



AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS NOTICE NO. 2003/50

Customs Tariff Amendment Act (No. 1) 2003 – preferential tariffs (including Least Developed Countries and Singapore)

Customs Tariff Amendment Act (No. 1) 2003 (the Act), which received Royal Assent on 30 June 2003, makes the following changes to the *Customs Tariff Act 1995* (the Tariff):

East Timor

lists East Timor as a Developing Country for the purposes of Part 3 of Schedule 1 of the Tariff. This change was previously included in Customs Tariff Proposal No. 2 (2003). ACN No. 2003/23 refers.

Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

amends the Tariff to define Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and to provide for the duty-free entry of goods originating in LDCs, from 1 July 2003. ACN No. 2003/48 provides details on the rules of origin for LDC preference and lists the countries eligible for duty-free entry.

Singapore

provides for the duty-free entry of goods from Singapore in accordance with the Singapore-Australia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA). These amendments will come into effect when SAFTA enters into force (expected to be early in the 2003-04 financial year). Rules of origin for SAFTA will be detailed in ACN 2003/49, which will be released closer to the commencement of SAFTA. COMPILE information regarding preference indicator changes for SAFTA will also be advised in ACN No. 2003/49.

Country Codes

introduces two-character International Standards Organization (ISO) Country Codes throughout the Tariff, in anticipation of the commencement of the Integrated Cargo System on 1 July 2004. Existing three- and four- letter country codes will continue to operate for entry processing purposes until that time.

Papua New Guinea

inserts Papua New Guinea in the list of Forum Island Countries. While Papua New Guinea is a Forum Island Country, this has not been formally reflected in the Tariff. The treatment of imports from Papua New Guinea will not be affected by this change.

Palau

removes Palau from the list of Places Treated as Developing Countries in Division 2 of Part 3 of Schedule 1, and includes it in the list of Developing Countries in Division 1 of Part 3 of Schedule 1. This amendment will not affect the treatment of goods from Palau but reflects Palau's status as an independent state.

Tariff Reprint Pages

Tariff reprint pages relevant to the above amendments will be issued progressively as other changes are made. Those pages containing the *Customs Tariff Act 1995* and Schedule 1 (countries eligible for preferential rates of duty) will be issued as soon as possible.

Any queries regarding these changes should be directed to:

for rules of origin: Manager
Origin
Australian Customs Service
CANBERRA ACT 2600
Ph: (02) 621 68703

for customs tariff duty rates: Manager
Tariff Legislation and External Review
Australian Customs Service
CANBERRA ACT 2600
Ph: (02) 627 56486

J H Jeffery
Deputy Chief Executive Officer
for
Chief Executive Officer
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