

Trade Watch Weekly Bulletin (International Trade and Customs)

February 6, 2021

Given below are some key news updates from the past week pertaining to international trade and customs both from India and around the world. With respect to customs and trade related updates from latest Indian budget 2021, please refer to our special budget analysis available here.

World Trade Organization (WTO)

- <u>Indonesia</u>, <u>Argentina</u> and <u>Columbia</u> requested to join consultations in *European Union and certain Member states Certain measures concerning palm oil and oil palm crop-based biofuels* (DS600).
- India and South Africa's proposal to waive certain provisions of the Trade related to Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement for the prevention, containment and treatment of Covid-19 did not garner much support from developed countries.
- DDG Wolff urges WTO ministers to address the pandemic and make 2021 a year of action.
- Participants in domestic regulation negotiations for services commit to maintain momentum.
- Nigeria's Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala likely to become the first woman and first African to head the WTO after the South Korean candidate pulled out of the race for the position of Director General.

United States, Europe

- <u>President Biden made Presidential Proclamation restoring the application of 10% duties on aluminum imports from UAE as established under Section 232 duty filing.</u>
- United States Department of Commerce (USDOC) found that revocation of the antidumping duty orders on carbazole violet pigment 23 (CVP-23) from India and China would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of dumping at the levels indicated in the Final Results of Sunset Review.
- UK applies to join huge Pacific free trade area Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).
- EU and Canada adopt rules putting in place the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) investment court.
- European Commissions put in place transparency and authorisation mechanism for exports of COVID-19 vaccine.

India

- Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance decided not to impose the Final Findings issued by the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) in Sunset Review investigation on anti-dumping duty on imports of 'Methylene Chloride' originating in or exported on anti-dumping duty on imports of Methylene Chloride originating in or exported from China PR.
- Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance has accepted the DGTR's request for extension for another 3 months to complete the Anti-Subsidy investigation concerning imports of "Fiberboards" from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Viet nam and Sri Lanka. The DGTR must now issue its Final Findings before 3 May 2021.
- DGTR announced further extension to complete the investigation in the Safeguard (Quantitative Restrictions) concerning imports of "Isopropyl Alcohol" in India (Case No. (SG) 06/2019)-Reg by another three months i.e. till 01 May 2021.
- Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) amended notification Nos. 96/2008-Customs, 57/2009-Customs, 101/2007-Customs and 50/2018-Customs consequential to imposition of Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (AIDC).
- CBIC amended notification No. 16/2020 Customs (ADD) dated 23 June 2020 so as to temporarily revoke the operation of anti-dumping duties on of import of Flat rolled product of steel, plated or coated with alloy of Aluminium and Zinc originating in or exported from China, Vietnam and Korea for the period from 2nd February 2021 to 30 September 2021.

- CBIC amended notification No. 38/2019 Customs (ADD) dated 25 September 2019 so as to temporarily revoke the anti-dumping duty on High-Speed Steel of Non-Cobalt Grade originating in or exported from Brazil, China and Germany for the period from 2 February 2021 to 30 September, 2021.
- <u>CBIC amended Notification No. 54/2018 Customs (ADD) dated 18 October 2018 so as to temporarily revoke anti-dumping duty on</u> Straight Length Bars and Rods of Alloy Steel from China for the period from 2 February 2021 to 30 September 2021.
- CBIC rescinded notification No. 02/2020 Customs (CVD) dated 9 October 2020 imposing provisional countervailing duty on import
 of Flat rolled products of stainless steel, originating in, or exported from Indonesia.
- CBIC amended notification No. 01/2017 Customs (CVD) dated 7 September 2017 so as to temporarily revoke countervailing duties on Certain Hot Rolled and Cold Rolled Stainless Steel Flat Products from China for the period from 2 February 2021 to 30 September 2021.
- Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) notified <u>BIS (Conformity Assessment) First Amendment Regulations</u>, 2021 and <u>BIS (Conformity Assessment) First Amendment Regulations</u>, 2021.
- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) notified the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales)
 Second Amendment Regulations, 2021.
- Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade notified draft Static and Mobile Pressure Vessels (Unfired) (Amendment)
 Rules 2021.

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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