

Customs Flash

News you can count on



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Considerable lower additional duty rate on imports from the United States (Byrd Amendment)

In 2005, the European Union (EU) introduced retaliatory measures on imports from the United State (US). The additional duties are the result of the EU's 'Byrd Amendment' 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 several times, the last time on 1 May 2013.

Last year, the additional duty rate was raised 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. Please keep in mind that, at this moment, it just concerns draft legislation that still has to go through the (remaining) formal channels and still needs to be officially published. We will keep you posted 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?

As said, please note that, at this moment, it only concerns draft legislation. We will of course keep you posted via the Customs Flash on any developments. Companies that are importing the abovementioned US originating

products into the EU could, however, already consider the decrease in the additional duty rate when planning their EU inbound sales, deliveries and imports.

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