



TradeWatch Weekly Bulletin

International Trade and Customs)

August 29, 2020

Given below are some key news updates from the past week pertaining to international trade and customs both from India and around the world.

World Trade Organization (WTO)

- [Panel Report circulated in US —Softwood Lumber VII \(DS533\), a dispute brought by Canada.](#)
The Panel ruled in favour of Canada and recommended that the US bring its measures in conformity with the Subsidies and Countervailing Measures Agreement (“**SCM Agreement**”)
- [Panel established in European Union — Safeguard Measures on Certain Steel Products \(DS585\), a dispute filed by Turkey.](#)
- [Panel has been constituted in Columbia – Frozen Fries \(DS591\), where European Union \(EU\) has challenged anti-dumping duties imposed by Columbia on imports of frozen fries, originating in Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany.](#)
- [The United States blocked a request from China to establish a compliance panel in China – Agricultural Producers \(DS511\) at the meeting of the WTO Dispute Settlement Body \(DSB\).](#)
- [EU has sought to comply with the recommendation and rulings of the DSB in the EC— Large Civil Aircraft \(DS316\) dispute.](#)
- [EU notified its decision to appeal the panel report in EU — Cost Adjustment Methodologies II \(Russia\) \(DS494\).](#)
- [WTO issues new report on how COVID-19-related restrictions on cross-border mobility are affecting global trade.](#)
- [WTO also issues report regarding impact of COVID-19 crisis on agricultural trade.](#)

United States and European Union

- [US. International Trade Commission \(USITC\) instituted a fact-finding investigation on COVID-19 Related Goods: The U.S. Industry, Market, Trade, and Supply Chain Challenges](#) that would assess industry sectors producing COVID-related goods, including, but not limited to, medical devices; personal protective equipment; and medicines (pharmaceuticals).
USITC seeks to examine products for which there were reported shortages in the first half of 2020, including those affected by supply chain fragility, blockages, or barriers. [The deadline to file requests to appear at virtual public hearing is 11 September 2020.](#)
- [US and China discussed the developments of the Phase One Agreement between the two nations and the increases in purchases of U.S. products by China as well as future actions that needed to implement the agreement.](#)
- [EU and US agreed to a package of tariff reductions that will increase market access for U.S. and EU exports.](#)
EU will eliminate tariffs on imports of U.S. live and frozen lobster products and US will reduce 50% its tariff rates on products such as prepared meals, certain crystal glassware, surface preparations, propellant powders, cigarette lighters and lighter parts.

India

- [Directorate General of Foreign Trade \(DGFT\) has amended export policy of Personal Protection Equipment/Masks.](#)
Surgical masks, medical coveralls are now “Free” for export, whereas N-95 masks have been revised from “Prohibited” to “Restricted”.
- [Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade \(DPIIT\) has notified amendments to the Geographical Indications of Goods \(Registration and Protection\) Rules, 2002.](#)
- [Central Government extended the levy of anti-dumping duty on imports of "Acrylonitrile Butadiene Rubber" originating in or exported from Korea RP, for a period of three months i.e. up to 3rd December, 2020.](#)
- [Directorate General of Trade Remedies \(DGTR\) initiated sunset review investigation concerning imports of 2-Ethyl Hexanol from European Union, Indonesia, Korea RP, Malaysia, Taiwan and United States of America.](#)

We trust you find this useful. In the meantime, should you require any information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us at insights@elp-in.com

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