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## Customs Flash

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We are pleased to present you the latest edition of *Deloitte Customs Flash* in Switzerland – Deloitte hot topic newsletter focusing on updates related to customs and international trade developments in the European Union.

### El Salvador, Guatemala and Panama granted GSP+

With our Customs Flash of 7 January 2014, we informed you about the latest changes regarding the European Union's (EU) Generalised System of Preferences (GSP). One of the topics in that Customs Flash was the request of Guatemala and Panama to be granted benefits from the GSP+ arrangement. On 27 February 2014, the European Commission has published an amendment to the GSP with which Panama and Guatemala are granted access to the GSP+ arrangement. In this same Regulation, El Salvador, which in the meantime, also made a request for GSP+ status, is also granted access to this arrangement.

As we informed you in our Customs Flash of 4 October last year, El Salvador has (also) concluded a Trade Agreement with the European Union, which became applicable on 1 October 2013. Trade Agreements between Panama, Guatemala and the EU are applicable since 1 August 2013 and 1 December 2013 respectively. The aforementioned means that EU importers may choose between two preferential arrangements when importing products originating in these three countries, GSP+ or the Trade Agreement. As different customs duty rates may be applicable, one arrangement may be more beneficial than the other. However, EU importers need to keep in mind that these arrangements both have their own sets of origin provisions, rules and certificates.

As countries are not eligible for the GSP anymore when preferential Trade Agreement is concluded with the EU, El Salvador, Panama and Guatemala may be excluded from the GSP(+) arrangement again in the future. A transitional period is taken into account in this respect. Of course we keep you informed in this regard.

### What does it mean for you?

If you import products originating in El Salvador, Guatemala or Panama you may possibly now benefit from the preferential customs duty rates of the GSP+ arrangement.

### What to do?

When importing products originating from Panama, Guatemala or El Salvador, you may want to check if these are eligible for GSP+. At the same time, it can however be more beneficial to use the Trade Agreement instead. Be aware that The GSP and the Trade Agreements have different origin rules and provisions and require different certificates of origin.

If you would like to know if you can benefit or how to benefit from one of these arrangements, please don't hesitate to contact us.

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