



Trade Watch Weekly Bulletin

(International Trade and Customs)

April 11, 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.

World Trade Organization (WTO)

- [The third review of the trade policies and practices of Qatar took place on 6 and 8 April 2021.](#)
- [Concerns about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on farm trade and farm policies continued to overshadow the work of the WTO's Committee on Agriculture.](#)
- [The Panel in Canada — Measures governing the sale of wine \(DS537\) delayed the issuance of its interim report in order to allow the parties to find a mutually agreed solution. Accordingly, the Panel is not in a position to give an estimate of the period within which it will issue its report.](#)
- [United States \(US\) again raised concerns at the WTO Committee of Sanitary and Phytosanitary \(SPS\) with India's measure mandating "non-GM \(genetically modified\) origin and GM free certificates" for certain agricultural imports into India notified as G/TBT/N/IND/168 on 2 September 2020.](#)

US concerns include that the measure should have been notified in the SPS Committee instead of the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and whether any risk assessment regarding the measure has been undertaken.

- [It has been reported that the US also asked India questions regarding the operational status and scope of the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products \(RoDTEP\) scheme at the WTO.](#)

The RoDTEP Scheme was implemented from January 1, 2021 as a replacement for the Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS), which was challenged by the US at the WTO.

United States and European Union (EU)

- [United States International Trade Commission \(USITC\) notified the institution of Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Investigations on Organic Soybean Meal from India.](#)
- [US Bureau of Industry and Security \(BIS\) published an interim final rule establishing end-use and end-user controls, as well as controls on specific activities of U.S. persons, with respect to certain military-intelligence end uses and end users.](#)
This interim final rule also adds Burma/Myanmar to the list of countries subject to military intelligence-related controls and strengthens the sanctions on Burma.
- [EU releases Statement from the WTO Council for Trade in Goods in response to a request on the EU Covid-19 vaccine export transparency and authorisation measure.](#)
- [EU has accepted Uzbekistan as the 9th beneficiary country of the special incentive arrangement for sustainable development and good governance \(GSP+\) under the unilateral Generalised Scheme of Preferences \(GSP\).](#)

India

- [Directorate General of Trade Remedies \(DGTR\) issued Trade Notice 02/2021 to streamline process of scrutinizing petitions and directed that proposed period of investigation \(POI\) in anti-dumping and countervailing duty applications cannot be older than 4 months from the date of submission of the application.](#)
- [Ministry of Finance issued office memorandum deciding to not impose the DGTR's Final Findings dated 29 December 2020 in anti-subsidy investigation concerning imports of "Clear Float Glass" originating in or exported from Malaysia recommending countervailing duties.](#)
- [Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs \(CBIC\) imposed definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of Flexible slab stock polyol originating in or exported from Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates for a period of five years.](#)
- [CBIC notified the Customs \(Verification of Identity and Compliance\) Regulations, 2021.](#)

- [Directorate General of Foreign Trade \(DGFT\) notified that Merchandise Exports from India Scheme \(MEIS\) applications for shipping bills from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 can be submitted without any late cut up to 30 September 2021.](#)
- [Bureau of Indian Standards \(BIS\) notified standards on Construction Project Management and Textiles – Cotton Khadi Durries as well as notified the withdrawal of Code of Practice pertaining to Design and Installation of Fixed Foam Fire Extinguishing Systems.](#)

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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