

TradeWatch Weekly Bulletin (International Trade and Customs)

September 26, 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)

- Macau China joins the Multi-party Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement (MPIA).
- WTO members start text-based negotiations on fisheries subsidies.
- WTO members to discuss proposals to enhance special treatment for developing countries.
- WTO reports that the world merchandise trade fell 14% in volume, 21% in value in Q2 amid global lockdown.

United States and Europe

- <u>U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) announced country-specific in-quota additional allocations under the tariff-rate quotas (TRQs)</u> on imported raw cane sugar for Fiscal Year 2020 (October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020).
- EU notified draft regulations that imposes certain restrictions on marketing of dimethylformamide (DMF) to the WTO Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT).
- The European Commission (EC) conducted a stakeholder meeting on the multilateral reform of investment dispute resolution, including the establishment of a multilateral investment court.
- EC conducted a stakeholder forum aimed at increasing the use of the Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP), by bringing new EU investment, encouraging European companies to import from beneficiary countries, and promoting sustainability.
- <u>UK Department of International Trade (DIT) published the Trade and investment core statistics book providing the most up to date snapshot of the UK's trade and investment position.</u>

India

- Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) initiated sunset review investigation concerning imports of Melamine from China PR.
- DGTR initiated anti-dumping investigation concerning imports of Untreated Fumed Silica from China PR & Korea RP.
- DGTR initiated anti-dumping investigation concerning imports of Ceftriaxone Sodium Sterile originating in or exported from China PR.
- DGTR initiated sunset review investigation concerning imports of Glass Fibre and articles thereof from China PR.
- DGTR initiated Countervailing Duty Investigation concerning imports of Copper Tubes and Pipes from Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam.
- DGTR initiated Anti-Circumvention investigation concerning alleged circumvention of antidumping duty imposed on imports of "Ceramic Tableware and Kitchenware, excluding knives and toilet items" originating in or exported from China PR, by imports of "Ceramic Tableware and Kitchenware, excluding Knives and Toilet Items" from Malaysia.
- Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC) notified the Fixation of Tariff Value of Edible Oils, Brass Scrap, Poppy Seeds, Areca Nut, Gold and Silver.
- <u>Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) extended the date of implementation of Track and Trace system for export of drug formulations for maintaining the Parent-Child relationship in packaging levels and uploading on Central Portal to April 2021.</u>
- India notified the Draft Food Safety and Standards (Organic Foods) Amendment Regulations, 2020 to the WTO TBT Committee.
- India notified certain Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) regulations pertaining to non-edible ice and a draft amendment to the Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011 to the WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.

Disclaimer: The information provided in this update is intended for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal opinion or advice. Readers are requested to seek formal legal advice prior to acting upon any of the information provided herein. This update is not intended to address the circumstances of any particular individual or corporate body. There can be no assurance that the judicial/quasi-judicial authorities may not take a position contrary to the views mentioned herein.



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