

AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS NOTICE NO. 2003/50

Customs Tariff Amendment Act (No. 1) 2003 – preferential tariffs (including Least Developed Countries and Singapore)

*Customs Tariff Amendment Act (No. 1) 2003* (the Act), which received Royal Assent on 30 June 2003, makes the following changes to the *Customs Tariff Act 1995* (the Tariff):

*East Timor*

lists East Timor as a Developing Country for the purposes of Part 3 of Schedule 1 of the Tariff. This change was previously included in Customs Tariff Proposal No. 2 (2003). ACN No. 2003/23 refers.

*Least Developed Countries (LDCs)*

amends the Tariff to define Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and to provide for the duty-free entry of goods originating in LDCs, from 1 July 2003. ACN No. 2003/48 provides details on the rules of origin for LDC preference and lists the countries eligible for duty-free entry.

*Singapore*

provides for the duty-free entry of goods from Singapore in accordance with the Singapore-Australia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA). These amendments will come into effect when SAFTA enters into force (expected to be early in the 2003-04 financial year). Rules of origin for SAFTA will be detailed in ACN 2003/49, which will be released closer to the commencement of SAFTA. COMPILE information regarding preference indicator changes for SAFTA will also be advised in ACN No. 2003/49.

*Country Codes*

introduces two-character International Standards Organization (ISO) Country Codes throughout the Tariff, in anticipation of the commencement of the Integrated Cargo System on 1 July 2004. Existing three- and four- letter country codes will continue to operate for entry processing purposes until that time.

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*Papua New Guinea*

inserts Papua New Guinea in the list of Forum Island Countries. While Papua New Guinea is a Forum Island Country, this has not been formally reflected in the Tariff. The treatment of imports from Papua New Guinea will not be affected by this change.

*Palau*

removes Palau from the list of Places Treated as Developing Countries in Division 2 of Part 3 of Schedule 1, and includes it in the list of Developing Countries in Division 1 of Part 3 of Schedule 1. This amendment will not affect the treatment of goods from Palau but reflects Palau’s status as an independent state.

**Tariff Reprint Pages**

Tariff reprint pages relevant to the above amendments will be issued progressively as other changes are made. Those pages containing the *Customs Tariff Act 1995* and Schedule 1 (countries eligible for preferential rates of duty) will be issued as soon as possible.

Any queries regarding these changes should be directed to: for rules of origin: Manager

Origin

Australian Customs Service CANBERRA ACT 2600

Ph: (02) 621 68703

for customs tariff duty rates: Manager

Tariff Legislation and External Review Australian Customs Service CANBERRA ACT 2600

Ph: (02) 627 56486

J H Jeffery

Deputy Chief Executive Officer for

Chief Executive Officer July 2003