial invoice when requested to do so.

(ii) Consular invoice

Not required.

(iii) Pro-forma Invoice

May be requested by importer to substantiate license application or as the first step in negotiating an import contract.

(iv) Packing list

Not a mandatory document, however, use will greatly facilitate clearance of goods.

1.2.3. Bill of Lading (or Airway Bill)

There are no special regulations concerning it. "to order" bills are permitted. All information given in the bill of lading (or airway bill) should correspond with that shown on invoices and packages.

Section 42(2) of the Harbor and Wharves (dues and management) Ordinance 1942, says that the wharf superintendent may decline to accept a bill of lading if it is made or negotiated in favour of more than one person. Thus, no split or consolidated bills of lading are honoured, especially in those cases where the marks on the packages are similar.

The banks of Trinidad and Tobago, have declined to accept responsibility for delivery orders in respect to consolidated bills of lading.

Air cargo shipments require airway bills (in lieu of bill of lading) with the number of copies issued based on requirements of the importer and of the airline used. IATA or ICAO rules may also require documents covering shipments of dangerous and restricted goods.

Mail and Parcel Post shipments require postal documentation (Customs Declarations, Form 2966-A) inside the package or airway bill for shipments exceeding US\$120.00. In other cases a green Customs label CI, Form 2976, "Authority for customs to open International Mail" must be completed and placed by the sender on the address side of each letter or package containing dutiable merchandise, each package of dutiable prints, and each small packet. Dutiable merchandise is permitted in the letterpost mails of Trinidad and Tobago, subject to the maximum weight and size permitted^{5/} Insured parcels must, and ordinary parcels may, be sealed.

5/ Weight: 4 lbs in letters and packages and printed matter in general; 11 lbs in books; and 2 lbs in small packets. Maximum weight is 22 lbs.

Dimensions: greatest length is 3ft.6in; greatest length and girth combined is 6 feet.

1.2.4. Certificates

- of origin

Shipments of CARICOM origin should be covered by a certificate of origin (see annex I, section 1), to be given special common market treatment.

In the case of other countries, no origin certificate is required for shipments from the US. Nevertheless, from time to time a certificate of origin may be requested by the importer/bank/letter of credit clause. When requested, the general forms (as sold by commercial stationers) should be used with the data given in it corresponding with data in other documents. A responsible member of the exporting firm should sign it and it should be certified by a Chamber of Commerce (which will require an additional notarized file copy). Number of copies issued should be based on importer's instructions.

- of insurance

Normal commercial practices prevail. Importer's and/or insurance company's instructions should be followed.

- special certificates

Special certificates may be required due to the nature of the goods being shipped or requested by the importer/bank/letter of credit clause (e.g. sanitary veterinary, free sale, etc.).

Foods and Drugs require, under subsection (2) of section 32 of the "Food and Drug Ordinance (No. 8 of 1960), 1960", a certificate in the English language issued by the pertinent official body or Government department in the country in which such food, drug cosmetic or device was manufactured or produced. Where no official or Government Department has the authority to issue such a certificate, it may be issued by any person acceptable to the Ministry of Health. Certificate will provide the relevant information as to the composition strength, potency, purity, quality or other property of food, drug, cosmetic or device, to which it refers.

Foodstuffs and pharmaceuticals must be approved by the Food and Drugs Division of the Ministry of Health. Foodstuffs are subject to inspection by that Division. Additionally, samples of both foodstuffs and pharmaceuticals may have to be submitted to the Division.

Fresh and frozen meat products exported from the US must be accompanied by a certificate that they meet US Department of Agriculture Quality standards. Special regulations apply to imports of canned meat, including commercially canned meats which are heated in their metal cans at 170^oF for no less than 30 minutes and must be accompanied by an official inspection certificate.

Cotton lint, cotton linters, cotton seed meal and cotton seed cake may only be imported under permit from the Trinidad and Tobago Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries.

It is mandatory that textile exports to Trinidad and Tobago be accompanied by a certificate stating that no "TRIS" has been used during manufacture.

Shipments of dried beans, peas, lentils and other pulses, and shelled and unshelled peanuts must be accompanied by certificates (in duplicate) signed by a Government Authority, stating that the products are of a type, quality, grade or standard that could be legally sold for human food under law in the country of origin and that the products are substantially free from mold, insect damage, or live insects.

Under the "Plant Protection Act", passed on July 4, 1975, it is mandatory for importers to obtain permits for the importation, inter-alia, of plants, fruits, plant products, vegetables, soil, planting material, plant pest pathogens, or any other prescribed articles prior to importation into Trinidad and Tobago. It is also a requisite that a restricted item be accompanied by Phytosanitary Certificates (similar to the international model) issued in the country of origin.

Live animals must be covered by health certificates.

1.2.5. Technical Specifications

For most industries, compliance with the US or British technical standards is acceptable. Local standards are being developed. Questions as to acceptability of standards should be addressed to the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards, Trincity Estate, Macoya, Trinidad and Tobago.

Electric current is AC. 60 cycles, 115/220 volts and 230/400, 1,3 phases 2,4, wires.

For weights and measures, the metric system (Systeme Internationale) is used with limited use of the Imperial (Avoirdupois) system. Statistics submitted in all documents to the Customs must be given in metric units, with the only exceptions of: beer made from malt (CCCN No. 22.03); ethyl alcohol neutral spirits and denatured spirits (CCCN No. 22.08); and spirits, liquors and other spirituous beverages (CCCN No. 22.09). This regulation applies to all shipping documents.

No ale, beer, stout, or porter may be imported for use within the country except in containers of the following capacities: Imperial quart, Imperial pint or Imperial half-pint, respectively. The contents of these containers shall not in any case be less than such quantities respectively and shall not exceed each such quantity by more than five percent. Beer may be imported in containers of no less than five (5) imperial gallons for the purpose

of sale by draught only, or subject to such conditions as the collector of Customs may impose, for the purpose of repacking into containers of Imperial measure.

Standards for food and drugs as well as specifications as to compositions, strength, potency, purity, quality or other properties are specified under the "Food and Drug Ordinance (No.8, of 1960), 1960", and the "Food and Drug Regulations, 1965" as amended in 1969, 1972 and 1974.

1.2.6. Advertising Material

Printed advertising material is usually dutiable. All advertising material supplied free-of-charge may, in general, be imported under Open General License. Trinidad and Tobago is a signatory to the International Convention to facilitate the importation of commercial samples and advertising materials.^{6/}

1.2.7 Labelling

Goods should be marked "made in (name of country of origin)" to avoid confusion. Generally labels and other marking on goods to be sold in Trinidad and Tobago should be in English. At the end of 1977 the Government introduced compulsory standards for the labelling of pre-packaged goods and of clothes. With regard to clothes, labels must show percentage of fiber content by mass in descending order of magnitude where the fiber constitutes more than five percent of the total fiber content of the garment; name and address of the manufacture or brand name registered with the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards; country of origin; and appropriate garment size.

Food and Drug labelling is regulated by the "Food and Drug Ordinance, No.8 of 1960 (1960) "as amended in 1969, 1972 and 1974. Inter alia, a date of expiration and list of ingredients are required, net contents, preservatives, colour, additives or flavouring used, brand or trade name if applicable and name and address of manufacture or distributor. Instructions for usage and storage may be required. There are additional stipulation for alcoholic beverages and foods for vending machines.

Exporters to Trinidad and Tobago should ascertain whether or not Trinidad and Tobago is currently adhering to the United Nations recommendations for the labelling and packaging of hazardous and/or restricted materials in a standardized manner and style,^{7/} and if so, how to conform in order that these goods will be importable.

^{6/} Drawn to the GATT in November 1952. It came into force on 20 November 1955. Other parties in the region are: Cuba, Haiti and Jamaica.

^{7/} In 1965 the Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO, now IMO) adopted the International Dangerous Goods Code which includes the UN Labelling system. It is now adhered, partially or totally by more than 30 countries. If goods are going by Air, IATA and/or ICAO regulations regarding packing, labelling and documentation must be met. For goods going by boat, the latest IMO requirement usually have to be met at the request of the shipper.

1.2.8 Brands or Trademarks

They must be registered with the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards in order to be legally recognised in the country either for quality property or copyright purposes.

1.2.9. Packing

Except in the case of hazardous and/or restricted materials, where it should be ascertained whether Trinidad and Tobago is currently adhering to the UN recommendations on marking and packing (see footnote 7), there are no specific regulations. According to sound shipping practice, the packages should bear the consignee's mark, including post mark, and they should be numbered unless the shipment is such that the contents can be readily identified without numbers. Net weight of contents may be specified, for customs purposes, when relevant.

1.3. Fines and Penalties

Regulations stipulate that free time in port is limited to four clear days from the date on which the vessel completes the landing of the cargo, and that if the goods are not entered and cleared within that time, storage charges will be levied. There are various exceptions to the four day free-time period: eight days are applied to cargo destined to San Fernando, 21 days for Tobago cargo and transshipment cargo is allowed 42 clear days - but if cargo is not cleared in this period, storage charges will be applied for the entire period during which it was stored.

If goods are not entered within ten days after the arrival of the vessel, then Customs has the right to remove them to a government warehouse to await entry. If the goods are entered within three months, they will be offered for sale at public auction, after one month's publication in the Trinidad and Tobago Gazette. In the case of perishable cargo the customs reserve the right to sell forthwith.

Charges for merchandise in general stored in Queen's warehouses figured per case or package not exceeding three cubic feet in bulk, are 24 cents per month or any fractional part, up to three months and 72 cents per month or any fraction of after three months. For cases exceeding three cubic feet, the rate for every additional three cubic feet or part thereof is 12 cents per month for the first three and 36 cents per month after. Automobiles pay the following charges: \$6.00 for the first month or fraction; \$9.00 for the second and third months; and \$18.00 for each subsequent month or fraction. Special rates also apply on malt liquors, petroleum, lubricating oils and paints, tea, tobacco, wine and spirits.

No rate will be charged on goods required to be deposited in a Queen's Warehouse on importation, when the goods are landed ex-steamer and warehoused by the agents of the steamer, for the first four days from the date of warehousing or in the case of goods to be transhipped for a period of 14 days from the date of warehousing.

Exporters are urged to send airmail copies of documents as soon as merchandise is shipped to avoid delay in customs clearance and the resultant warehouse fees.

1.4 SPECIMENS, SAMPLES

Samples of no commercial value are admitted duty-free. Samples of commercial value may be brought in by travellers against bond or deposit which is returned if reexported within three months. Detailed lists of samples or patterns should be prepared for submission to customs officers. Samples of commercial value which appear on the "Negative List" require import licenses (see Footnote 6, on the International Convention to Facilitate the Importation of samples and advertising material). Printed advertising material is dutiable. Trade advertising material catalogues and the like are dutiable at the rate of 45 percent ad valorem

1.5 SHIPMENT RESTRICTIONS

Trade with South Africa is prohibited and imports from Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, USSR and Yugoslavia are subject to specific licensing.

1.6 Distribution Channels

Other than the case of government procurement, when the purchasing is done directly by a ministry or government agency, distribution of imported goods is done by traders who generally have their own distribution channels.

Much of the retailing in Trinidad and Tobago is done through small shops. There are also a number of "duty-free" shops catering to the tourist trade, which specialize in cameras, watches and gift items. Firms dealing solely in wholesale are rare. On the one hand there is a group of large firms which act as importers, exporters, distributors, wholesalers, manufacturers representatives, commission agents, etc. all housed frequently under one roof - on the other hand, a number of small companies have been successfully formed in recent years to supply a limited variety of goods. Branching out is frequent.

1.7 AGENTS OR REPRESENTATIVES

The main provisions of the "Registration of Local Agents of Foreign Enterprises Act, No.41 of 1980" are the following:

(a) Every agreement between a foreign government or a foreign enterprise and its agent shall be in writing and shall be subject to the laws of Trinidad and Tobago;

(b) Where an agreement establishing the relationship between principal and agent is not written or where it establishes foreign laws to be properly applicable to the contract, the agent will be guilty of an offence;

(c) Every agent shall lodge a copy of the contract with the Board of Inland Revenue within 60 days of the execution of the contract, and register it with the Registrar General. Documentation required by the Board of Inland Revenue is: (i) the agent's name and address in Trinidad and Tobago, and (ii) the name and address of the foreign government or foreign enterprise of which he is agent; (iii) a declaration stating that no other contract exists between himself and the foreign enterprise or government pertaining to the subject matter of the contract being lodged.;

(d) Where there is a change of name and address of an agent, he shall notify it to the Registrar General and the Board of Inland Revenue within 30 days, and where there is a change in the terms of the contract, such change shall be notified to the Board of Inland Revenue within 30 days of the change.

Salesmen intending to solicit or receive orders for goods or services should apply for a Travelling Salesman license before arriving in the country. Applications can be made through an agent or a Solicitor practicing in Trinidad and Tobago.

2. EXPORT REGIME

2.1. EXPORT PROCEDURES

Any company incorporated in the country which makes export sales is subject to the Currency Exchange Controls, which require the compulsory surrender of foreign currency to the Central Bank.

For exports to members of the CARICOM member countries, see Annex I, Section 2.

For exports to the EEC, subject to the Second Lomé Convention, see Annex II, Section 3.

2.2. EXPORTS SUBJECT TO SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

For exports of selected agricultural products, oils and fats and cane sugar to other members of CARICOM, see Annex I. See also restrictions under the Second Lomé Convention (Annex II, Section 4) for trade with the EEC.

Exports of hazardous, dangerous or restricted goods may be subject to the International Dangerous Goods Code (see footnote 7).

2.3 EXPORT INCENTIVES

As a member of CARICOM and ACP countries, incentives provided under these agreements are applicable in Trinidad and Tobago, see Annexes I and II.

As of 1 January 1983, a new regime of export incentives has been adopted by the Trinidad and Tobago Government.

2.3.1. DIRECT INCENTIVES

2.3.1.1. DIRECT TARIFF INCENTIVES

The Budget presentation for 1983 proposes institutional changes, the search for and active development of export markets outside the CARICOM and the following new measures, which came into effect starting 1 January.

(a) Export Allowance

Any company incorporated in the country which makes export sales of manufactured or processed products is entitled to a deduction in ascertaining the chargeable profits for the year of income in which such exports were made. The new export allowance (which amends the principles and conditions set out in the Finance Act of 1976^{8/}) will be calculated as the percentage of export sales to total sales applied to chargeable profit i.e.

$$\text{Export Allowance} = \frac{\text{Export Sales}}{\text{Total Sales}} \times \text{Chargeable Profit}$$

There will be no minimum percentage of export to total sales which was of 10 percent previously.

^{8/} Act No.14 of 1976, Fifth Session Third Parliament, assented to 10 May 1976.

This export allowance is extended to all industries, with the exception of the petroleum industry, pioneer products during the tax holiday period, and products enjoying the benefits of the Fiscal Incentives Act during the tax holiday period.

(b) Tax Deductible Promotional Expenses

Promotional expenses incurred by local firms in order to develop exports will be tax deductible as an expense equivalent to 150 percent of the actual outlay. Such expenses are defined as to include:

- (i) advertising in foreign markets;
- (ii) promotional literature for overseas distribution;
- (iii) participation in trade fairs, trade missions and similar promotional activities;
- (iv) overseas travel for the purpose of conducting promotional exercises;
- (v) providing free samples and technical information on products to clients;
- (vi) inviting potential buyers to the country; and
- (vii) recruitment of specialist sales personnel for a maximum of two years. During this period local personnel must be trained to assume these responsibilities.

(c) Market Development Grants

The mechanism of grants to develop markets will be initiated by providing tax free, fifty percent of the approved expenditure, subject to a minimum of TT\$5,000, except in special circumstances like small business ventures.

The approved expenditures are the following:

- (i) costs incurred in undertaking research in foreign markets;
- (ii) market testing of potential products in large markets abroad;
- (iii) product design and consultancy;
- (iv) overseas travel for the purpose of conducting research and other market identification exercises; and
- (v) product testing by approved foreign institutes and similar agencies for ensuring adherence to standards and other statutory requirements.

Companies enjoying concessions under the Fiscal Incentives Act, 1979^{9/} will be eligible for both the Tax Deductible Promotional Expenses and Market Development Grants.

2.3.1.2. DIRECT CREDIT INCENTIVES

A comprehensive package of export financing facilities shall be introduced comprising:

- (a) pre-shipment guarantees;
- (b) post-shipment guarantees; and
- (c) re-discounting facilities at concessionary rates.

2.3.1.3. CERTIFICATES

Customs Tariff preferential treatment of export to other CARICOM members requires certification of origin (see Annex 1, Section 1(a) where specimen is provided.

The Lomé Convention also requires certification of origin for exports from ACP states into the EEC (see Annex 2, Section 5). No tax refund certificate or tax compensation certificates are given.

2.3.2 INDIRECT INCENTIVES

Manufacturing enterprises other than those engaged for the production of petroleum, petrochemicals, iron and steel and sugar will be eligible for investment incentives which will permit such enterprises to recover, in the year of expenditure, part of the full cost of any capital investment undertaken to modernize or set up new plant and equipment.

^{9/} Act No.22 of 1979, 3rd session First Parliament, assented to 16 July 1979, provides tax holiday periods for periods ranging between 5 to 10 years to certain classified enterprises. Group I to III comprises enterprises whose products have 50, 25 or 10 percent local value added, respectively may have 9, 7 or 5 years holiday. Enclave or highly capital-intensive industries may be granted 10 years of tax holiday. An enclave industry is defined as producing exclusively for exports outside the Common Market. Capital-intensive enterprises are those with a capital investment of no less than 50 millions dollars (either TT or EC, whichever is greater).

In modification of the existing ordinances in aid to pioneer industries, starting 1 January the rates of investment and initial allowances were increased as follows:

(a) Investment allowance will be increased from 20 percent to 30, if equipment or plant are installed after 1 January 1983; and

(b) Initial allowance on plant and machinery will be increased from 40 to 50 percent on such equipment put in place after the said date.

2.3.3. FREE ZONES

There are no free port or free trade Zones in Trinidad and Tobago. Nevertheless, as part of its promotional effort to develop indigenous industry, the partially government-owned Point Lisas Industrial Port Development Corporation (PIPDECO) offers attractive investment features in a large industrial estate that has its own independent water, energy and port facilities. The core of this estate are three large industrial ventures wholly or partially owned by Government: the Iron and Steel Company of Trinidad and Tobago (ISCOTT), Ammonia and Fertilizer Company of Trinidad (FERTRIN) both of which are exporting at present; and an Aluminium Smelter Project, that has not yet been initiated.

3. MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS AND INTEGRATION SCHEMES

3.1 Bilateral

Trinidad and Tobago has signed bilateral trade agreements with several countries in Latin America and the United States.

3.2. Multilateral

Trinidad and Tobago is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations and signatory to the Second Lomé Convention (see Annex II). Trinidad and Tobago is also a contracting party to the GATT.

3.3 INTEGRATION SCHEMES

Trinidad and Tobago is a founding member of the CARICOM (see Annex I), and has joined the Latin American Economic System (SELA)^{10/}.

^{10/} The Latin American Economic System (SELA) was created in 1975 as an effort to form a common front for solving key economic trade and investment problems of Latin American member countries via-à-vis other regions, blocs and integration system.

Trinidad and Tobago has established a programme to assist development projects of CARICOM countries and since 1979 established a "Facility for financing oil, fertilizer and asphalt purchases by CARICOM". Under this facility a base price for this product is established (1 January 1979) and incremental costs on this base price are funded by concessionary loans, with a maturity of 15 years, including a 3-year moratorium in both capital and interest payments. The rate of interest payable is 3 percent in respect of CARICOM MDCs and 2 percent for the LDCs.

4. AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED IN FOREIGN TRADE

Under a 1983 proposal by the Prime Minister's Budget Speech a new Export Promotion Corporation is to be created that would incorporate trade promotion activities at present handled by the Trinidad and Tobago Export Credit Insurance Co. Ltd. (EXICO) and the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC).

The Export Promotion Division, as a part of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago effort to promote exports, was established in 1969 and has, alternatively been an administrative unit of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Affairs and the IDC.

Up to 1982 the government maintained an International Marketing Corporation, with offices and representatives in several overseas countries.

CENTRAL BANK OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Exchange Control Department

75, Independence Square

PORT OF SPAIN.

CENTRAL TENDERS BOARD

198B St. Clair Avenue

St. Clair

PORT OF SPAIN.

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Riverside Plaza

PORT OF SPAIN.

EXPORT PROMOTION DIVISION
100 Frederick Street
2nd Floor, Salvatori Building
PORT OF SPAIN

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO BUREAU OF STANDARDS
Trincity Estate
Macoya.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT
Corner Abercromby Street and Independence Square
4th Floor
PORT OF SPAIN

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION
Export Credit Insurance Co. Ltd. (EXICO)
76 Independence Square
PORT OF SPAIN

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (IDC)
10-12 Independence Square
P.O. Box 949
PORT OF SPAIN

5. NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FAIRS

None are organized by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. Since 1968, a "Prime Minister's Export Awards Scheme has been in operation, with an annual competition for local exporters. In recent years there has been a steady decline in the number of participants; from 54 in 1976 to about a dozen in 1982.