DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION NOTICE

No.2017/18

***Statistical Code, Duty Rate and Other Changes for 1 July 2017***

# Statistical code changes

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has advised of a change to a statistical code descriptor in the Customs Tariff Working pages, from 1 July 2017, for tariff subheading 9405.10.00 59 with the descriptor changing from “.Other” to “..Other”.

The ABS has advised that no changes will be made to the Australian Harmonized Export Commodity Classification on 1 July 2017.

# Reduction of customs duty rates for certain goods

The second phase down of customs duty rates under the Expanded Information Technology Agreement will occur on 1 July 2017. The customs duty rate for nine tariff subheadings will be reduced. Further details can be found at Attachment A.

# Customs Tariff Amendment Act 2017

The date of Proclamation for this Act is 1 July 2017. The following amendments commence on this date:

* Schedule 1 of the *Customs Tariff Act 1995* (the Tariff Act) is repealed, and simultaneously re-enacted in the *Customs Tariff Regulation 2004*.
* Section 16A of the Tariff Act is repealed, removing agriculture safeguard provisions relating to the Thailand-Australia Free Trade Agreement, which expired on 31 December 2008.
* Additional Notes to Chapter 7, 8 and 19 of the Tariff Act which clarify the tariff classification of certain fruits, vegetables and pastas. The text of the new Additional Notes can be found at Attachment B.
* An end date of 31 December 2017 is inserted for the Enhanced Project By-law Scheme, implemented under Item 44 to Schedule 4 of the Tariff Act. Importers who currently have a valid determination will continue to be able to access the Scheme until the end date of the determination. This measure was announced in the 2016-17 Budget.

# Customs Tariff Amendment Regulations 2017

Re-enacts Schedule 1 of the Tariff Act in the *Customs Tariff Regulation 2004*. The lists of countries and places entitled to preferential customs duty rates will be re-enacted as they were previously legislated, except the Forum Island Countries, which will be added to the Developing Countries preference list.

# Customs By-law No. 1700053

This By-law provides for accompanied personal effects and reduces the duty free tobacco allowance imported by passengers or members of the crew of ships or aircraft from 50 cigarettes or equivalent, to 25 cigarettes or equivalent. This measure was announced in the 2016-17 Budget. This By-law replaces Customs By-law No. 1300953, which is revoked as of 30 June 2017.

Please direct any inquiries concerning these matters to the following contact:

Assistant Director – Tariff Legislation [tradepolicy1@border.gov.au](mailto:tradepolicy1@border.gov.au)

Necessary changes will be made to the Integrated Cargo Support System and to the working tariff, available on the Department’s website, to coincide with the scheduled commencement date of 1 July 2017. The working tariff can be accessed at:

[http://www.border.gov.au/Busi/cargo-support-trade-and-goods/importing-goods/tariff-classification-of-](http://www.border.gov.au/Busi/cargo-support-trade-and-goods/importing-goods/tariff-classification-of-goods/current-tariff-classification) [goods/current-tariff-classification](http://www.border.gov.au/Busi/cargo-support-trade-and-goods/importing-goods/tariff-classification-of-goods/current-tariff-classification)

(signed) (signed)

Joshua Hutton Ben Hickey

Acting Assistant Secretary Acting Commander

Trade and Customs Branch Customs Compliance Branch

21 June 2017 21 June 2017

**Attachment A**

**1 July 2017 customs duty rate phase down**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Customs tariff Subheading** | **Customs duty rate operative from 1 July 2017** |
| 8443.91.10 | 2.5%  CA: Free |
| 8472.90.10 | 2.5% |
| 8486.20.40 | 2.5% |
| 8486.30.40 | 2.5% |
| 8486.40.91 | 2.5% |
| 8486.90.91 | 2.5% |
| 8486.90.93 | 2.5% |
| 9001.90.10 | 2.5% |
| 9028.30.00 | 2.5% |

**Attachment B**

**New Additional Notes**

# Schedule 3, Chapter 7

Additional Note.

1.- 0711 covers vegetables which have been treated solely to ensure their provisional preservation during transport or storage prior to use, provided they remain unsuitable in that state for immediate consumption.

# Schedule 3, Chapter 8

Additional Note.

1.- 0812 covers fruit and nuts which have been treated solely to ensure their provisional preservation during transport or storage prior to use, provided they remain unsuitable in that state for immediate consumption.

# Schedule 3, Chapter 19

Additional Note.

1.- For the purposes of 1902, “pasta” includes kneaded noodle dough formed into sheets or other specific shapes (for example, rice noodles, wonton skins, Udon noodles and buckwheat noodles), whether or not cooked or stuffed or otherwise prepared.