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Highlights

This edition of TradeSmart highlights:

- Importers of certain hot rolled steel of headings 72.08 and 72.25 'full customs duty and safeguard duties' subject to an ITAC permit.
- Importers of wheat and wheaten flours of headings 1001.9 and 1101.00 get a reduction in the rate of customs duty.
- South Africa allows more imports of USA originating bone-in cuts of frozen Chickens subject to an ITAC permit and DAFF recommendation.
- An update on the African Continental Free Trade Area

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Tariff Amendments

Certain hot rolled steel of headings 72.08 and 72.25

- Rebate items 460.15/7208.5/01.05 to 460.15/7208.5/07.05 excluded from the 12% rate of safeguard duty (item 260.03/7211.19/01.06 and 260.03/7225.30/01.06) applicable on certain hot-rolled steel (Structural Steel, Wear Resistant Steel, Armored Steel and Weather Resistant Steel) of headings 72.08 and 72.25.
- Temporary rebate provision (item 460.15) of 'full customs duty and safeguard duties' applicable on certain hot-rolled steel (Structural Steel, Wear Resistant Steel, Armored Steel and Weather Resistant Steel) of headings 7208 and 7225 subject to such conditions, at such times, in such quantities as the ITAC may allow, provided products are not subject to an ITAC permit.

Wheat and wheaten flours of tariff subheadings 1001.9 and 1101.00

- The rate of customs duty on wheat and wheaten flour of heading 1001.91 and 1001.99 and 1101.00.10 and 1101.00.90 has been reduced to 18,17c/kg and 42,26c/kg respectively.

Imports of USA originating bone-in cuts of frozen Chicken of heading 0207.14.9

- The annual quota for bone-in cuts of frozen *Gallus Domesticus* (Chicken) has been increased by the substitution of rebate 460.03/0207.14.9/01.07- Rebate of 'full-antidumping duty' on cut in pieces with bone-in *Gallus Domesticus* imported from or originating in the United States of America subject to the International Trade Administration Commission (ITAC) permit on recommendation of the Director General: Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF).

For more information, please access the following link:

SARS: <http://www.sars.gov.za/Legal/Secondary-Legislation/Tariff-Amendments/Pages/2018.aspx> ITAC: <http://www.itac.org.za/pages/services/tariff-investigations/investigation-reports>

Tariff Application

The International Trade Administration Commission of South Africa (ITAC) hereby notifies interested parties of the following:

- Draft guidelines pertaining to the economic partnership agreement between the European Union and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) EPA states published for comment and GenN 402 in GG 41781 of 20 July 2018 **replaced by GenN 417**.
- Comment by Friday, 10 August 2018.

For more information, please access the following link: https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/41796_gen417.pdf

African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

The Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement flows from a 2012 decision of the African Union (AU) to establish a Continental Free Trade Area. In 2018, at an Extraordinary Summit on AfCFTA, African leaders, the agreement was presented for signature. A number of the 55 member states signed and 6 member states (Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, Niger, Chad and eSwatini) ratified the agreement. As of 1st July 2018, an additional 5 member states, including South Africa, signed the agreement. In total 49 member state have signed to date.

The AfCFTA agreement will bring together all 55 member states of the AU. This is a combined market of more than 1.2 billion people with a gross domestic product (GDP) of more than US\$3.4 trillion and a growing middle class.

In terms of numbers of participating countries, the AfCFTA will be the world's largest free trade area since the formation of the World Trade Organization. Estimates from the Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) suggest that the AfCFTA has the potential both to boost intra-African trade by 52.3 percent by eliminating import duties, and to double this trade if non-tariff barriers are also reduced.

The main objective of the AfCFTA is to create a single continental market for goods and services, with free movement of business persons and investment, which will pave the way for accelerating and establishment of the continental customs union and the African customs union. This will enhance industry and enterprise competitiveness through exploiting opportunities for scale of production, continental market access and better allocation of resources. Intra-African trade is also expected to expand.

The AfCFTA will also help to resolve the challenges of multiple and overlapping memberships and to expedite the regional and continental integration processes.

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