

Customs Flash

News you can count on



7 March 2014

Considerable reduction of retaliatory duties on imports from the United States (Byrd Amendment)

In 2005, the European Union (EU) introduced retaliatory measures on some imports from the United State (US). The additional duties are the result of the EU's 'Byrd Amendment' WTO dispute with the US. Since then, both the list of US originating products for which these measures apply and the additional duty rate has been adjusted on several occasions.

The last modifications were brought on 1 May 2013, raising the additional duty rate from 6% to 26%. According to the latest reports out of Brussels, on 1 May 2014, this rate is expected to drop from 26% to 0.35%. The list of products for which the retaliatory measures apply is expected to remain the same. It should be noted that, at this moment, it is draft legislation that still needs to go through the (remaining) formal channels and be officially published. A timely update on developments will be provided via the Customs Flash.

What does it mean for you?

Does your company import one or more of the following US originating products?

CN code	Description
0710 40 00	Sweet corn, uncooked or cooked by steaming or by boiling in water, frozen
9003 19 30	Frames and mountings for spectacles, goggles or the like, of base metal
8705 10 00	Crane lorries (excl. breakdown lorries)
6204 62 31	Women's denim trousers and breeches

If this is the case, as of 1 May 2014, an additional duty rate of 0.35% (instead of the current 26%) may apply for your US originating imports into the EU.

What to do?

It should be kept in mind that this remains draft legislation. However, companies that are importing the abovementioned US originating products into the EU could already consider the decrease in the additional duty rate when planning their EU inbound sales, deliveries and imports.

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