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Highlights

This edition of TradeSmart highlights:

- Increase in the rate of customs duty on "raw sugars" of tariff subheading 17.01
- Reduction in the rate of customs duty on *Linear Low Density Polyethylene* (LLDPE) of tariff subheading 3901.40
- Creation of a temporary rebate on "steel" of tariff subheading 7216.32 and 7216.33
- Imposition of a provisional payment on "screws" of tariff subheading 7318.15.39
- Various temporary rebate items for hot-rolled steel plates and hot-rolled steel coils of headings 72.08 and 72.25
- Increase in the rate of customs duty on wheat and wheaten flours of tariff subheadings 1001.9 and 1101.00

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Tariff Amendments

Increase in the rate of customs duty for "sugar" of tariff heading 17.01

Increase in the rate of customs duty on cane or beet sugar and chemically pure sucrose, in solid form, of tariff subheadings 1701.12, 1701.13, 1701.14, 1701.91, and 1701.99 from 233.81c/kg to 419.52c/kg (equivalent to 87.72% *ad valorem*).

The increase is as a result of the increase in the Dollar-Based Reference Price (DBRP) for sugar from US\$566/ton to US\$680/ton. The DBRP will be reviewed after a period of three years. While further adjustments to this level of protection may be considered, the rate of customs duty on sugar will be capped at the bound rate of 105% *ad valorem* (ITAC Report 588).

Reduction in the rate of customs duty for *Linear Low Density Polyethylene (LLDPE)* of tariff subheading 3901.40

Reduction in the rate of customs duty on ethylene-alpha-olefin copolymers having a specific gravity of less than 0.94 (commonly known as *Linear Low Density Polyethylene (LLDPE)*) from 10% to free (ITAC Report 584).

Creation of a temporary rebate on "steel" of tariff subheadings 7216.32 and 7216.33

Insertion of rebate items 460.15/7216.32/01.06 and 460.15/7216.33/01.06 for full customs duty in order to create a rebate facility for the importation of certain structural steel in the form of H and I sections classifiable in tariff subheadings 7216.32 and 7216.33. Both rebate provisions are subject to an ITAC permit (ITAC Report No.577).

Imposition of a provisional payment on "screws" of tariff subheading 7318.15.39

ITAC has imposed a 42.09% provisional payment for imports of "screws" of tariff subheading 7318.15.39. The provisional payment is a remedial action in the form of a safeguard measure against the increased imports of screws, fully threaded with hexagon heads (excluding those of stainless steel). The safeguard will be in place up to and including 18 February 2019 and affects "screws" originating in or imported from specific countries (ITAC Report No.589).

Creation of various temporary rebate items for hot-rolled steel plates and hot-rolled steel coils of headings 72.08 and 72.25

Creation of various temporary rebate provisions on numerous hot-rolled steel plates and hot rolled steel coils of tariff headings 72.08 and 72.25 respectively. The extent of the rebate provision is full ordinary customs duty plus safeguard duty.

The rate of ordinary customs duty on "steel" of tariff headings 72.08 and 72.25 is generally 10%. The safeguard duty has recently been liberated, effective 11 August 2018, from 12 % to 10% up to and including 10 August 2019.

The current safeguard duty will be liberated further to 8% from the 11 August 2019 up to and including 10 August 2020. The various temporary rebate items are 460.15/7208.36/01.06 to 460.15/7208.37/01.06; 460.15/7208.5/13.05 to 460.15/7208.5/17.05; and 460.15/7225.40/15.06 to 460.15/7225.40/18.06 and are subject to an ITAC permit (ITAC Report 582 and 583).

Increase in the rate of customs duty on wheat and wheaten flours of tariff subheading 1001.9 and 1101.00

The rate of customs duty on wheat classifiable under tariff subheadings 1001.91 and 1001.99 as well as wheaten flour classifiable under tariff subheadings 1101.00.10 and 1101.00.90 has been increased to 64.06c/kg and 96.09c/kg, respectively.

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