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India on the Mat Over 4G Telecomm Equipment at WTO

- US, Japan and EU Feel 10% Duty Violates IT Agreement and Tariff Binding
- India says these goods have come into Post WTO IT Agreement, No Zero Duty
- Spat in WTO to begin, the IT World to Watch India vs Developed Countries Match
- India Case Weak since WTO Panel has held that Description in IT Agreement will Prevail Over HS Code

Questions from the European Union, Japan and the United States to India regarding Indian Customs Notification No 11/2014

Communication from the European Union, Japan and the United States

The following communication, dated 1 April 2016, is being circulated at the request of the delegations of the European Union, Japan and the United States.

Notification No. 24/2005 exempted products classified under HS 8517 from customs duty, thereby implementing India's commitments under the Information Technology Agreement (ITA). On 11 July 2014, India adopted the Customs Notification No 11/2014 that raised duties to 10% *ad valorem* for the following products:

(i) Soft switches and Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) equipment, namely, VoIP phones, media gateways, gateway controllers and session border controllers;

(ii) Optical transport equipment, combination of one or more of Packet Optical Transport Product or Switch (POTP or POTS), Optical Transport Network (OTN) products, and IP Radios;

(iii) Carrier Ethernet Switch, Packet Transport Node (PTN) products, Multiprotocol Label Switching-Transport Profile (MPLS-TP) products;

(iv) Multiple Input/Multiple Output (MIMO) and Long Term Evolution (LTE) Products.

In accordance with Customs Notification no. 12/2016, the above-listed products are classified under heading 8517. More concretely, these products appear to be classified in the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act of India (MFN Tariff Schedule) under tariff lines 8517 62 90 and 8517 69 90. These tariff lines are subject to a 10% MFN duty as reflected also in the 2015-2016 version of India's MFN tariff schedule1.

However, according to India's recently certified WTO Schedule of Concessions in HS2007 (WT/Let/1072), tariff line 8517 62 90 is bound to "zero".

The European Union, Japan and the United States would like to ask India to clarify the following aspects:

1. Could India confirm that the four products mentioned above fall under codes 8517 62 90 or 8517 69 90? If products within the four categories subject to Customs Notification No. 11/2014 are classified under one of these two tariff lines, please specify which products are classified under each tariff line? If they are not classified under those subheadings, what are the tariff lines under which India classifies the above-listed product categories?

2. Could India confirm that the four above-listed product categories subject to Customs Notification No. 11/2014 are now subject to 10% duty rate?

3. What are India's WTO bound tariff commitments for each of the four above-listed product categories subject to Customs Notification No. 11/2014?

4. How does India justify introducing 10% import duty for products falling under 8517 62 in light of India's commitment pursuant of the ITA and in light of its concessions in the WTO Schedule, recently updated in HS2007 which binds the whole subheading at 0% of duty rate?

5. Should India consider that the products falling under 8517 62 are not covered by India's commitment pursuant of the ITA, could India clearly present the reasons?

6. Should India consider that the products falling under 8517 69 are not covered by India's commitment pursuant of the ITA, could India clearly present the reasons?

No Improvement in World Trade in 2016, Only 2.8% Growth

Growth in 2017 may be 3.6%, Improvement of 8 Points

- **World merchandise trade volume expected to grow by 2.8% in 2016**, unchanged from 2.8% in 2015, as GDP eases in developed economies and picks up in developing ones.
- **Trade growth should accelerate to 3.6% in 2017,** still below the average of 5.0% since 1990. Risks to the forecast are tilted to the downside, including further slowing in emerging economies and financial volatility.
- **South America recorded the weakest import growth of any region in 2015** as a severe recession in Brazil depressed demand.
- **Developed economies lagg behind developing countries in 2015,** with 2.6% volume growth in developed and 3.3% in the developing.
- **Developed economies imports surged 4.5% last year** while developing countries stagnated at 0.2%.
- **A sharp trade slowdown affected all regions in 2015Q2** but was mostly reversed by the end of the year.

India Keeps 19th Position in World Exports but Moves Down to 13th Place in World Imports
China Maintains 1st in Exports with 13.8% World Share

Merchandise Trade: Leading Exporters and Importers, 2015

$bn and %

Rank 2015	Rank 2014	Exporters	Value	Share	Annual % change	Rank 2015	Rank 2014	Importers	Value	Share	Annual % change
1	(1)	China	2275	13.8	-2.9	1	(1)	United States	2308	13.8	- 4.3
2	(2)	United States	1505	9.1	-7.1	2	(2)	China	1682	10.0	-14.2
3	(3)	Germany	1329	8.1	-11.0	3	(3)	Germany	1050	6.3	-13.0
4	(4)	Japan	625	3.8	-9.5	4	(4)	Japan	648	3.9	-20.2
5	(5)	Netherlands	567	3.4	-15.7	5	(5)	United Kingdom	626	3.7	-9.4
6	(7)	Korea, Republic of	527	3.2	-8.0	6	(6)	France	573	3.4	-15.4
7	(9)	Hong Kong, China	511	3.1	-2.6	7	(7)	Hong Kong, China	559	3.3	-6.9
		- domestic exports	13	0.1	-16.2			- retained imports	134	0.8	-10.7
		- re-exports	498	3.0	-2.2						
8	(6)	France	506	3.1	-12.8	8	(8)	Netherlands	506	3.0	-14.2
9	(10)	United Kingdom	460	2.8	-8.9	9	(9)	Korea , Republic of	436	2.6	-16.9
10	(8)	Italy	459	2.8	-13.4	10	(10)	Canada a	436	2.6	-9.1
11	(12)	Canada	408	2.5	-14.0	11	(11)	Italy	409	2.4	-13.8
12	(13)	Belgium	398	2.4	-15.7	12	(14)	Mexico	405	2.4	-1.5
13	(15)	Mexico	381	2.3	- 4.1	13	(12)	India	392	2.3	-15.3
14	(14)	Singapore	351	2.1	-14.5	14	(13)	Belgium	375	2.2	-17.5
		- domestic exports	174	1.1	-19.6						
		- re-exports	177	1.1	-8.7						
15	(11)	Russian Federation	340	2.1	-31.6	15	(16)	Spa in	309	1.8	-13.8
16	(21)	Switzerland b	290	1.8	-6.9	16	(15)	Singapore	297	1.8	-19.0
								- retained imports c	120	0.7	-30.5
17	(20)	Chinese Taipei	285	1.7	-10.8	17	(18)	Switzerland b	252	1.5	-8.7
18	(18)	Spain	282	1.7	-13.2	18	(19)	Chines e Taipei	238	1.4	-15.7
19	(19)	India	267	1.6	-17.2	19	(20)	United Arab Emirates d	230	1.4	-8.0
20	(16)	United Arab Emirates d	265	1.6	-29.3	20	(23)	Australia	208	1.2	-12.0
21	(24)	Thailand	214	1.3	-5.8	21	(21)	Turkey	207	1.2	-14.4
22	(17)	Saudi Arabia , Kingdom of	202	1.2	- 41.1	22	(24)	Thailand	203	1.2	-11.0
23	(23)	Malaysia	200	1.2	-14.6	23	(17)	Russian Federation a	194	1.2	-37.0
24	(26)	Poland	198	1.2	-10.0	24	(25)	Poland	193	1.1	-13.9
25	(25)	Brazil	191	1.2	-15.1	25	(22)	Brazil	179	1.1	-25.2
26	(22)	Australia	188	1.1	-21.9	26	(26)	Malaysia	176	1.0	-15.7
27	(32)	Viet Nam	162	1.0	7.9	27	(29)	Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of d	172	1.0	-0.9
28	(29)	Czech Republic	158	1.0	-9.7	28	(32)	Viet Nam	166	1.0	12.3
29	(27)	Austria	152	0.9	-14.5	29	(27)	Austria	155	0.9	-14.7
30	(28)	Indonesia	150	0.9	-14.8	30	(28)	Indonesia	143	0.9	-19.9
		Total of above e	**13848**	**84.0**	**-**			**Total of above e**	**13126**	**78.3**	**-**
		World e	**16482**	**100.0**	**-13.2**			**World e**	16766	100.0	**-12.2**

a. Importers are valued f.o.b.
b. Includes gold.
c. Singapore's retained imports are defined as imports less re exports.
d. Secretariat estimates.
e. Includes significant re exports or imports for re export.
Source: WTO Secretariat

Growth in the volume of world trade is expected to remain sluggish in 2016 at 2.8%, unchanged from the 2.8% increase registered in 2015. Imports of developed countries should moderate this year while demand for imported goods in developing Asian economies should pick up. Global trade growth should rise to 3.6% in 2017, WTO economists reported on 7 April.

Risks to this forecast are mostly on the downside, including a sharper than expected slowing of the Chinese economy, worsening financial market volatility, and exposure of countries with large foreign debts to sharp exchange rate movements. On the other hand, there is some upside potential if monetary support from the European Central Bank succeeds in generating faster growth in the euro area.

"Trade is still registering positive growth, albeit at a disappointing rate," WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo said. "This will be the fifth consecutive year of trade growth below 3%. Moreover, while the volume of global trade is growing, its value has fallen because of shifting exchange rates and falls in commodity prices. This could undermine fragile economic growth in vulnerable developing countries. There remains as well the threat of creeping protectionism as many governments continue to apply trade restrictions and the stock of these barriers continues to grow."

"However, we should keep these figures in perspective. WTO Members can take a number steps to use trade to lift global economic growth– from rolling back trade restrictive measures, to implementing the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement. This Agreement will dramatically cut trade costs around the world, thereby potentially boosting trade by up to $1 trillion a year," Azevêdo added. "More can also be done to address remaining tariff and non-tariff barriers on exports of agricultural and manufactured goods."

On the basis of the forecast for 2016, world trade will have grown at roughly the same rate as world GDP for five years (at market exchange rates), rather than twice as fast as was previously the case. Such a long, uninterrupted spell of slow but positive trade growth is unprecedented, but its importance should not be exaggerated. Overall, trade growth was weaker between 1980 and 1985, when five out of six years were below 3%, including two years of outright contraction.

Outlook for 2016 and 2017

The WTO's forecast of 2.8% growth in the volume of world merchandise trade for 2016 and 3.6% trade growth for 2017 are based on consensus estimates of real GDP at market exchange rates from economic forecasters (Table 1). According to these estimates, world GDP should grow 2.4% this year and 2.7% next year, with growth slowing slightly in developed countries in 2016 and picking up modestly in developing ones.

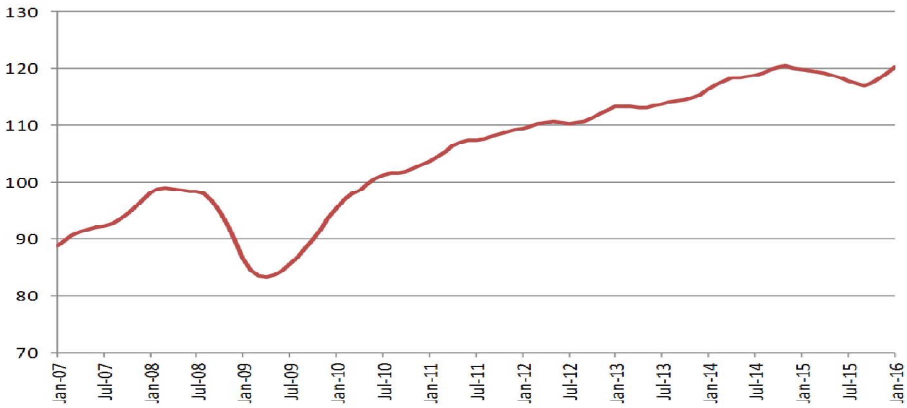
Exports of developed and developing countries should grow at around the same rate in 2016, 2.9% in the former and 2.8% in the latter. Meanwhile, imports of developed economies are expected to outpace those of developing countries in 2016, with a 3.3% rise in the former compared to a 1.8% increase in the latter.

Asia is expected to record the fastest export growth of any region this year at 3.4%, followed by North America and Europe, each at 3.1%. South and Central America and Other regions will lag behind at 1.9% and 0.4%, respectively. North America should see its imports increase by 4.1% this year, while Asian and European imports should both register growth of 3.2%. Finally, imports of South and Central America and Other regions are set to contract again this year as oil and other commodity prices remain low, but the degree of contraction should be less.

Risks to the trade forecasts remain tilted to the downside. Business and consumer confidence has slipped recently in developed countries. As a result, forecasters now expect slower GDP growth in the European Union and the United States in 2016, followed by a rebound in 2017. Financial instability in Asia has mostly abated but could return if economic data come in above or below market expectations. On the other hand, more accommodative monetary policy from the European Central Bank could spur growth in the euro area and boost demand for goods and services, including imports.

Container shipping trend throughput index, January 2007 - January 2016

Seasonally adjusted trend index, 2010=100



Source: Institute for Shipping Economic and Logistics

Details on trade developments in 2015

The 2015 result marks the fourth consecutive year in which growth in world merchandise trade stayed below 3.0% on an annual basis. Trade was also unusually volatile over the course of the year, falling in the second quarter in both developed and developing countries before rebounding in the final half.

The weak but still positive growth of merchandise trade volume in 2015 contrasted with the sharp decline in the dollar value of trade, which fell 13% to $16.5 trillion, down from $19 trillion in 2014. This discrepancy was mostly attributable to strong fluctuations in commodity prices and exchange rates, which were in turn driven by slowing economic growth in China, resilient fuel production in the United States, and divergent monetary policies across leading economies. Volatility in financial markets also dented business and consumer confidence and may have contributed to reduced global demand for certain durable goods.

World trade in commercial services last year registered a smaller decline in current dollar terms (exports down 6.4% to $4.7 trillion) than merchandise trade, with goods-related services such as transportation experiencing stronger declines (down 10.3% to $870 billion) than other categories. The relative strength of services is not surprising, since this type of trade tends to be less sensitive to business cycles than trade in goods.

The preliminary figure of 2.8% for world trade growth in 2015 refers to the average of merchandise exports and imports in volume terms, i.e. adjusted to account for differences in inflation and exchange rates across countries. This figure is in line with our most recent forecast of 2.8% from last September, but that forecast did not predict some regional developments.

Trade developments in 2015 by region, product and services category

The volume of world merchandise trade has grown at a slow, steady pace in recent years, but this consistency belies changes in the contributions of WTO geographic regions to trade volume growth over time.

Asia contributed more than any other region to the recovery of world trade after the financial crisis of 2008-09. However, the region's impact on world import volume growth declined last year as the Chinese and other Asian economies cooled. Asia contributed 1.6 percentage points to the 2.3% rise in the volume of world merchandise imports in 2013, or 73% of world import growth, but in 2015 the region contributed just 0.6 percentage points to the global increase of 2.6%, or 23% of world import growth.

Asia also did more than any other region to lift merchandise export volume growth between 2011 and 2014, but its contribution fell below that of Europe in 2015. In the latest year, Asia was responsible for 1 percentage point of the 3.0% rise in world merchandise exports, or 35% of export growth, whereas Europe's 1.3 percentage point contribution accounted for 44% of the rise.

North America's contribution to exports growth in volume terms was close to zero in 2015 as demand for US goods slowed in Canada, Asia and South and Central America. Meanwhile, South and Central America and other regions made small positive contributions to export volume growth. The combination of increased export volumes in oil producing regions and falling imports in Asia likely contributed to falling energy prices in 2015, as oil supply outstripped energy demand, causing prices to plunge.

The WTO does not have a product breakdown of world trade growth in volume terms, but such a breakdown can be estimated for year-on-year growth in the dollar value of merchandise trade. This is shown for broad product groups in Chart 4, which illustrates that fuels and mining products were responsible for more than half of the drop in trade values in 2015, but that slowing trade in manufactures and agricultural products also contributed significantly to the overall decline. Among manufactured goods, the products where trade values notably declined in 2015 were office and telecom equipment, chemicals and other machinery (which includes investment goods and durables other than automobiles), while clothing and textiles only made a small contribution to growth.

The dollar value of intra-Asia imports of manufactured goods is estimated to have fallen around 5% in 2015, roughly in line with the decline of Asian imports of manufactured goods worldwide. This would seem to indicate a broad-based decline in trade values, perhaps more closely related to price fluctuations than to changes in production and consumption patterns. However, Asian imports of other machinery (a category that includes capital goods) registered a stronger decline of around 8%, suggesting a downturn in investment in the region. In particular, China's imports of other machinery from Europe and North America were down 15% and 8%, respectively, in 2015 based on Secretariat estimates. This falloff in investment may be temporary, driven by financial volatility, exchange rate uncertainty and unsettled monetary policy in 2015.

It (Chart 5) illustrates growth in the dollar value of world commercial services exports since 2013 broken down by major services categories. Commercial services trade recorded a 6.4% year-on year decline in 2015, although transport services registered a larger drop of nearly 10% as prices for sea shipment of dry bulk cargo fell to record lows last year. Other types of services exports, such as travel and other commercial services (a category that include financial services) saw smaller declines of around 5.5%.

The drop in world commercial services exports was less than the 13.5% slide in the dollar value of merchandise exports, which was strongly influenced by fluctuations in primary commodity prices

According to statistics from the International Monetary Fund, primary commodity prices have fallen by more than 50% on average since January 2014, with drops of around 20% for food and beverages, 30% for metals, and 65% for energy (fuels).

There is no volume indicator for services trade akin to the WTO's merchandise trade volume indices, but physical measures of services trade such as passenger arrivals and container port throughput point to a resumption of growth after a slowdown in the middle of 2015.

Crude Rises to $40.60

Crude Oil (Indian Basket) from 06 - 12 April 2016

	06 Apr	07 Apr	08 Apr	11 Apr	12 Apr
($/bbl)	35.73	36.71	37.91	38.95	40.60
(Rs/bbl)	2379.08	2440.11	2519.82	2585.73	2699.63
(Rs/$)	66.58	66.47	66.47	66.39	66.50

(Previous Trading Day Price)

Source: Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas

India Keeps 8th Position Among World Service Exporters

Leading exporters and importers in world trade in commercial services, 2015

$bn and %

Rank 2015	Rank 2014	Exporters	Value	Share	Annual % change	Rank 2015	Rank 2014	Importers	Value	Share	Annual % change
1	(1)	United States	690	14.8	0.0	1	(1)	United States	469	10.3	3.5
2	(2)	United Kingdom	341	7.3	- 4.7	2	(2)	China	437	9.6	14.7
3	(4)	Germany	246	5.3	-9.8	3	(3)	Germany	292	6.4	-11.5
4	(3)	France	239	5.1	-13.1	4	(4)	France	224	4.9	-11.0
5	(5)	China	229	4.9	-0.7	5	(5)	United Kingdom	205	4.5	-1.8
6	(6)	Netherlands	176	3.8	-9.5	6	(6)	Japan	174	3.8	-8.8
7	(7)	Japan	158	3.4	-0.2	7	(7)	Netherlands	166	3.6	-4.1
8	(8)	India	158	3.4	1.2	8	(9)	Ireland	151	3.3	4.5
9	(9)	Singapore	140	3.0	-7.3	9	(10)	Singapore	144	3.1	-7.6
10	(11)	Ireland	128	2.7	- 4.1	10	(8)	India a	126	2.7	-1.1
11	(10)	Spa in	118	2.5	-10.9	11	(13)	Korea , Republic of	112	2.5	-2.1
12	(14)	Switzerland	108	2.3	-7.6	12	(12)	Belgium	104	2.3	-11.2
13	(12)	Belgium	106	2.3	-12.7	13	(14)	Italy	98	2.1	-13.7
14	(15)	Hong Kong, China	104	2.2	-2.3	14	(15)	Canada	95	2.1	-10.6
15	(13)	Italy	99	2.1	-12.7	15	(16)	Switzerland	93	2.0	-5.4
16	(16)	Korea, Republic of	97	2.1	-12.7	16	(11)	Russian Federation	85	1.9	-28.3
17	(17)	Luxembourg	94	2.0	-5.6	17	(18)	Hong Kong, China	74	1.6	0.2
18	(18)	Canada	76	1.6	-10.4	18	(21)	Luxembourg	72	1.6	-6.5
19	(19)	Sweden	70	1.5	-6.2	19	(17)	Brazil	69	1.5	-19.8
20	(20)	Denmark	61	1.3	-15.9	20	(20)	Spain	63	1.4	-7.1
21	(24)	Thailand	60	1.3	9.6	21	(22)	Sweden	58	1.3	-10.8
22	(21)	Austria	60	1.3	-10.2	22	(25)	Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of	58	1.3	-6.7
23	(23)	Chinese Taipei b	56	1.2	-0.1	23	(24)	Australia	54	1.2	-14.0
24	(22)	Russian Federation	49	1.0	-24.5	24	(23)	Denmark	54	1.2	-13.7
25	(25)	Australia	48	1.0	-9.4	25	(28)	Thailand	50	1.1	-4.6
26	(27)	Turkey	46	1.0	-7.8	26	(27)	Austria	47	1.0	-11.2
27	(29)	Poland	43	0.9	-9.6	27	(26)	Norway	47	1.0	-16.1
28	(28)	Norway	41	0.9	-17.5	28	(29)	Chinese Taipei b	47	1.0	3.8
29	(31)	Malaysia	35	0.7	-17.0	29	(30)	Malaysia	40	0.9	-11.8
30	(33)	Israel	34	0.7	-2.9	30	(31)	Poland	32	0.7	-11.5
		Total of above	**3910**	**83.6**	**-**			**Total of above**	**3741**	**81.9**	**-**
		World	**4675**	**100.0**	**-6.4**			**World**	**4570**	**100.0**	**-5.4**

a. Imports adjusted to f.o.b valuation.
b. Data converted to BPM6 methodology. Manufacturing services on inputs owned by others are not covered.
… indicates unavailable or non comparable figures.
- indicates non applicable.
Note: Preliminary estimates based on quarterly statistics. Figures for a number of countries and territories have been estimated by the Secretariat.
Source: WTO and UNCTAD Secretariat

British Virgin Island Registers 500,000 Companies, Unleashes Storm

- Over 500 Indian in List Uncovered by Independent Journors
- Amitabh Bachchan Claims Account Opened by Imposter, Daughter in Law Aish says Her Brother Opened Account

British Virgin Islands, that outpost of sun, sand and offshore banking, has been swept up in the fury following the enormous leak of documents about the financial dealings of some of the world's richest people.

U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron is being urged to end the overseas territory's status as a sort of financial no-man's land. His late father, Ian, a stock broker and investment manager, had helped establish a company in none other than the BVI. At an EU referendum campaign event on Tuesday, Cameron was forced to deny that he had any offshore trusts or shares stemming from his father.

For decades, the BVI has quietly – and lucratively – greased the wheels of global finance. More than half of the companies linked to the articles by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, based on leaks from a secretive Panamanian law firm, were said to have been incorporated in the British Virgin Islands.

The opposition Labour Party, Jeremy Corbyn, called for an independent investigation of the tax affairs of Britons linked to reports, including Cameron's family.

The uproar also reached Iceland, where the prime minister resigned following revelations that he and his wife had set up a company in the British Virgin Islands in 2007.

As much as anything, the Panama Papers have exposed Britain's awkward and tangled relationship with its 17 crown dependencies and overseas territories. In the BVI, the official language is English, the flag, the Union Jack, the anthem, "God Save the Queen." The queen appoints the governor, who in turn appoints a prime minister.

But while financial services account for roughly half the economy, the British Virgin Islands (population: 28,000) operates outside various U.K. rules governing finance and taxes. Corbyn, the British Labour leader, is calling for what is known as direct rule, which would end the territory's privileged status.

According to the ICIJ, 113,000 of the nearly 215,000 companies known to have been established by the Panama firm, Mossack Fonseca, were set up in the British Virgin Islands, with thousands more in other British jurisdictions. The Panama firm has denied any wrongdoing.

After centuries of British control dating back to the days of Blackbeard the pirate, the British Virgin Islands gained separate status as a crown colony in 1960. Until financial services industry took off in the 1970s, the islands operated a poor rural economy. Ironically, the BVI benefited from the U.S. invasion of Panama in 1991, which prompted offshore businesses to find new havens, albeit temporarily.

Tighter Regulations

The U.K. passed legislation in 2015 outlawing bearer shares, which have been used by investors to protect anonymity because they don't include the name of the owner on the certificate. The U.K. has also passed a law establishing a public registry of company beneficial ownership, which comes into effect this month.

In November 2014, Cameron wrote an open letter to overseas territories, urging them to follow

Cont'd..24

Mixture of Micronutrients/Multi-micronutrients having Predominately Trace Elements Classified in Heading 3824

Sub: Classification of Micronutrients, Multi-micro nutrients, Plant Growth Regulators and Fertilizers.

1022-CBEC 06.04.2016 (DoR) The issue of classification of micronutrients, multi-micro nutrients, plant growth regulators and fertilizers has remained a disputed area in Central Excise. To bring clarity to the issue of classification thereof, it was decided to take opinion of Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) on various issues relating to micronutrients such as - what constitutes micronutrients, its usage, distinction from plant growth regulator, if any, etc. In light of the opinion received from IARI, Central Excise Tariff and explanatory notes of HSN, nature, usage and classification of micronutrients, multi-micronutrients, plant growth regulators and fertilizers is explained in the following paragraphs.

2.1 Micronutrients are essential nutrients that are required in small quantities for the normal growth and development of plants. As on today, iron (Fe), manganese (Mn), zinc (Zn), copper (Cu), boron (B), molybdenum (Mo), nickel (Ni) and chlorine (Cl) are included in this category. These elements are also called minor or trace elements, but this does not mean that they are less important than macronutrients. Reply received from IARI on the subject, enclosed with the circular, may please be referred for further details. Inputs received from the trade indicates that these micronutrients are sold in the market as 'micronutrient fertilizer' supplying one or more of the eight essential nutrients listed above, namely iron to chlorine. However, in the trade parlance sale of micronutrients as 'micronutrient fertilizers' would not lead to classification thereof under chapter 31 as fertilizers for the purposes of Central Excise Tariff. For classification under chapter 31 , at least one of the elements, namely- nitrogen, phosphorus or potassium should be an essential constituent of the fertilizer as per chapter note 6 of chapter 31.

2.2 There is no specific heading in the tariff for classification of micronutrients. However, where the micronutrient is a separate chemically defined compound, it will be classifiable under the heading for that chemically defined compound under chapter 28 or chapter 29. For example, some of the sulphates of micronutrients are specifically covered under CETH 2833.

2.3 Vide Notification no.12/2016 - C.E dated 1.3.2016, Notification no.12/2012 - C.E dated 17.3.2012 has been amended and a new serial no 109A has been inserted to exempt duty of excise in excess of 6%, payable on micronutrients classifiable under chapter 28, 29 or 38 and covered under serial number 1(f) of Schedule 1, Part (A) of the Fertilizer Control Order,1985 and manufactured by the manufacturers registered under the Fertilizer Control Order, 1985.

3.1 Plant Growth Regulators are defined as organic compounds other than nutrients that affect the physiological processes of growth and development in plants when applied in low concentration. Plant growth regulators are active at low concentrations in promoting, inhibiting or modifying growth and development. They are either natural or synthetic compounds that are applied directly to a target plant to alter its life processes and its structure to improve quality, increase yields, or facilitate harvesting etc. These are in the nature of plant hormones and classical of them are auxins, cytokinins, gibberellins (all three promoters) and abscisic acid, ethylene (both inhibitors). PGRs in the list are not exhaustive and more growth substances are being discovered in this category. PGRs are naturally produced by plants and they act by controlling or modifying, plant growth processes such as formation of leaves and flowers, elongation of stems, development and ripening of fruits etc. Synthetic organic chemicals are also used as PGRs and are industrially produced and marketed. A list of some of the PGRs industrially produced in India is enclosed with the reply of IARI.

3.2 It would thus be noted that PGRs are different from nutrients, be it macronutrient or micronutrient. The difference between PGR and micronutrient has been clearly brought out in the reply from ICAR. PGR as a substance is specifically covered under CETH 3808. More specifically, Gibberellic acid and Plant Growth regulators are respectively covered under tariff item 3808 9330 and 3808 9340.

4. **Fertilizers** are classified under chapter 31 of the Central Excise Tariff and for this purpose they may interalia be minerals or chemical fertilizers nitrogenous (CETH 3102), phosphatic (CETH 3103), potassic (CETH 3104) or fertilizers consisting of two or three of the fertilizing elements namely nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium; other fertilizers (CETH 3105). For the purpose of classification of any product as "other fertilizers", chapter note 6 of Chapter 31 is relevant which provides that the term "other fertilizers" applies only to products of a kind used as fertilizers and contain, as an essential constituent, at least one of the elements nitrogen, phosphorus or potassium. It is quite clear that for any product to merit classification under CETH3105 as other fertilizers, the product must have nitrogen or phosphorus or potassium or their combination as an essential constituent providing the essential character to the product. The chemical elements - nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium are also referred as macronutrients or primary fertilizer elements and are required in higher quantity by the plants.

4.2 Any product where the essential elements are not nitrogen or phosphorus or potassium or their mixture would not merit classification under CETH 3105. Further, the specific exclusion of separate chemically defined compounds as laid down in chapter note 1 (b) and in the HSN Explanatory Notes to the heading 3105.90, reinforce the above conclusion. It may also be noted that notifications issued under Fertilizer Control Order are not relevant for deciding classification under the Central Excise Tariff.

5. Mixtures of micronutrients/multi-micronutrients with fertilisers are also manufactured and sold. They shall be classified according to their essential characters and general rules for interpretation of the schedule to the tariff. Where the

DGFT Introduces E-commerce Definition for the Purpose of MEIS

Effect of this Notification: *Definition of e-commerce for the purpose of MEIS under FTP 2015-2020 is introduced in Chapter 9 of the Foreign Trade Policy (2015-2020)*

Subject: Introduction of definition of e-commerce in foreign Trade Policy (2015-2020).

02-Ntfn 11.04.2016 (DGFT) In exercise of powers conferred by Section 5 of FT (D&R) Act 1992 read with paragraph 1.02 of the Foreign Trade Policy 2015-2020 as amended from time to time the Central Government hereby introduces the definition of e-commerce in Chapter 9 of the Foreign Trade Policy (2015-2020) as under

9.17A: "e-commerce means buying and selling of goods and services including digital products, conducted over digital and electronic network. For the purposes of merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) e-commerce shall mean the export of goods hosted on a website accessible through the internet to a purchaser. While the dispatch of goods shall be made though courier or postal mode as specified under the MEIS the payment for goods purchased on e-commerce platform shall be done through international credit/debit cards and as per the Reserve Bank of India Circular (RBI/2015-16/185) [AP (DIR Series) Circular No. 16 dated September 24 2015] as amended from time to time"

No FMS Benefits for "Liquid Glucose" Classified as "Sugar"

Subject: Eligibility of Liquid Glucose under Focus Market Scheme of Foreign Trade Policy (FTP), 2009-14.

01-TN 07.04.2016 (DGFT) Para 3.14.3 of FTP 2009-14 inter-alia sates that the following categories of export product/sector shall be ineligible for Duty Credit Scrip under **Focus Market Scheme** (FMS) of FTP 2009-14.

VII- Sugar, of all types and in all forms.

2. DGFT has received representations stating that the 'Liquid Glucose' under ITC (HS) Code 1702 is maize product, which is not sugar. Therefore, its export may be eligible for FMS benefit.

3. The issue has been examined in consultation with policy interpretation Committee (PIC). It is noted that Liquid Glucose falls under HS code 17023010 HS code 1702 is described under chapter 17 heading "**Sugar and Sugar confectionery**" as :

OTHER SUGARS, INCLUDING CHEMICALLY PURE LACTOSE, MALTOSE, GLUCOSE AND FRUCTOSE, IN SOLID FORMS; SUGAR SYRUPS NOT CONTAINING ADDED FLAVOURING OR COLOURING MATTER, ARTIFICIAL HONEY, WHETHER OR NOT MIXED WITH NATURAL HONEY; CARAMEL

4. It is therefore, clarified that all items under HS code 1702 are Sugar as HS code 1702 lists "other Sugar" Accordingly the export item Liquid Glucose is "Sugar" and therefore not eligible for FMS benefits.

essential constituent giving character to the mixture is one or more of the three elements namely Nitrogen, Phosphorous or Potassium, the mixture shall be classified under any of the heading of Chapter 31, depending upon its composition. On the other hand, where the essential character of the product is that of mixture of micronutrients/ multi-micronutrients having predominately trace elements, it shall be classified under CETH 3824as chemical products not elsewhere specified or included.

6. Past circulars of the Board on the subject namely 79/79/94-CX dt 21-11-94 and 392/25/98-CX dt 19-5-1998stand rescinded. Classification of Micronutrients, Multi-micronutrients, Plant Growth Regulators and Fertilizers shall be governed by the clarification contained in this circular to the extent the product under consideration is covered by the circular.

7. Difficulty experienced, if any, in implementing the circular should be brought to the notice of the Board.

[Annexure to this circular at www.worldtradescanner.com]

All Central Excise and Service Tax Audit Objections Issued Prior to 1 Mar 2014 shall be Compared with Pending Action Taken Notes (ATNs)

Subject: - Adjudication of Show Cause Notices issued on the basis of CERA/CRA objection.

1023-CBEC 08.04.2016 (DoR)

Central Board of Excise and Customs has issued instructions from time to time regarding adjudication of show cause notices issued on the basis of audit objections of Central Excise Revenue Audit (CERA) and Customs Revenue Audit (CRA), which is receipt audit wing of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. The pendency position of such notices in the Call-Book has been reviewed and found to be larger than the number of audit objections which have been converted into Audit Paragraphs. After due examination, it was felt that there was a need to review the past practices and issue revised consolidated guidelines to provide a clear procedure for the field officers to deal with the CERA / CRA objections. The Tax Administration Reform Commission (TARC) report, representations received form trade and inputs received from field officers also indicated that there was a need to review past instructions to improve the ease of doing business and bring certainty regarding tax liability of an assessee. Accordingly, all past circulars and instructions on the subject are hereby rescinded and following procedure is prescribed for dealing with audit objections raised by CERA / CRA.

2. An audit objection may mature into an Audit Paragraph and become part of Audit Report periodically submitted by the office of CAG to the Parliament. Various stages involved in the life cycle of an audit objection and the timeliness prescribed for replying thereto may be noted and strictly adhered to by the departmental officers. These stages and timeliness are as follows :

(i) **Half Margin**: Half margin/audit memo is issued to the Superintendent of the Range during the course of audit on points noticed by CERA. The half margin is to be replied to immediately and in any case before the end of the audit of Range/ Division/ Commissionerate concerned.

(ii) **Local Audit Report (LAR):** LAR containing audit paragraphs is generally issued by the headquarters of the local CAG Office to the Assistant/ Deputy Commissioner generally within one month of the completion of the audit by the headquarters of the Director General or Principal Director of Audit. The Assistant/Deputy Commissioner is expected to reply to the LAR within **thirty days.**

(iii) **Statement of Facts (SoF)**: SoF is issued to the jurisdictional Commissioner/Addl. Commissioner on the major audit observations which may feature in Audit Reports. It has been decided that SoF shall be replied within six weeks where the audit objection is not contested. Where the audit objection is contested and the amount of duty involved in the audit objection is rupees fifty lakhs or less, SoF shall be replied with the approval of the Commissioner and for audit objections involving higher amounts of duty, SoF shall be replied with the approval of the Chief Commissioner. Detailed reasons for contesting the audit objection should be recorded in the file quoting relevant case-laws and circulars, if any.

(iv) **Draft Audit Para (DAP)**: Potential audit paragraphs considered fit for inclusion in the Audit Report are issued by the CAG officer to the Ministry (CBEC) as DAPs. CBEC is expected to **reply to DAP within four weeks** of its receipt.

(v) **Audit Paragraphs**: CAG's office, after considering the reply of the CBEC may convert a DAP into Audit Paragraph. Audit Paragraphs are periodically compiled and are submitted by the office of CAG to the Parliament in the form of a report called Audit Report. CBEC is expected to furnish an Action Taken Note on each of the paragraphs in the Audit Report. The ATNs received are examined by the office of CAG and duly vetted ATNs are submitted to the PAC. The process of submission of ATN, due vetting and submission to PAC is expected to be completed **within four months** of submission of Audit Report. At both the DAP and Audit Para stages, it is essential that field formations concerned give a detailed reply including the present status of the objection to facilitate a meaningful reply by CBEC.

Coordination Meetings:

3. One of the reasons for pendency in adjudication of CERA/CRA objection is the lack of mechanism for periodic reconciliation of the status of audit objections. It has, therefore, been decided that a quarterly coordination meeting would be held in each of the Zones by the officers of the revenue department with the officers of CAG to ensure that the list of audit objections, replies given by revenue and final view taken by CERA/CRA can be discussed. Chief Commissioner shall identify a nodal officer, [preferably Additional Commissioner/ Joint Commissioner, CCU] to coordinate and attend such meetings. An audit objection is considered settled when the views of CERA/CRA and revenue converge due to either CERA/CRA dropping the audit objection or revenue admitting the audit objection.

Issue of Show Cause Notice:

4.1 **Audit objection at LAR and SoF Stage**: Once an LAR or SOF is received, it should be replied by the department forthwith. Based on the reply sent by the department, they can be divided in following categories:

4.1.1 **Where the department has agreed with the audit objection on merits**: Audit objections where department has agreed to the merits of the objections constitute a large proportion of the audit objections. In such cases, Show Cause Notices should be issued immediately. Such cases should not be transferred to the Call-Book and should be adjudicated forthwith and revenue realized in cases of confirmed demand at the earliest.

4.1.2 **Where the department has not agreed with the audit objection on merits :** No show cause notice should be issued in cases where department has not agreed with the audit objection on merits. In such cases audit objection should be replied following the procedure laid in clause (iii) of paragraph 2.

4.2 **Show Cause Notice at the direction of the Board:** Where a contested audit objection has become DAP and on examination it is found by the Commissioner (PAC) or joint Secretary (Customs) in CBEC that the objection should have been admitted, they may give necessary directions to the field to issue show cause notice and adjudicate the case on merits.

4.3 **No transfer to call-book:** It may be noted that the procedure of transferring the show cause notice arising out of CAG objection to call-book has been discontinued and in future no such show cause notice should be transferred to the call-book. Circular nos 162/73/95-CX dated 14.12.1995 and 385/18/98-CX dated 30.03.98 on transfer of cases to the call book arising out of CAG objections stands amended accordingly.

Adjudication of Show Cause Notices :

5.1 **Adjudication of SoFs/LARs not converted into DAP**: SoFs/LARs are replied by the Commissionerate and therefore these cases may be adjudicated after ensuring that the reply given by the Commissionerate is available on record.

5.2 **Adjudication of admitted DAPs/APs:** DAPs are replied by the Ministry (CBEC) and therefore adjudication of DAPs should be undertaken after ensuring that the reply given by the Ministry (CBEC) is available on record.

Ntfn 151/94-Cus Zero Duty Exemption Available to All Indian Airlines

[CBEC Instruction F.No. 528/15/2016-STO (TU) dated 8th April 2016]

Subject: Clarification on availability of benefit under Notification No. 151/94-Cus dated 13.07.1994.

Representations have been received from the trade on the subject above.

2. The matter has been examined by the Board and it is observed that in reference to Serial No. 1 of the Notification No. 151/94-Cus dated 13.07.1994, exemption is not limited to the 'Indian Airlines' (now called as 'National Aviation Company of India Limited'). It is available to any Indian airline, in other words, to all Indian airlines.

3. Suitable Public Notice/Standing Order may be issued for the benefit of all stakeholders and Departmental officers.

4. Difficulty faced, if any, may be brought to the notice of the Board.

F. No. 528/15/2016-STO (TU)

5.3 Adjudicating authority is a quasi-judicial authority and is legally bound to adjudicate the case independently and judiciously taking into consideration the audit objection by CERA/CRA, reply of the department as referred above, reply of the party, relevant legal provisions, case laws on the subject and relevant circulars of the Board, if any. It is expected that the factum of SCN being a consequence of CERA/CRA objection, would be incorporated in the brief facts of the case in the adjudication order.

5.4 Where an issue was under audit objection and has been subsequently either judicially settled, by say judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court or where a circular of the Board has been issued on the subject, further correspondence with the Board on the audit objections, even if they have become DAPs, is not necessary and such cases may be adjudicated on merits taking into consideration the latest judgments and circulars.

Past Cases:

6.1 All audit objections relating to Central Excise and Service tax issued prior to 1.3.2014 shall be compared with the pending Action Taken Notes (ATNs), received from the office of CAG, enclosed as Annexure B with the Circular. For Customs, the list shall be separately issued. Show Cause Notices (SCNs) relating to audit objections figuring in the list should not be adjudicated and further action may be taken on them in consultation with the Commissioner (PAC). The rest of the objections stand finally vetted by CAG Audit with no further comments which means that the reply of the department has been accepted by the CAG office. SCNs relating to these objections may be taken up for adjudication on merit, including those in the call-book, following the procedure prescribed in paragraph 5.

6.2 For audit objections raised after 1.3.2014 and till the date of issue of this circular, where SCNs have been issued, list of pending ATNs would be issued in due course. These show cause notices pertaining to these objections may be adjudicated, mutatis-mutandis following the procedure prescribed in paragraph 6.1 read with paragraph 5.

Application:

7. All audit objections in Customs, Central Excise and Service tax received after the issue of this circular or past audit objections where no show cause notice has been issued shall be dealt as per the provisions of this circular.

8. Difficulty, if any, in implementing the circular may be brought to the notice of the Board.

F. No. 206/02/2010-CX.6

[Annexure to this circular at www.worldtradescanner.com]

CBEC Clarification on Waste Oil

Subject: Clarification regarding re-refined used or waste-oil.

1024-CBEC 11.04.2016 (DoR) — References have been received regarding excisability of re-refined used oil or waste oil. Various units are engaged in re-refining of waste oil or used lubricating oil collected from the transformers, service stations of vehicles etc. The matter has been examined.

Process

2. Used Oil contains impurities and contaminants such as moisture, diluents, sediments, metal particles and carbon. In refining units, waste or used oil undergoes various process such as dehydration-for removal of moisture, distillation-for removal of diluents, clay polishing- for removal of carbon by adsorption process, filtration-for removal of the clay and the dissolved carbon to render it usable. The oil so obtained from such waste or used oil is packed and sold as base oil, lubricating oil and transformer oil etc. to the consumers for further use.

Classification

2.1 "Waste oil" has been defined in note 3 of chapter 27 of First Schedule of Central Excise tariff Act, 1985 as waste containing mainly petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, whether or not mixed with water. These include:

(a) such oils no longer fit for use as primary products (for example, used lubricating oils used hydraulic oils and used transformer oil);

(b) sludge oils from the storage tanks of petroleum oils, mainly containing such oils high concentration of additives (for example, chemicals) used in the manufacture of primary products; and

(c) such oil in the form of emulsions in water or mixtures with water, such as those resulting from oil spills, storage tank washing, or from the use of cutting oils for machining operations.

2.2. Under Central Excise tariff heading 2710, there are three headings or sub-classifications at the single dash (-) level. The first of the three heading

Exchange Rates for Customs Valuation

Rupee Falls 5 Paise against Dollar to Rs. 67.50 w.e.f. 8 April

48-Cus(NT) 07.04.2016 (DoR) — In exercise of the powers conferred by section 14 of the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962), and in supersession of the notification of the Central Board of Excise & Customs No. 41/2016-CUSTOMS (N.T.), dated the 17th March, 2016, except as respects things done or omitted to be done before such supersession, the Central Board of Excise and Customs hereby determines that the rate of exchange of conversion of each of the foreign currency specified in column (2) of each of Schedule I and Schedule II annexed hereto into Indian currency or *vice versa,* shall, **with effect from 8th April, 2016,** be the rate mentioned against it in the corresponding entry in column (3) thereof, for the purpose of the said section, relating to imported and export goods.

		Imprted Goods		Exported Goods	
SNo.	Currency	Current	Previous	Current	Previous
Schedule I *– Rate of exchange of one unit of foreign currency equivalent to Indian rupees*					
1.	Australian Dollar	51.60	51.60	49.70	50.30
2.	Bahrain Dinar	182.65	182.85	171.10	172.35
3.	Canadian Dollar	51.80	51.65	50.15	50.60
4.	Danish Kroner	10.40	10.20	10.00	9.95
5.	EURO	77.25	76.05	74.70	74.20
6.	Hong Kong Dollar	8.70	8.70	8.45	8.55
7.	Kuwait Dinar	228.30	229.00	213.70	216.35
8.	Newzeland Dollar	46.40	46.00	44.60	44.65
9.	Norwegian Kroner	8.15	8.00	7.85	7.80
10.	Pound Sterling	95.65	96.60	92.60	94.45
11.	Singapore Dollar	50.10	49.50	48.55	48.45
12.	South African Rand	4.55	4.40	4.25	4.15
13.	Saudi Arabian Riyal	18.35	18.35	17.20	17.35
14.	Swedish Kroner	8.30	8.25	8.05	8.05
15.	Swiss Franc	70.85	69.35	68.55	67.60
16.	UAE Dirham	18.75	18.75	17.55	17.70
17.	US Dollar	67.50	67.45	65.80	66.40
18.	Chinese Yuan	10.45	10.40	10.15	10.20
Schedule II *– Rate of exchange of 100 units of foreign currency equivalent to Indian rupees*					
1.	Japanese Yen	62.05	60.15	60.05	58.80
2.	Kenya Shilling	67.95	67.90	63.55	64.10

[F.No.468/01/2016-Cus.V]

at single dash (-) level deals with petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals……….etc. other than those containing bio-diesel and other than waste oil. Second heading at this level deals with those containing biodiesel other than waste oil and the third heading is meant for waste oil. Waste oil is further divided into two sub-classifications at eight digit level, with two dash (—), namely 27109100 and 27109900. Waste oil is classifiable in either of them depending upon its composition. Lubricating oil on the other hand is classifiable under CETH 27101980, a heading specifically covering lubricating oil.

3. It may be noted that used lubricating oil collected from service stations is not fit for use as primary products and will therefore be classified as waste oil whereas processed waste oil, which becomes fit for use as lubricating oil and would qualify as primary product, will be classified as lubricating oil.

Manufacture

4. Waste oil after processing may become lubricating oil but this process would not amount to manufacture in view of the judgement of tribunal in case of Collector vs Mineral Oil Corporation [1999(114) ELT 166] upheld by Hon'ble Supreme Court [2002(140) ELT 248(SC)]. However, the issue also needs to be examined in light of chapter note 4 of chapter 27 which was inserted in the Central Excise Tariff by the Finance Act of 2000.

5.1 Chapter note 4 of chapter 27 is a deeming fiction on manufacture and provides that:-

"*In relation to the lubricating oils and lubricating preparations of heading 2710, labelling or re-labelling of containers and re-packing from bulk pack* *to retail packs or the adoption of any other treatment to render the product marketable to the consumers, shall amount to manufacture"*

5.2 This chapter note applies only to "lubricating oils and lubricating preparations of heading 2710". Other goods falling under CETH 2710 are not covered by the chapter note. The deeming fiction provides that when one of the process listed in the chapter note is carried out on lubricating oil or lubricating preparations, it shall be deemed to be manufacture. These processes are-

(i) labelling or re-labelling of containers,
(ii) re-packing from bulk pack to retail packs,
(iii) adoption of any other treatment to render the product marketable to the consumers.

5.3 Thus for a re-refining unit, the test for levy of Central Excise duty is whether the lubricating oil (produced from the waste oil) has undergone any of the process listed in chapter note 4 of chapter 27 as explained above (paragraph 5.2). Where such process has been carried out, it would amount to manufacture and Central Excise duty would be leviable.

Application

6. A unit processing waste oil or used oil would need be examined in above light to decide whether the process undertaken by them amounts to manufacture. Where the process amounts to manufacture, Central Excise duty is payable. The issue is interpretational in nature and therefore where a demand is raised pursuant to this circular, it should be raised for normal period of limitations only. SSI benefit, where admissible, should be extended.

7. Field formations and trade may be informed suitably. Difficulty experienced, if any, in implementing the circular should be brought to the notice of the Board.

F.NO. 96/43/2015-CX.1

Export of Betel Leaves to EU Allowed Subject to APEDA Registration

Effect of this notification: *Export of Betel Leaves to European Union is subject to registration with APEDA.*

Subject: Requirement of Certification regarding export of Betel Leaves.

Ntfn 01
08.04.2016
(DGFT)

In exercise of powers conferred by Section 5 of the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992 (No. 22 of 1992), as amended, read with Para 1.02 of the Foreign Trade Policy, 2015-20, the Central Government, with immediate effect, hereby makes the following amendments in Schedule-2 (Export Policy) of ITC HS) Classification of Export and Import Items, as amended from time to time : -

A new entry at Sl. No. 90 A in Chapter -14 (Export Policy) of ITC (HS) Classification of Export and Import items is added as follows : -

Chapter – 14

Vegetable Planting Materials, Vegetable Products not elsewhere specified or included.

SNo.	Tariff Item HS Code	Unit	Item Description	Export Policy	Nature of Restriction
90A	14049040	KG	Betel Leaves	Free	(a) Export to European Union is permitted subject to registration with APEDA, the designated Competent Authority

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***See details in www.worldtradescanner.com**

Bonafide Gift Items thru Courier Must be Allowed

[CBEC Instruction F.No. 450/179/2015-Cus.IV dated 11th April 2016]

Subject: Import/Export of Gifts by Courier.

Representations have been received in the Board regarding problems faced by Indian abroad who wish to send gift items to India by means of courier.

2. It has been brought to the notice that courier agencies abroad are refusing to book *bonafide* gift consignments for export to India citing non-clearance and embargo imposed on such gift-parcels by Indian Customs.

3. Extant instructions on import of bonafide gift items through Post/Courier should be scrupulously followed.

4. Any incident of the nature mentioned in Para 2 above may be brought to the notice of the undersigned.

Flexibility in IO Norms for Blended Fabrics Cut +/-3% from 10%

Effect of Public Notice: *In case of blended fabric, +/- 3% variation in Count shall be allowed and to that extent, amendments in norms (SION/Ad-hoc) against Advance Authorisation/Duty Free Import Authorisation will not be required.*

Subject: Amendment in General Note No. 15 for Textiles (Product Code: J).

01-PN
06.04.2016
(DGFT)

In exercise of powers conferred under Paragraph 2.4 of the Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20 and Paragraph 1.1 of Handbook of Procedures (Vol. 1), the Director General of Foreign Trade hereby makes the following amendments/additions in the Handbook of Procedures- Vol. 2, 2015-2020, as amended.

2. The General Note No. 15 for Textiles (Product Code: J) is substituted as under:-

General Note No. 15:-

"In case of fabric, flexibility upto +/- 10% in GSM and in case of blended fabric, flexibility upto +/- 3% in Count in import/export shall be allowed."

Cont'd..20

suit by making beneficial ownership open to the public. They ignored his call. Under pressure from Cameron, the prime minister of the British Virgin Islands, Orlando Smith, late last year announced changes to require companies to file a register of directors. The register, which came into effect in January, isn't public.

Smith also tightened money laundering rules to require financial institutions to keep a record of beneficial ownership of BVI companies. Again, the information isn't public. The prime minister's office didn't respond to emails and telephone messages on Tuesday.

In 2009, Britain took over day-to-day control of the Turks and Caicos Islands after an inquiry found widespread government corruption. Direct control went ahead even though former premier Michael Misick challenged the move in a court of appeal in London. In 2012, Britain handed back control after a general election.

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