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New surveillance measures for import of vinyl products in Turkey

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On 28 August 2015, Turkey introduced a new import surveillance measure aimed at protecting the local industry from unfair price cuts on imported vinyl floor coverings (commodity code 3918 1010 0011 upon import in Turkey). This will enter into force on 28 September 2015.

The Turkish surveillance mechanism has been introduced in 2004 for a limited list of products, and is amended each year with new products. According to the latest amendment to the surveillance mechanism, if the CIF import value of the imported above-mentioned product is less than USD 7 per kilogram, a Surveillance Document needs to be submitted to the Turkish customs authorities along with the import declaration.

In order to obtain this Surveillance Document, importers should submit a specific set of informative documents to Turkey's Ministry of Economy. It should be noted that the documents must be previously endorsed by the competent authorities in the exporting country of the goods in question.

What does it mean for you?

The measure may have substantial impact on importers in Turkey of vinyl products regardless of the goods' origin. The aim of the measure is primarily to collect information and monitor trade flows. In principle, it should not have an immediate impact on the customs duty and import VAT amounts to be paid. Nevertheless, it creates a significant administrative burden. Moreover, if importers would decide to adjust their prices in order to adhere to the surveillance price limit, the customs value of the imported goods (and thus the amount of customs duties and import VAT to be paid) will increase.

What to do?

For companies that sell and import vinyl products in Turkey, it is advisable to assess whether the abovementioned modifications affect them. If so, appropriate measures should be taken to align the affected processes and procedures with the new legislation.

Deloitte's Customs and Global Trade team will monitor this amendment and can assist companies with how these changes could impact their business.

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