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All Traders and Declaring Agents



OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES FOR IMPORTS FROM UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (USA) UNDER THE UNITED STATES-SINGAPORE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (USSFTA)

The USSFTA will be implemented on 1 Jan 2004. This circular outlines the procedures for the following import matters under the USSFTA:

- a. claiming preferential tariff;
- b. temporary import and export of goods;
- c. import of chewing gum; and
- d. advance rulings.

Preferential Tariff for Imports Under the USSFTA

2. With effect from 1 Jan 2004, preferential tariff will be accorded to goods originating from the USA under the USSFTA.

3. Imports of stout / porter, beer including ale, medicated samsu and other samsu (under HS codes 22030010, 22030090, 22089010, 22089020, 22089030 and 22089040) originating from the USA will be zero-rated. However, excise duty on these items will still be applicable at their respective rates.

Procedures for Claiming Preferential Tariff

4. Under the USSFTA, an importer may claim preferential tariff based on the importer's knowledge or on information in the importer's possession that the goods qualifies as an originating goods. No Certificate of Origin is required. However, you are required to produce the permit, together with the invoice, at the time of cargo clearance. (This will be stipulated as a condition in the permit.)

Procedures for Release of Goods for Local Consumption

5. Traders claiming preferential tariff for **conventional** goods are required to produce Duty Payment (DP) Permit showing the duty rate 1 field as blank, together with the goods at the Customs checkpoint for clearance.

6. Traders claiming preferential tariff for **containerized** goods are required to produce the Joint DP or Pure DP Permit together with the goods at the place of unstuffing for verification. For goods bonded in a Licensed Warehouse (LW) under

Joint or Pure Inward Permit, traders can transmit requisite declaration at preferential rate (ie with duty rate 1 field blank) to release the goods. For Direct Duty payment, the goods can be released to the importer immediately after unstuffing.

Temporary Import and Export of Goods

7. For temporary imports of the following goods from the USA, the validity period will be automatically extended by another 3 months at the end of the usual 3-month validity period:

- a. professional equipment; and
- b. goods intended for display or demonstration at exhibitions, fairs, or similar events (excluding liquor and tobacco products).

8. For goods temporarily exported to the USA for repair or alteration, the validity period for re-import will be automatically extended by another 3 months at the end of the usual 3-month validity period.

Import of Chewing Gum

9. With effect from 1 Jan 2004, Singapore will allow chewing gums with therapeutic value, classified under HS code 2106 90 99, to be imported for local sale by traders licensed by the Health Sciences Authority (HSA). HSA will inform traders separately on the detailed requirements for such imports. For more information, please contact the relevant HSA officers as indicated below:

Chewing Gums with Therapeutic Value	Product Code	HSA Staff	Tel No	Fax No
(a) Medicinal Gums	HSAMEDGUM	Thomas Koh, Product Evaluation & Registration Division (PER)	6325-5638	6224-2352
(b) Oral Dental Gums	HSADENGUM	Ms Suzie Quek, Cosmetic Control Unit (CCU)	6325-4737	6222-0653

10. The import of other chewing gums not licensed by HSA is still prohibited. The present procedures and conditions as specified under the *Regulation of Imports and Exports (Chewing Gum) Regulations* will still apply.

Advance Rulings

11. Under the USSFTA, applications for advance rulings on tariff classification, valuation and rules of origin of a product to be imported into Singapore will be issued within 120 days upon receipt of all necessary information and documents.

Rules of Origin for Exports to the USA and other Details on the USSFTA

12. Information on Rules of Origin for exports of non-textile products to the USA under the USSFTA can be found in circular (No 45/2003) dated 16 Dec 2003. Both circulars can be downloaded at "<http://www.customs.gov.sg/>".

13. Another circular relating to the export of textile and garment products will be separately issued as the documentation procedures are different. This will be sent out when the implementation date for the export of textile and garment products under the USSFTA is confirmed.

14. For other details on the USSFTA, please refer to MTI's website at "http://www.mti.gov.sg/public/FTA/frm_FTA_Default.asp?sid=36".

Enquiries

15. If you need further clarification on the contents of this circular, please call our Customs Call Centre at telephone number 63552000 and followed by (*)0).



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