

Customs Flash

News you can count on



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Latest news on customs tariff suspensions in 2015

As we mentioned before in our Customs Flash (volume 9, number 1), the European Commission published two new regulations including the (new) customs tariff suspensions and tariff quotas for 2014. As announced by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, the European Commission made a list available to all Member States which summarizes the consequences for 2015 for the tariff suspensions with a due date of 31 December 2014. We have attached that list to this Customs Flash.

What does it mean for you?

Customs tariff suspensions which are used sufficiently, included in the list with addition “>15000/green”, will automatically be prolonged for five years. Customs tariff suspensions which are used insufficiently, included in the list with the addition “<15000/red”, will normally expire as of 1 January 2015. For these customs tariff suspensions it is however still possible to request a prolongation. Customs tariff suspensions with the addition “to be deleted” will expire 1 January 2015. These customs tariff suspensions were already on the so called “negative list” last year, but were prolonged then after a request hereto was accepted. However, these customs tariff suspensions were again used insufficiently last year, i.e. the threshold of € 15,000 saved customs duties per year was not reached, and will now be removed definitely.

What to do?

If you import products listed in the aforementioned and attached list of the European Commission, the relevant tariff suspensions available now may no longer be available in future. An increase of your customs duty burden may then be the result.

The following overall actions may be considered by you:

- If you import products with the addition “>15000/green”, no direct action is needed now. Please note that, in case of economic objections, these customs tariff suspensions can still be called into question.
- If you import products with the addition “<15000/red” and you would like to continue using the relevant tariff suspensions from 2015 onwards, a request for prolongation of the customs tariff suspensions can be submitted by you if you expect to save more customs duties in 2015 than the threshold of € 15,000 customs duties per year. This request for prolongation then needs to be submitted before 31 March 2014. A standard form provided by the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs for this purpose is attached to this Customs Flash.

- If you import products with the addition “*to be deleted*”, a prolongation for this customs tariff suspension is in principle no longer possible. An increase of your customs duty burden should then be expected or other measures to still avoid or mitigate this should be considered.

If you have any questions or need assistance concerning this Customs Flash, please feel free contact us.

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