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China Halts NZ Exports of Milk Powder Alleging Bacterial Infection

New Zealand said China halted imports of milk powders from Fonterra Cooperative Group Ltd. after the world's largest dairy exporter warned of a contaminated ingredient. The kiwi dollar fell to an almost one-month low.

"We understand that China has suspended imports of all whey protein and milk-based powder sourced from Fonterra, whether exported from New Zealand or Australia," the Ministry for Primary Industries said in an e-mailed statement in Wellington on 3 Aug. Fonterra said Aug. 3 that three batches of a whey protein made at a New Zealand plant last year may contain bacteria that can cause a rare illness called botulism.

The restrictions are a blow for New Zealand because China is its biggest trading partner. Dairy products make up about a quarter of the South Pacific nation's total overseas sales, which in turn account for about a third of economic output. Fonterra collects 89 percent of the milk produced in New Zealand.

Dollar Drops

The New Zealand dollar fell to as low as 76.93 U.S. cents on 3 Aug, the weakest since July 8, and traded down 1.1 percent at 77.55 cents in Wellington.

The Fonterra Shareholders' Fund fell as much as 8.7 percent, the most since the securities that track Fonterra's dividends and earnings began trading last year, leading the NZX50 Index (NZSE50FG) 0.4 percent lower.

There have been no reports of any illness linked to consumption of the affected products, Fonterra said.

It's too soon to speculate on a possible economic impact on New Zealand, Trade Minister Tim Groser said.

Coca-Cola Co. (KO) in China said it has quarantined some

whey protein it received from Fonterra. Chinese regulators said companies including Hangzhou Wahaha Group and Danone's Dumex brand were among importers of the potentially tainted ingredient. The products have been recalled, the regulator said. Danone and Wahaha couldn't be reached outside of regular office hours.

'Wide Ban'

Russia has also suspended imports of Fonterra products, the country's consumer rights watchdog said on its website. Fonterra



Director of Communications Kerry Underhill said yesterday the company hasn't had confirmation of that.

The whey protein batches were mixed with other ingredients to form products from baby formula to sports drinks in markets including China, Australia, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam and Saudi Arabia, the New Zealand ministry

said.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention describes botulism as a serious paralytic illness.

Coca-Cola

Coca-Cola Greater China said in a statement that 25 kilograms of Fonterra's whey protein were used in the production of isolated batches of the company's Minute Maid Pulpy Milky product. The company said it will recall products from these batches in China. A further 4,775 kilograms of the whey protein have been quarantined, it said.

Chemical Traces

Fonterra, which said none of its own branded consumer products are affected by the quality issue, drew about 14 percent of its revenue from China in the six months ended Jan. 31.

Iran has US Educated Foreign Minister



Hassan Rohani's appointment of Mohammad Javad Zarif as his foreign minister suggests the new Iranian president would like to break the 34-year impasse between the Islamic Republic and the U.S.

Zarif, 53, a fluent English speaker who earned his doctorate at the University of Denver, is a former ambassador to the United Nations who has been involved in several secret negotiations between the U.S. and Iran over the past 20 years.

Rohani, 64, who took his oath of office on 3 Aug, said the U.S. and the European Union should drop sanctions imposed to stop the country's nuclear enrichment program. Over the past year, the sanctions have crippled Iran's economy, sending inflation above 40 percent while the national currency the rial has lost more than 50 percent of its value against the dollar.

'Technocratic'

The new president named several former ministers in his cabinet, which he announced at the end of his inauguration ceremony. Apart from Zarif, Rohani named Bijan Namdar Zanganeh to head the oil ministry and Mohammad Reza Nematzadeh as the Minister of Industry, Mines and Trade. Rohani's chief of staff will be Mohammad Nahavandian, the former head of Iran's Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines, who earned a PhD in economics from George Washington University in 1994.

Sanctions

In a statement released an hour after Rohani spoke, the White House said it would be "a willing partner" if Rohani's government decides "to engage substantively and seriously" in honoring its international obligations and works toward a peaceful solution to the nuclear issue.

A bipartisan group of 76 U.S. senators urged President Barack Obama in an Aug. 2 letter to "toughen sanctions and reinforce the credibility of our option to use military force at the same time as we fully explore a diplomatic solution to our dispute with Iran."

'Grand Bargain'

Born in 1960 in Tehran, Zarif obtained a PhD in International Law and Policy from the University

of Denver and also attended San Francisco State University as a graduate student. He was closely linked with developing the so-called "Grand Bargain," a plan to resolve outstanding issues between the U.S. and Iran in 2003, according to Trita Parsi, president of National Iranian American Council, which opposes sanctions.

China Built \$500mn Container Terminal in Sri Lanka Opens for Business

Sri Lanka will open a \$500 million container terminal at Colombo Port on 4 Aug, the biggest investment in the island's harbours, as the nation seeks to upgrade its infrastructure with Chinese help.

The terminal, built and operated by China Merchants Holdings International Co. (144), will handle 2.4 million containers a year and boost Colombo's capacity by almost half, according to the Sri Lanka Ports Authority. President Mahinda Rajapaksa will inaugurate the facility.

The new terminal is part of Sri Lanka's plan to add 7.2 million boxes of capacity and deeper berths at its main port to attract larger vessels. As Rajapaksa seeks investments after the end of a three-decade civil war, China is tightening its embrace of the island by committing at least \$3.7 billion since 2005 to help expand ports to power generation.

Colombo's three existing terminals have the capacity to handle 5 million 20-foot equivalent



units. China Development Bank provided a \$350 million loan to China Merchants in May 2012 for the Colombo terminal, in which the Hong Kong-based port operator holds an 85 percent stake. State-run Sri Lanka Ports Authority owns the balance.

The Export-Import Bank of China has funded investment projects including Sri Lanka's first four-lane expressway, second international airport and a port in Hambantota city. Japan and India are also seeking closer ties with Sri Lanka as the island lies on the main shipping lanes connecting the Far East, West Asia, Africa and Europe.

Sri Lanka is seeking economic growth of 7.5 percent this year, after its expansion cooled to 6.4 percent in 2012 as a faltering global economy sapped demand for the nation's tea and textiles. The country is experiencing a resurgence in tourism after the nation's armed forces defeated separatist rebels in May 2009.

Monsanto Shifts to Trade in GMs for Europe, Says No to GM Cultivation

Agricultural biotechnology giant Monsanto will scrap all pending approval requests to grow new types of genetically modified (GM) crops in the European Union in the coming months, company officials confirmed on 17 July. The company will now focus its efforts on securing EU approval to import genetically modified products, which are widely grown and marketed in the United States and South America.

"We will no longer be pursuing approvals for cultivation of new biotech crops in Europe," a company spokesman told the Telegraph newspaper. "Instead, we will focus on enabling imports of biotech crops into the EU and the growth of our current business there."

In an interview with Reuters, José Manuel Madero, Monsanto's President and Managing Director for Europe, called the decision a strategic business move that will also see the company focus more on conventional maize, soybean, and sugar beet seeds in Europe.

"Conventional seeds is the area where we are focusing at this time in Europe, and we are funding the business in a way that we haven't done for more than 15 years," Madero said.

The decision covers EU approval requests to grow five GM maize varieties, one variety of soybean, and one sugar beet. However, the company said that it would not withdraw its application to renew the approval for its insect-resistant

MON810 maize - the only GM crop currently cultivated commercially in parts of Europe.

Much of Europe still remains hostile towards the idea of GM food; only three varieties have ever been given the green light for cultivation - two of which are only for industrial purposes.

Strong public opposition and scientific studies showing that MON810 seed could harm biodiversity have also driven several European countries - including France, Germany, and most recently, Italy - to impose national bans on Monsanto's MON810 maize, even though it has been approved for cultivation throughout the EU.

Brussels adopted a more open approach to GM imports in 2011, when it backed away from its zero tolerance policy. While almost 50 GM products have been approved for import into the EU - the vast majority for animal feed or food processing - approval of new products for import will likely be a slow and difficult process.

Europe is one of the world's major buyers of biotech grain, according to Reuters, importing more than 30 million metric tons of mostly GM animal feed each year for its livestock industry.

Monsanto plans to invest €225 million in corn production plant expansions that are already under way in France, Hungary, Romania, and Turkey, which officials say will create more than 150 new full-time jobs and many more seasonal jobs.

China Slaps Anti-dumping Duty on US Polysilicon

China has imposed provisional anti-dumping duties on imports of US and South Korean polysilicon, an ingredient used in making solar panels, officials announced last week. The news marks the latest in a series of high-profile disagreements between China and its partners over trade in solar energy products, with Beijing also in the midst of negotiating a solution in a separate row with Brussels on the subject ahead of a looming August deadline.

The duties announced by China last Thursday are the result of a year-long investigation, according to the Chinese Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM).

"MOFCOM [has] made the preliminary ruling that during the investigation period of this case, there was dumping of the products under investigation and China's domestic industry was substantially damaged, and there was causal relationship between the dumping and substantive damages," the ministry said.

US producers are set to face the heavier duties - between 53.3 and 57 percent on solar-grade polysilicon - compared to the 2.4 to 48.7 percent being imposed on South Korean producers. A decision on potential duties for EU polysilicon imports is still pending, China says.

The US is "dismayed" over China's decision, particularly given that Beijing and Washington are already in talks regarding solar trade, a spokesperson for the Office of the US Trade Representative told Reuters in response to the news. The official also said that Washington plans to review whether the duties are in line with Beijing's WTO obligations.

The duties have also sparked questions among some Chinese solar panel producers that rely on imports of polysilicon. For example, Yingli Green, a Chinese solar panel manufacturer, has said that these duties could potentially raise the costs of domestic production.

In 2012, US, EU, and South Korean polysilicon products made up over 80 percent of the supply for Chinese solar panel manufacturers.

Disagreements over renewable energy trade are not new for Beijing and Washington, with both sides exchanging multiple accusations in recent years over allegedly unfair trade practices in the sector. Last October, the US Department of Commerce confirmed that it would be imposing its own anti-dumping and countervailing duties on Chinese solar panel producers, in a move that was lambasted by Beijing.

China's investigation into the alleged dumping of polysilicon by the US and South Korea was launched soon after the provisional version of these duties was imposed in early 2012, leading some industry officials to question whether the Beijing probe was a response to the Washington agency's decision.

EU, China solar talks possibly near resolution

Separately, the EU and China are currently racing to come to an agreement over the alleged dumping of Chinese solar panels before a 6 August deadline. Should the two sides fail to reach a settlement by then, the 11.8 percent

Dear Reader:

The Weekly Index of Changes with World Trade Scanner Issue No. 20 is a combined issue, i.e., Issue No. 19 and 20 dated 31 July 2013 to 13 August 2013.

Editor

Cont'd..144

WEEKLY INDEX OF CHANGES

RBI Virtually Bans Gold Import thru Official Channel

- Export Obligation of 20% Slapped on Import, One Fifth Export Reservation in Every Import Lot
- Actual User Condition Imposed, Consumer Sale not Allowed
- Earlier Condition of Cash Import Dropped

[RBI Press Release dated 22nd July 2013]

Sub: Revised Scheme for Import of Gold

Certain restrictions were imposed on the import of various forms of gold by nominated banks/ nominated agencies/ premier or star trading houses/SEZ units/EoUs which have been permitted to import gold for use in the domestic sector. On a review of the above instructions and in consultation with Government of India, it has been decided to rationalize the import of gold in any form/purity including import of gold coins/dore into the country.

Nominated banks/ Nominated agencies will ensure that at least one fifth of every lot of import of gold (in any form/purity including import of gold coins/dore) is exclusively made

Sub: Import of Gold by Nominated Banks /Agencies/Entities

AP(DIR Srs) Attention of Authorised
Cir.15 Persons is drawn to the
22.07.2013 Reserve Bank's A.P. (DIR
(RBI) Series) Circulars No. 103, 107
and 122 dated May 13, June

04 and June 27, 2013 respectively on the captioned subject. As per these instructions, certain restrictions were imposed on the import of various forms of gold by nominated banks/ nominated agencies/ premier or star trading houses/SEZ units/EoUs which have been permitted to import gold for use in the domestic sector. None of these restrictions was applicable to import of gold for the purpose of exports or to import of gold by units in SEZ exclusively for the purposes of exports.

2. Based on a review of the above instructions and in consultation with Government of India, it has been decided to rationalize the import of gold in any form/purity including import of gold coins/dore into the country. Accordingly, the following instructions are issued:

a) It shall be incumbent on all nominated banks/nominated agencies to ensure that **at least one fifth** of every lot of import of gold (in any form/purity including import of gold coins/dore) is exclusively made available for the purpose of export. Such imports shall be linked to financing of exporters by the nominated agencies (i.e. average of last three years or any one year whichever is higher). Further, they shall make available gold in any form for domestic use only to entities engaged in jewellery business/bullion dealers supplying gold to jewellers.

b) They will be required to retain 20 per cent of the imported quantity in the customs bonded warehouses.

c) They are permitted to undertake fresh imports of gold only after the exports have taken place to the extent of at least 75 per cent of gold remaining in the customs bonded warehouse.

available for the purpose of export. They shall make available gold in any form for domestic use only to entities engaged in jewellery business/bullion dealers supplying gold to jewellers. Stating this, the Reserve Bank of India has in a notification issued to Nominated banks/ Nominated agencies asked them to ensure that they comply with these instructions while effecting the foreign exchange transactions put through by/for their clients. The instructions will, however, not apply to import of gold by units in the SEZ/EoUs / star trading houses who would import gold only for the purpose of exports, it added.

d) Any import of gold under any type of scheme, shall follow the 20/80 principle set out at (a) and (b) above. The extant instructions, as regards import of gold on consignment basis, LC restrictions etc. stand withdrawn.

e) A working example of the operation of the scheme envisaged in terms of the present instructions is given in the Annex.

3. Entities/units in the SEZ and EoUs, Premier and Star trading houses are permitted to import gold exclusively for the purpose of exports only.

4. AD Category I Banks are advised to strictly ensure that foreign exchange transactions effected by / for their constituents are compliant with the above instructions. Head Offices of nominated agencies / International Banking Divisions of banks would be responsible for monitoring operations of the revised scheme taking into account transactions put through different centres.

5. Government of India will be issuing separate instructions, if any, to the customs authorities/DGFT to operationalize and monitor these

Sudden Rise of 25% in Exports Triggers Alarm on Possible Misuse of Incremental Export Incentive Scheme

Subject: Inviting Suggestions to prevent unintended benefit under Incremental Export Incentivisation Scheme

06-TN Government had announced
31.07.2013 'Incremental Export
(DGFT) Incentivisation Scheme' vide
Notification No. 27 dated
28.12.2012 and Notification No. 3 dated
18.04.2013.

2. In order to prevent unintended benefit under the scheme in cases where growth in exports is more than 25 % or the total incremental growth is Rs. 10 crore or more, RAs would have to be more careful. Their scrutiny of the claim may require, inter alia,

i. Calling for evidence of manufacture / purchase of export goods i.e. excise return/sales tax returns or any other evidence.

ii. Checking exports of company from whom goods have been purchased i.e. whether such company had done export in previous 2 years and quantum of exports in current year.

i. Calling for any other evidence to justify export growth and consequent entitlement of IEIS.

4. All stakeholders are requested / encouraged to give feedback /suggestion on the above matter preferably through e-mail to hardeep.singh@nic.in up to 18.00 hrs on 20.08.2013.

import restrictions.

6. The above instructions will come into force with immediate effect. Authorised dealers may please bring the contents of this circular to the notice of their constituents and customers concerned.

7. The directions contained in this circular have been issued under Section 10(4) and Section 11(1) of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999 (42 of 1999), and are without prejudice to permissions / approvals, if any, required under any other law.

Annex

An example of the working of the scheme:

1. Nominated agency ABC imports say 100 kg of gold in any form/purity.

2. Out of the above import of 100 kg, 20 kg gold held in the bonded warehouse can be got released in part or full to be sold to exporters of gold against undertaking to customs authorities as is the practice now.

3. Any further import of gold by ABC shall be permitted by the customs authorities only to the extent of actual export out of 20 kg of gold held in bonded warehouse. This can happen only after at least 15 kg of gold out of 20 kg is actually exported from the previous lot.

4. If ABC wants to place order for the second lot of import, only 75 kg of import (including 15 kg for exports) will be permitted which will again follow the procedure outlined above. At this stage, total gold with the bonded warehouse meant for the exporter will be (5 + 15) i.e. 20 kg. Out of this at least 15 kg (i.e. 75% of the above 20 kgs) will have to be actually exported to enable ABC to import again. This procedure will be followed for every lot of import.

5. If for any reason, ABC is not able to channelize the gold held in bonded warehouse for exports, no further imports can be undertaken by ABC who will also arrange for re export of the gold in the bonded warehouse.

Multifunction Speaker System Classified under Record Players or FM Radio in 8519 81 and 8527 99

Subject: Harmonised Customs Tariff Classification of multifunction devices, referred to as "multifunction speaker system".

27-CBEC 01.08.2013 (DoR) Representatives of trade have claimed classification of "multifunction speaker system" (combination of one or more of the following: Universal Serial Bus (USB) port, USB playback, Frequency Modulation (FM) radio as loudspeakers under heading 8518 based on premise that the principal function is that of a speaker system which involves conversion of digital signal to analogue, amplification, and relay to the listener.

2. This issue was discussed in the Conference of Chief Commissioners of Customs and Directors General on Customs Tariff and Allied Matters, held on 05-06 June 2013, at Vishakhapatnam. Broadly following types of "multifunction speaker system", were taken up for discussion, viz. (a) Speaker with USB port but without USB playback or FM radio, (b) Speaker with USB Port having USB playback but without FM radio (c) Speaker with USB port having FM radio but without USB playback (d) Speakers with USB port, FM radio, and USB playback.

3. The competing headings are:

8518 - Loudspeakers, whether or not mounted in their enclosures: headphones and earphones, whether or not combined with a microphone, and sets consisting of a microphone and one or more loudspeakers: audio-frequency electric amplifiers: electric sound amplifier sets;

8519 - Sound recording or reproducing apparatus;

8527 - Reception apparatus for radio-broadcasting whether or not combined, in the same housing, with sound recording or reproducing apparatus or a clock.

4. The view that in case of a "multifunction speaker system", the "reception apparatus for radio-broadcasting (heading 8527)" or "reproduction function of sound as provided by USB play back (heading 8519)" is less important than the function of amplification and relay of sound, thereby leading to the inference that such products are classifiable in heading 8518, overlooks the fact that the HS nomenclature only mentions functions and does not refer to the complexity or sophistication of these functions. It appears that any sound reproducing playback device or reception apparatus for radio-broadcasting will need speakers for its effective functioning.

5. The classification of goods is to be determined by application of the General Rules for the Interpretation (GRIs) of the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act (CTA), 1975. GRI 1 requires that, "in classifying articles, for legal purpose it shall be determined according to the terms of the headings and any relative Section or Chapter Notes,...". Hence, all relevant legal texts must be considered. In this regard, Note 3 to Section XVI stipulates that, "unless the context otherwise requires, composite machines consisting of two or more machines fitted together to form a whole and other machines

designed for the purpose of performing two or more complementary or alternative functions are to be classified as if consisting only of that component or as being that machine which performs the principal function".

6. During discussions held at the time of Conference, there was general agreement that in case of:

(a) "Speaker with USB port but without USB playback or FM radio", the product would be classified in heading 8518, by application of General Rules 1. Speakers classified under heading 8518 include both passive speakers and active speakers. Active speakers, like many subwoofers, contain a built-in audio amplifier. The subheading under which speakers are classified depends on the number of 'drive units' - the actual loudspeaker cones or ribbons - in each cabinet or enclosure. Speakers with a single drive unit in each cabinet are classified under subheading 851821. Speakers with more than one drive unit in each cabinet - for example one woofer and one tweeter - are classified under subheading 851822. Speakers that are not mounted in a cabinet or enclosure are classified under subheading code 851829.

(b) "Speaker with USB Port having USB playback but without FM radio", the principal function of the device is imparted by USB playback facility. Therefore the said multifunction speaker



products suitable for use as glues or adhesives, put up for retail sale as glues or adhesives, not exceeding a net weight of 1 kg";

Cockroach Traps and Mosquito Repellent Classified in 3808 91

Subject: Classification of products - "Cockroach traps", and "Mosquito Repellent" in the harmonised Customs Tariff.

28-CBEC 01.08.2013 (DoR) The Board has noted import data in National Import Data Base which shows that

products like "Cockroach Traps", and "Mosquito Repellent", are classified under various Customs tariff headings 3506, 3822, 3808, 3926, 4823, etc. Accordingly, this issue of classification was taken up for discussion and decision in the Vishakhapatnam Conference of Chief Commissioners of Customs and Directors General on Customs Tariff and Allied Matters, held on 05-06 June 2013.

2. The product description illustrative in nature, for the purpose of classification of similar/identical goods, in the First Schedule of Customs Tariff Act, 1975, is as follows: (a) "Cockroach traps consist of a paperboard sheet covered with both an attractant and a sticky substance but not containing any poison". (b) "Mosquito repellents consist of an adhesive backed patch having a basis of citronella oil and eucalyptus citriodora oil - Provides mosquito protection for adults and children applying a self adhesive patch to clothing, tents and /or furniture".

3. The Customs Tariff headings considered are as follows:

3506 - "Prepared glues and other prepared adhesives, not elsewhere specified or included;

system is classifiable in subheading 851981 of the Harmonized Customs Tariff, which provides for Sound recording or reproducing apparatus: Other apparatus: Using magnetic, optical or semiconductor media: Other: Other.

(c) "Speaker with USB port having FM radio but without USB playback" the principal function of the device is imparted by Radio (reception apparatus for radio-broadcasting) and hence the multifunction speaker system classifiable under subheading 852799 by virtue of General Rules 1, Note 3 to Section XVI and 6.

(d) "Speaker with FM, USB port and USB playback", if it is held that the principal function of the device is imparted equally by Radio (reception apparatus for radio-broadcasting) and USB playback facility then it would be classified by sequential application of GRI, according to Rule 3(c). According to this rule, of all the possible heading or subheading that could equally apply the heading / subheading that comes last in numerical order is used to classify the goods. Hence the said product is classifiable under subheading 852799 by virtue of General Rules 1, Note 3 to Section XVI, 3(c), and 6.

7. The issue has also been examined by the Board. In view of the general consensus arrived at the Conference, Board desires that as mentioned in para 6 above, based on the specifications "multifunction speaker systems" may be classified under heading 8519, heading 8527 or the appropriate heading as the case may be.

8. Suitable instructions in the matter may be issued to field formations for strict compliance and pending cases if any, may be decided accordingly.

F.No. 528/36/2013-STO (TU)

products suitable for use as glues or adhesives, put up for retail sale as glues or adhesives, not exceeding a net weight of 1 kg";

3822 - "Diagnostic or laboratory reagents on a backing, prepared diagnostic or laboratory reagents whether or not on a backing, other than those of heading 3002 or 3006; certified reference materials";

3926 - "Other articles of plastics and articles of other materials of headings 3901 to 3914";

3808 - "Insecticides, rodenticides, fungicides, herbicides, anti-sprouting products and plant-growth regulators, disinfectants and similar products, put up in forms or packings for retail sale or as preparations or articles (for example, sulphur-treated bands, wicks and candles, and fly-papers)";

4823 - "Other paper, paperboard, cellulose wadding and webs of cellulose fibers, cut to size or shape; other articles of paper pulp, paper, paperboard, cellulose wadding or webs of cellulose fibers";

4. The classification of goods is to be determined by application of the General Rules for the Interpretation (GRIs) of the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act (CTA), 1975. GRI 1 requires that, "in classifying articles, for legal purpose it shall be determined according to the terms of the headings and any relative Section

or Chapter Notes,...". Hence, all relevant legal texts must be considered. The HS Explanatory Notes present an internationally accepted view of the scope of each Heading of the Customs Tariff. The scope of articles covered by the headings is explained in the World Customs Organization's Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System Explanatory Notes.

5. Cockroach trap under consideration is identified as an insecticide, operating to attract and trap insects. Insecticide as used in heading 3808 refers to a substance or preparation for the killing of insects either by direct or indirect means. It also covers substances which operate as repellents or attractants, or which operate to control insect populations in other ways such as by sterilisation, by chemicals which interfere with biochemical and physiological processes in insects or by trapping. The Harmonized System Explanatory Notes give as an example *fly papers* (including those coated with glue not containing poisonous matter).

6. The products at issue are other than "*Diagnostic or laboratory reagents on a backing,*

prepared diagnostic or laboratory reagents whether or not on a backing", and therefore classification under heading 3822 is ruled out. Also, based on the function of the product, which is to attract and trap insects, or to repel, classification under headings 3506, 3926 and 4823 is also ruled out. There was consensus in the Conference that the classification under heading 3506, 3822, 3926 and 4823 is not proper and appropriate classification is as under heading 3808, subheading 3808 91.

7. The issue has also been examined by the Board. In view of the consensus arrived at the aforementioned Conference, Board desires that such products should merit classification under heading 3808, subheading 3808.91, and tariff item 3808 91 99 ("Other"), by application of GRIs 1 and 6.

8. Suitable instructions in the matter may be issued to field formations for strict compliance and pending cases if any, may be decided accordingly.

F.No. .No.528/52/2013 – STO (TU)

Zero Duty on Rice Bran and Rice Bran Oil Cake Import upto 30 Sept 2013

Parts of Fasteners also get Exemption

Ntnfn 39 31.07.2013 (DoR) In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 25 of the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962), the Central Government, on being satisfied that it is necessary in the public interest so to do, hereby makes the following further amendments in the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), No. 12/2012-Customs, dated the 17th March, 2012, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i) vide number G.S.R. 185(E) dated the 17th March, 2012, namely :-

In the said notification,-

(a) in the Table,-

(i) after S. No.100 and the entries relating thereto, the following serial number and the entries shall be inserted, namely :-

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
"100A	2302 40 00	Rice bran	Nil	-	-"

(ii) after S. No.104B and the entries relating thereto, the following serial number and the entries shall be inserted, namely:-

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
"104C	2306 90 90	Rice bran oil cake	Nil	-	-"

(iii) against serial number 282, in column (3), for item (a), the following item shall be substituted, namely:-

"(a) Fasteners including buttons and snap fasteners, zip fasteners including zippers in roll, sliders / pullers and end stoppers, and parts thereof;"

(b) in the proviso to the table, after clause (bb) the following shall be inserted, namely:-

"(bc) the goods specified against serial nos. 100A and 104C of the said Table on or after the 1st day of October, 2013".

[F. No.354/141/2012-TRU]

Excise Duty Slashed to Zero on Building Bricks

23-CE 31.07.2013 (DoR) In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 5A of the Central Excise Act, 1944 (1 of 1944), the Central Government, on being satisfied that it is necessary in the public interest so to do, hereby directs that each of the notifications of

the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) specified in column (2) of the Table hereto annexed shall be amended in the manner specified in the corresponding entry in column (3) of the said Table, namely:-

Table

SNo.	Notification No. and Date	Amendments
(1)	(2)	(3)
1.	1/2011-Central Excise, dated the 1 st March, 2011	In the said notification, in the Table, serial number 82 and the entries relating thereto shall be omitted.
2.	12/2012-Central Excise, dated the 17 th March, 2012	In the said notification, in the Table, for serial number 187A and the entries relating thereto, the following serial number and the entries shall be substituted, namely:-
		(1) (2) (3) (4) (5)
		"187A 6901 00 10, 6904 10 00 All goods Nil -"

[F.No.354/117/2013-TRU]

BIG's Weekly Index of Changes No 20/07-13 August 2013

All Importers Allowed Zero Duty on LNG and NG Import for Electrical Energy Generation, Exclusive Facility to GAIL-NTPC and Petronet Dropped

Ntnfn 36 22.07.2013 (DoR) In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 25 of the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962), the Central Government, being satisfied that it is necessary in the public interest so to do, hereby makes the following further amendments in the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), No. 12/2012-Customs, dated the 17th March, 2012, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, vide number G.S.R. 185(E), dated the 17th March, 2012, namely:-

In the said notification, in the Table, against the serial number 139A, in column (3), for the words and letters "Gail NTPC JV or Petronet LNG Ltd.", the words "an importer" shall be substituted.

[F.No.332/8/2013-TRU]

CBEC Calls for Separate Areas for Plant Quarantine Non Fumigated and Post Fumigated Stocks in Customs Areas

[CBEC Instruction dated 23rd July 2013]

Ministry of Agriculture has raised the issue of temporary ban on Import of Rice and Peanuts from India due to detection of quarantine pest in an import consignment and highlighted that CFSs conducting phytosanitary measures have no designated area for fumigation and separate storage for keeping fumigated/ treated cargo which leads to cross contamination from untreated goods/commodities. Ministry of Agriculture has desired that facilities provided by CFSs should be improved to ensure that treated cargo is adequately sanitized in a separate storage enclosure.

2. The matter has been examined in the Board. 'Handling of Cargo in Customs Area Regulations (HCCAR) 2009' framed under section 141(2) of the Customs Act 1962 deals with the manner of receipt, storage, delivery, dispatch, etc of imported or export goods in the Customs Area. The Regulation also cast certain responsibilities and obligations on the part of Customs Cargo Service Providers (CCSP)/ Custodians to comply with.

Regulation 6 (1) of HCCAR mandates the CCSP to

"(d) demarcate separate areas for unloading of imported goods for their storage with respect to the category of importers, nature of goods, place of destination, mode of transportation or any other criterion as the Commissioner of Customs may specify having regard to the custody and handling of imported goods in a customs area;"

(e) demarcate separate areas for loading of

export goods for their storage with respect to categories of exporters, nature of goods, examined and sealed containers or other criterion as the Commissioner of Customs may specify having regard to the custody and handling of export goods in a customs area;”

The HCCAR therefore requires a CCSP/ Custodians to provide demarcated storage space depending upon the nature of goods or any other criterion as may be specified by Commissioner of Customs.

Frozen Hilsa Fish at 5% from Myanmar Burma under ASEAN FTA

Ntnf 37
22.07.2013 (DoR)

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 25 of the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962), the Central Government, on being satisfied that it is necessary in the public interest so to do, hereby makes the following further amendments in the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), No.46/2011-Customs, dated the 1st June, 2011 published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-Section (i), vide number G.S.R. 423 (E), dated the 1st June, 2011, namely:-

3. Board has accordingly decided that that all CCSP/Custodians shall provide separate and dedicated storage space meant for fumigation and storage of post fumigated sites to enable Plant Quarantine Authorities to carryout necessary checks for both imported and export consignments. Board also desires the Commissioner of Customs concerned to ensure that the directions are complied with scrupulously and immediately. A compliance report may be sent by **14.08.2013**.
F.No. 450/19/2005- Cus IV

In the said notification,-
(i) after the proviso, the following proviso shall be inserted, namely:-

“Provided further that the exemption specified in S.No. 31A of the said Table shall not apply to the goods imported into the Republic of India from the countries listed in Appendix I other than Myanmar.”;

(ii) in the Table, after serial number 31 and the entries relating thereto, the following serial number and entries shall be inserted, namely:-

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
“31 A	03038910	Frozen Hilsa Fish	5%	- “

[F.No. 354/64/2003-TRU (Pt.I)]

Excise Duty of 27% Applicable on Maruti SX4, Honda Civic and Toyota Corolla as Sedans, Only Sports Utility Vehicles (SUVs) Attract 30% Excise Duty

Subject: Applicable excise duty on Sedan cars like Maruti SX4, Honda Civic, Toyota Corolla Altis under notification No. 12/2013-CE dated 1st March, 2013.

972-CBEC
24.07.2013 (DoR)

I am directed to invite your attention to the above mentioned subject and to say that references have been received from motor vehicle manufacturers, seeking clarification as to whether the excise duty of 30% is applicable on sedan cars like Maruti SX4, Honda Civic and Toyota Corolla Altis. It has been stated that these motor vehicles satisfy all the three conditions mentioned at Sl. No. 284A of the Table in notification No. 12/2013-CE, dated the 1st March, 2013, viz. (i) the engine capacity exceeds 1500 cc; (ii) the length exceeds 4000 mm and (iii) ground clearance is 170 mm and above. However, these vehicles are not popularly known as Sports Utility Vehicles and that these are in the nature of sedans.

2. The matter has been examined. In the Budget 2013-14, excise duty was increased from 27% to 30% on motor vehicles of engine capacity exceeding 1500 cc, popularly known as Sports Utility Vehicles (SUVs) including utility vehicles. In the *Explanation* appended at Sl. No. 284A of the aforesaid notification, it has been mentioned that for the purposes of this entry, SUV includes a motor vehicle of length exceeding 4000 mm and having ground clearance of 170 mm and above. From this, it may be seen that the higher excise duty of 30% is applicable on motor vehicles which are popularly known as SUVs and which satisfy all the three conditions, viz. (i) the engine capacity exceeds 1500 cc, (ii) the length exceeds 4000 mm; and (iii) the ground clearance is 170 mm

and above. Maruti SX4, Honda Civic and Toyota Corolla Altis are stated to satisfy all the three conditions but, they are not popularly known as SUVs and neither are they known so in trade parlance. They are reportedly known as sedans

No AU Condition on SFIS Imports after Three Years

Subject: Amendments in Para 3.12.7 of Foreign Trade Policy 2009-14 regarding SFIS.

30-Ntnf(RE)
01.08.2013 (DGFT)

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 5 of the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 read with Para 2.1 of the Foreign Trade Policy, 2009-2014, the Central Government hereby makes the following amendments in the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2009-14 with immediate effect:

2. Paragraph 3.12.7 of FTP is amended to read as under:

Existing Paragraph: Entitlement/goods (imported / procured) shall be non transferable (except within group company and managed

Mahagaon (Thane) ICD Notified for Unloading and Loading Goods

79-Cus(NT)
24.07.2013 (DoR)

In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (aa) of sub-section (1) of section 7 of the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962), the Central Board of Excise and Customs, hereby makes the following further amendments in the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) No. 12/97-Customs (N.T.), dated the 2nd April, 1997, published in the Gazette of India, vide number G.S.R. 193(E), dated the 2nd April, 1997, namely:-

In the said notification, in the Table, against serial number 9 relating to the State of Maharashtra, in column (3), after item (xiv) and the entry relating thereto in column (4), the following item and the entry shall respectively be inserted, namely:-

(3)	(4)
“(xvi) Mahagaon, (Thane)	Unloading of imported goods and loading of export goods.”

[F.No. 434/16/2012-Cus.IV]

in trade and common parlance.

3. In view of the above, it is clarified that the aforesaid motor vehicles, which are known as sedans, will attract the excise duty of 27% as applicable to large segment cars.[Sl.No. 284 (ii) of the Table in notification *ibid*]

4. Difficulties, if any, faced in the implementation of above instructions may be brought to the notice of the Board.

F. No. 354/04/2013 - TRU

Human Hair Exempted from Sanitary Import Permit

Only Animal Origin Materials under HS 2309 Need Sanitary Import Permit

Subject: Amendment in Notification No. 18 (RE-2013)/2009-2014 dated 1st June, 2013.

29-Ntnf(RE)
24.07.2013 (DGFT)

In exercise of powers conferred by Section 5 of the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992 (No. 22 of 1992), read with paragraph 2.1 of the Foreign Trade Policy, 2009-2014, as amended from time to time, the Central Government hereby makes the following amendments in Notification No. 18

hotels) and be subjected to Actual User condition.

Amended Paragraph:

Entitlement/goods (imported / procured) shall be non transferable (except within group company and managed hotels) and be subjected to Actual User condition. However, these goods can be alienated on completion of 3 years from the date of import / procurement.

Effect of this Notification

Goods imported / procured against SFIS scrips can be alienated on completion of 3 years from the date of import / procurement.

(RE-2013)/2009-2014 dated 1st June, 2013: A. Policy Condition 4 of Chapter 5 shall not apply to ‘human hair’. Accordingly, the amended Policy Condition 4 shall read as under:

“Import of all live-stock products, shall be subject to a sanitary import permit to be issued by Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Government of India, as per Sec-

Gold Tariff Value Up by US\$14/10 gms; Brass Scrap (US\$69/MT)

Tariff Value Down on Poppy Seeds (US\$1747/MT), Crude Soyabean (US\$23/MT), Crude and RBD Palm Oils

80-Cus(NT) In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of section 14 of the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962), (DoR) the Central Board of Excise & Customs, being satisfied that it is necessary and expedient so to do, hereby makes the following amendment in the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), No. 36/2001-Customs (N.T.), dated the 3rd August, 2001, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-3, Sub-section (ii), vide number S. O. 748 (E), dated the 3rd August, 2001, namely:-

In the said notification, for TABLE-1, TABLE-2, and TABLE-3 the following Tables shall be substituted namely:-

"Table-1"

SNo.	Chapter/heading/sub-heading/tariff item	Description of goods	Tariff value US \$ (Per Metric Tonne)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1	1511 10 00	Crude Palm Oil	820
2	1511 90 10	RBD Palm Oil	855
3	1511 90 90	Others – Palm Oil	838
4	1511 10 00	Crude Palmolein	868
5	1511 90 20	RBD Palmolein	871
6	1511 90 90	Others – Palmolein	870
7	1507 10 00	Crude Soyabean Oil	952
8	7404 00 22	Brass Scrap (all grades)	3828
9	1207 91 00	Poppy seeds	2648

Table-2

SNo.	Chapter/heading/sub-heading/tariff item	Description of goods	Tariff value (US \$)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1	71 or 98	Gold, in any form, in respect of which the benefit of entries at serial number 321 and 323 of the Notification No. 12/2012-Customs dated 17.03.2012 is availed	430 per 10 grams
2	71 or 98	Silver, in any form, in respect of which the benefit of entries at serial number 322 and 324 of the Notification No. 12/2012-Customs dated 17.03.2012 is availed	639 per Kilogram

Table-3

SNo.	Chapter/heading/sub-heading/tariff item	Description of goods	Tariff value (US \$ Per Metric Tons)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1	080280	Areca nuts	1613"

[F. No. 467/01/2013-Cus.V Pt-I]

tion 3A of Live-stock Importation Act, 1898, as incorporated by Live Stock Importation (Amendment) Act, 2001 (Act No. 28 of 2001, 29th August, 2001), or as amended from time to time. **This condition shall not apply to human hair under ITC (HS) Code 0501"**

B. The phrase '**Import of items of animal origin or the products intended for animal feeding containing animal origin materials**' shall replace the phrase 'Import of all items/products' at the beginning of the Policy Condition 1 of Chapter 23. Accordingly, the amended Policy Condition 1 shall read as under:

"Import of **items of animal origin or the products intended for animal feeding containing animal origin materials** under ITC (HS) Code 2309 'Preparations of a kind used in Animal Feeding' shall be subject to a sanitary import permit to be issued by Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Government of India, as per Section 3A of Live-stock Importation Act, 1898, as incorporated by Live Stock Importation (Amendment) Act, 2001 (Act No. 28 of 2001, 29th August, 2001), or as amended from time to time."

2. Effect of this notification

- Sanitary Import Permit requirements vide Notification No. 18 of 11.6.2013 will not be applicable to Human hair under ITC (HS) Code 0501.
- Only items of animal origin or the products intended for animal feeding containing animal origin materials under ITC (HS) Code 2309 will require Sanitary Import Permit.

BIG's Weekly Index of Changes No 20/07-13 August 2013

Exchange Rates for Customs Valuation

Rupee Falls to 61.55 for Customs Valuation on Imports w.e.f. 2 August 2013

81-Cus(NT) In exercise of the powers conferred by section 14 of the 01.08.2013 Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962), and in supersession of (DoR) the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) No. 76/2013-CUSTOMS (N.T.), dated the 18th July, 2013 vide number S.O. 2191(E), dated the 18th July, 2013, except as respects things done or omitted to be done before such super session, 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 2nd August, 2013** 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.

SNo.	Currency	Imprted Goods		Exported Goods	
		Current	Previous	Current	Previous

Schedule I – Rate of exchange of one unit of foreign currency equivalent to Indian rupees

1.	Australian Dollar	55.85	55.35	54.35	53.95
2.	Bahrain Dinar	166.65	161.45	157.45	152.55
3.	Canadian Dollar	60.05	57.65	58.50	56.25
4.	Danish Kroner	11.00	10.60	10.70	10.25
5.	EURO	81.85	78.60	79.95	76.85
6.	Hong Kong Dollar	7.95	7.70	7.80	7.55
7.	Kenya Shilling	72.20	70.40	67.85	66.10
8.	Kuwait Dinar	221.50	213.70	208.15	201.15
9.	Newzeland Dollar	49.40	47.30	48.00	45.90
10.	Norwegian Kroner	10.45	10.00	10.15	9.70
11.	Pound Sterling	94.05	90.55	91.90	88.45
12.	Singapore Dollar	48.45	47.45	47.40	46.35
13.	South African Rand	6.40	6.20	6.05	5.85
14.	Saudi Arabian Riyal	16.75	16.25	15.85	15.35
15.	Swedish Kroner	9.45	9.10	9.20	8.85
16.	Swiss Franc	66.55	63.65	64.75	62.05
17.	UAE Dirham	17.10	16.55	16.15	15.65
18.	US Dollar	61.55	59.65	60.55	58.65

Schedule II – Rate of exchange of 100 units of foreign currency equivalent to Indian rupees

1.	Japanese Yen	63.00	60.30	61.50	58.80
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[F.No.468/03/2013-Cus.V]

No Flexibility in Import under DFIA for EO Redemption, Specific Descriptions in Export and Import must Match

31-Ntfn(RE) In exercise of powers conferred by Section 5 of the 01.08.2013 Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992 (DGFT) (No.22 of 1992) read with paragraph 1.2 of the Foreign Trade Policy, 2009-2014, the Central Government hereby notifies the following amendments in the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2009-2014.

- After para 4.1.14 of FTP a new para 4.1.15 is inserted.

"4.1.15 Wherever SION permits use of either (a) a generic input or (b) alternative inputs, unless the name of the specific input(s) [which has (have) been used in manufacturing the export product] gets indicated / endorsed in the relevant shipping bill and these inputs, so endorsed, match the description in the relevant bill of entry, the concerned Authorisation will not be redeemed. In other words, the name/description of the input used (or to be used) in the Authorisation must match exactly the name/description endorsed in the shipping bill. At the time of discharge of export obligation (EODC) or at the time of redemption, RA shall allow only those inputs which have been specifically indicated in the shipping bill."

3. Para 4.2.3 of FTP is being amended by adding the phrase “4.1.14 and 4.1.15” in place of “and 4.1.14”. The amended para would be as under:

“Provisions of paragraphs 4.1.11, 4.1.12, 4.1.13, 4.1.14 and 4.1.15 of FTP shall be applicable for DFIA holder.”

4. Effect of this Notification

Inputs actually used in manufacture of the export product should only be imported under the authorisation. Similarly inputs actually imported must be used in the export product. This has to be established in respect of every Advance Authorisation / DFIA.

No Authorisation Required for SEZ Scrap Sale into DTA

Subject: Amendment in Para 2.17 A of Foreign Trade Policy, 2009-2014.

28-Ntnf(RE) In exercise of powers
24.07.2013 conferred under Section 5 of
(DGFT) the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act,

1992 read with paragraph 2.1 of the Foreign Trade Policy, 2009-2014, as amended from time to time, the Central Government hereby notifies the following amendment in the Foreign Trade Policy, 2009-2014:

2. The phrase “provided these are freely importable” in Para 2.17 A of Foreign Trade Policy, 2009-2014 **stands deleted.**

3. After the amendment, Para 2.17 A of Foreign Trade Policy, 2009-2014 shall read as under:

“A SEZ unit/Developer/ Co-developer may be allowed to dispose off in DTA any waste or scrap, including any form of metallic waste and scrap, generated during manufacturing or processing activity, without an authorization, on payment of applicable Customs Duty.”

4. Effect of this Notification

Para 2.17A of FTP has been harmonized with Section 47 of SEZ Rules, 2006. Accordingly, sale of waste or scrap from SEZ to DTA is permitted without an authorization.

IE Code Number will Remain Same in EOU-DTA Transfer Cases, Only Issuing Authority will Change

Subject: Validity of IEC for Export Oriented Unit (EOU) or units in Special Economic Zone/ Electronics Hardware Technology Park(EHTP)/ Software Technology Park(STP)/Bio-Technology Park(BTP) after de-bonding: Review of Policy Circular 26/ dated 11.8.2008.

02-Pol.Cir Under Policy Circular No.26
26.07.2013 dated 11.8.2008, at the time
(DGFT) of de-bonding and converting
to DTA unit, a 100% EOU

surrenders its IEC to the concerned Development Commissioner of Special Economic Zone (from where it obtained IEC) for cancellation. Thereafter, the firm approaches the concerned RA for issue of a fresh IEC against the same PAN Number. On the other hand, when a DTA unit converts into a 100% EOU unit, its IEC issued by RA continues to remain valid.

2. The issue has been reviewed. It is felt that the existing arrangement can be improved to reduce transaction cost. Accordingly, it has been decided that an IEC will remain valid irrespective of a firm’s status as a DTA unit or an EOU or a SEZ/ EHTP/STP/BTP unit and the procedure to be followed in case a firm/unit is de-bonded and converted to DTA is as under:

a. A unit, which is in EOU or in SEZ/EHTP/STP/BTP after de-bonding will **not** surrender the IEC obtained from its jurisdictional DC, SEZ.

b. The jurisdictional DC, SEZ will send the original IEC file to concerned RA of DGFT after de-boding.

c. RA becomes the custodian of such file and will allow de-bonded unit to make necessary modification in IEC.

d. The de-bonded unit to be eligible for benefits from the RA as per FTP.

3. It is reiterated that when a DTA unit converts itself into an EOU or a unit in SEZ/EHTP/STP/BTP, the IEC issued by the RA would continue to be valid even after such conversion.

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average duties that the European Commission is currently imposing on Chinese solar panels and their component parts are set to rise to 47 percent.

The potential solution on the table would involve “price undertaking,” in which Chinese producers would agree not to sell these products below an established minimum price. Brussels and Beijing have since been haggling over what such a minimum price should be, and what annual quota should be set, for these imports, with reports emerging on Wednesday that the two sides may be close to resolving their differences on the subject.

China is currently the world’s largest producer of solar panels, having experienced a huge expansion within the last five years in a bid to be at the forefront of the renewable energy industry and achieve self-sufficiency in the energy sector. The EU currently imports €21 billion in Chinese solar panels, cells, and wafers a year.