

TradeWatch Weekly Bulletin (International Trade and Customs)

INSIGHTS

December 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)

- Australia initiates WTO dispute complaint against China concerning anti-dumping and countervailing duties imposed by China on imports of Australian barley.
- WTO paper explores role of trade policy in the rapid roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines.
- WTO updates report on trade in medical goods in the context of COVID-19.

United States and Europe

- U.S. Department of Commerce (USDOC) preliminarily finds that the Norma Group and R.N. Gupta & Co. Ltd. (Gupta), producers/exporters of finished carbon steel flanges (flanges) from India, did not sell subject merchandise at prices below normal value during the period of review of August 1, 2018 through July 31, 2019.
- <u>USDOC terminated antidumping duty investigation concerning fluid end blocks from India with negative final determination of sales</u> at less than fair value in connection with the subject investigation.
- <u>United States Customs and Border Protection (USCBP)</u> notified that the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), special program indicator (SPI) "A," "A+," and "A*", will expire on December 31, 2020 if no Congressional legislation is passed to renew the program.
- <u>European Commission is holding a stakeholder meeting on the multilateral reform of investment dispute resolution including the</u> establishment of a multilateral investment court.
- European Commission published the report summarizing progress made during the latest negotiation round for the EU-Australia trade agreement.

India

- <u>Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) initiated Countervailing Duty/Anti-Subsidy investigation concerning imports of "Aluminum Primary Foundry Alloy Ingot" originating in or exported from Malaysia.</u>
- DGTR issued Final Findings in Anti-dumping investigation concerning imports of Flat Rolled Products of Stainless Steel originating in or exported from China PR, Korea RP, European Union, Japan, Taiwan, Indonesia, USA, Thailand, South Africa, UAE, Hong Kong, Singapore, Mexico, Vietnam, and Malaysia.
- DGTR issued Final Findings in Sunset Review of Anti-Dumping Investigation concerning imports of 'Phenol' originating in or exported from South Africa.
- DGTR issued Final Findings in Sunset Review investigation concerning imports of "Carbon Black used in Rubber Applications" originating in or exported from China PR and Russia.
- DGTR issued Final Findings in Anti-Dumping Duty investigation concerning imports of Faced Glass wool in Rolls originating in or exported from China PR.
- <u>Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) subjected the imports of Anthracite Coal, Bituminous Coal, Coking Coal, Steam Coal and Other Coal to the Coal Import Monitoring System (CIMS).</u>

The CIMS requires importers to submit advance information in an online system for import of items and obtain an automatic Registration Number by paying registration fee of Rs. 1 per thousand, subject to minimum of INR 500/- and maximum of INR 1 lakh, on CIF value

- DGFT notified import policy for Wall fans, Open cell for television set, solar cells, not assembled and solar cells assembled in modules or made up into panels as "Free" and incorporated changes made in the Finance Act, 2020 dated 27 March 2020.
- DGFT amended the export policy of Medical Goggles and Nitrile/NBR Gloves from 'Restricted' to 'Free' category making all types of Medical Goggles and Nitrile/NBR Gloves freely exportable.
- DGFT notified that import of Copra under HS Code 1203 00 00 is allowed through Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation (MMTC);
 while import of Coconut oil- under HS codes 1513 11 00 (Crude) and 1513 19 00 (Others) is allowed through State Trading Enterprises,
 except State Trading Corporation.
- Ministry of Steel has notified the Steel and Steel Products (Quality Control) Order, 2020.
- Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) notified the cancellation and extension of certain standards.
- BIS notified the amendments of certain standards.
 - India notified the following draft Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) standards to the WTO:
 - o <u>Draft to amend in Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011.</u>
 - <u>Draft Food Safety and Standards (Fortification of Foods) Amendment Regulations, 2020 w.r.t the standards of fortified milk powder.</u>

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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