

Based on information collected up to November 1998

1. TARIFF MEASURES

Structure of the tariff schedule

Switzerland applies an eight digit tariff nomenclature based on the Harmonized System. The tariff schedule has nine columns. Columns one to four show the rates of duty in the following order: normal, ECC and EFTA, and developing countries. All rates are specific. The fifth column refers to provisions relative to the tare; the sixth column indicates which goods are subject to turnover tax (see 23.1); columns seven and eight relate to import and export permits, respectively (see 61.1 and 51). The ninth column contains notes, i.e. various additional explanations related to duties and permits, and to health and sanitary regulations (see 81). The introduction to the tariff schedule includes information on most additional charges (see 22).

Tariff publications

Switzerland. *Tariff des douanes*, 1986. Updated every two to three months. A recent update (No. 56) was issued on 1 July 1998. Published by and obtainable from the Direction générale des douanes (Customs General Directorate), Monbijoustrasse 40, 3003 Berne.

International Customs Tariffs Bureau
International Customs Journal No. 1, 19th ed., July 1998.

12 MFN Duties

Goods are assessed to duty on the gross weight, the assessment basis in 100 kg. MFN rates (defined in the tariff as normal or main working rates) are adjusted by the Federal Council through customs duty agreements and the tariff rates resulting therefrom, whenever the interests of the Swiss economy so require. The Federal Council may further more temporarily enact tariff rates resulting from agreements, in accordance with Article 2 of the Federal Foreign Trade Law, of 25 of June 1982. High rates affect farm products, food products, e.g. malt. Higher duties are levied as well on industrial, items, petroleum products, motor vehicles, some textile products and paper manufactures.



13 Bound rates

Switzerland has bound all tariffs on agricultural and food items, in accordance, with WTO provisions, and close to 99 per cent of its tariffs on industrial products. Are excluded from this binding, gas, petroleum and related products. The binding is less regular within the following product groups: live animals, meat, dairy products, cereal and cereal preparations, oil seeds, sugar confectionery, chocolate, various food preparations, alcoholic beverages, animal fodder, tobacco and tobacco products, and petroleum oils and gases.

Virtually all bindings on industrial goods are in an alternate format, i.e. in specific or ad valorem terms, the higher rate being relevant. The bound

rates are normally those applied.



14 Tariff Quota Duties

Contractual tariff quotas negotiated within the framework of GATT, allow a certain quantity of agricultural products on to the market at a low rate of duty (quota duty rate). Under this system, specified quantities for wine, meat and dairy products are reserved for individual supplying countries claiming "historical rights", e.g. beef reserved for U.S. suppliers, dried or otherwise prepared bovine meat allocated to Italian exporters, tariff quota for pork and poultry are earmarked for EU producers, as well as cheese and the tariff quota for fresh milk is entirely reserved for suppliers in the two French duty-free zones surrounding the Canton of Geneva.

Under tariff quota scheme, the volume of white wine has been increased by 10,000 hectolitres each year with the view of reaching 190,000 hectolitres on 1 of January 2000. Tariff quotas of white and red wine will be globalised on 1 of January 2001 to amount 1.7 million hectolitres. The tariff quota duties levied on a basis of 100 kg gross weight, are paid differently according to the packing, i.e. white wine in bulk, or bottled white wine, Source: MOCI, No. 1222 of 29 Février 1996.



15 Seasonal Duties

Seasonal rates, which mainly consist of temporary duty exemptions, are applied to tomatoes and strawberries imported from the EFTA countries, to many vegetables and fruits admitted under the GSP, or imported from other free trade countries, as well as to cut flowers, pepperoni and table grapes. (See 19.1, 19.2 and 19.3).



17 Temporary increased duties

Increased rates exist potentially by virtue of the Customs Tariff Act which states that "the Federal Council may, unilaterally, increase certain rates of duty of the general tariff when deemed necessary to the attainment of the aims of such increases".



17.2 Urgency and safeguard duties

In order to finance minimum reserve stocks held for security reasons,, imports of the following are subject to import charges: coffee, tea, cocoa, rice, fuel, sugar, rice, edible oils and fats, animal feeding stuff, maize, certain seeds, antibiotics, fertilizers, soaps and detergents, lubricants, coal and coke, and soft wheat.



Preferential duties under trade agreements

19.1 Interregional agreements

19.1 Switzerland introduced the Generalized System of Preferences in 1972. Within the GSP scheme, developing countries benefit from tariff preferences for more than 300 agricultural products, including vegetables, fruit, coffee, medicinal plants, oils and fats, sugar, various food preparations and raw tobacco. The major part of these goods is admitted duty-free (some of them seasonally). Most industrial products also receive duty-free treatment; textiles, clothing, footwear and some other goods are granted tariff cuts of 50% to 75%; certain petroleum products, chemicals and motor vehicles are excluded from the scheme. The least developed countries are

granted duty-free treatment for some 100 additional agricultural products and for all industrial products covered by the scheme. In the framework of the Uruguay Round negotiations, Switzerland deepened preferential tariff cuts on tropical products.

The principle of cumulative origin of goods within a regional economic grouping is admitted. Preferences are withdrawn or limited in respect of certain goods originating in Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Hong Kong, Korea Democratic People's Republic, Macao, Republic of Korea, and Romania. The preferential duty rates are set out in the tariff schedule.

As of 1 January 1996, the origin rules of the Swiss GSP scheme allow for the cumulation of Swiss-originating inputs with inputs from beneficiary countries. In addition, under a general "tolerance rule", preferential status is maintained if the share of third-country components does not exceed 5% of a product's ex-factory price. Cumulation is also possible among members of economic groupings.



19.2 Regional and sub-regional agreements

The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) of which Switzerland is a member, achieved the objective of free trade in industrial goods among member States in 1966. Later a series of agreements linked EFTA countries with the EEC for the same purpose. The last restrictions in free trade in industrial goods between EFTA and EEC were abolished at the end of 1983. However some, industrial goods still remain subject to customs duties. These include petroleum and petroleum products, selected chemicals and motor vehicles imported to Switzerland from both EFTA and EEC, and natural cork, flax and hemp, casein, caseinates and albumins imported from the EEC countries. Switzerland also admits duty-free many agricultural and food products of EFTA origin. However, the accession of Austria, Finland and Sweden to the European Union on 1 January 1995, has reduced the members to the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) to four members only (Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Switzerland).

Switzerland is participating in the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA) as an observer.



19.3 Bilateral agreements

19.3 Between December 1991, and March 1993, the then EFTA States (Austria, Finland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland) concluded Free Trade Agreements with Turkey, Israel, Bulgaria, the former Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, Poland, and Romania. But in beginning of 1995, Austria, Finland and Sweden joined the European Union and withdrew from the Stockholm Convention on 31 December 1994, and consequently from all the EFTA Free Trade Agreement with third country partners.

Switzerland, while maintaining those agreements has concluded together with the remaining EFTA States (the Republic of Iceland, the Principality of Liechtenstein, and the Kingdom of Norway), a Free Trade Agreement signed in June 1995, with Slovenia; in December 1995 with Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

EFTA has either preferential trade agreements and co-operation arrangements or is developing relations with many of the countries in process of WTO accession. And since 1995, EFTA's network of special relationships has enlarged to cover countries in the Mediterranean region, in

ASEAN and in MERCOSUR. In future, trade relations with the Russian Federation and other former Soviet republics will be developed in parallel to those of the European Union.



2. PARA-TARIFF MEASURES

21 Customs surcharges

Droit supplémentaire (additional duty): levied on some wines in bottles, various cheese, all major frozen vegetables, raw materials for the manufacture of beer. Imports of hard cheese from the EEC, Austria and Finland with certificate, are exempt from the additional duty.

A Mineral Oil Tax and Surtax is levied on mineral oils and products of their distillation, petroleum gases and other gaseous hydrocarbons, acyclic hydrocarbons, alcohols and their halogenated, sulphonated, nitrated or nitrosated derivatives, ethers, lubricating preparations, anti-knock preparations and prepared binders for foundry moulds or cores.

For details of the rates see the Customs Schedule.



Additional taxes and charges

22.3 Import licence fee

Droit de délivrance de la licence (licence fee): 0.05% of the c.i.f. value on most goods. Agricultural products are subject to specific rates of SF 3 to SF 500 per import transactions. Some other payments are also required at the issuance of an import licence. These include a deposit ensuring that the importer fulfils his obligations in the case of certain "take-over" products (see 61.41) and the payment of a contribution to a fund intended for the disposal of like domestic products (required on imports of eggs, live animals, meat, sausages, etc.).



22.5 Statistical tax

Droit de statistique (statistical duty) of 3% of the customs duty levied on nearly all items except duty-free imports, has been abolished by an Ordinance of 17 May 1995, published in the Recueil Officiel des Lois Fédérales No. 24 of 27 June 1995, in compliance with the implementation of the WTO Agreements (Source MOCI, No. 1196 of 31 Août 1995).



22.6 Tax on transport facilities

Motor Vehicle Tax: The Federal Law of June 21, provides for a tax of 4% on the importation motor vehicles for the transport of 10 or more persons weighing not more than 1600 kg under subheadings Nos. 8702 10 10 and 8702 90 10 of the Customs Tariff; motor cars and other motor vehicles principally designed for the transport of persons, tariff line 8703 10 00-90 30; and motor vehicles for the transport of goods, weighing not more than 1600 kg each under subheadings Nos. 8704 21 10 and 21 20, 31 10 and 31 20, 90 10 and 90 20 of the Customs Tariff.



22.9 Additional charges n.e.s.

22.9 Taxe de visite vétérinaire (veterinary inspection tax): levied at specific rate on products of animal origin and live animals subject to inspection.

Taxe phytosanitaire (phytosanitary tax): levied at specific rates on plant products subject to verification.

Note:

The above customs surcharges and additional charges (see 21 - 22.9) are levied at specific rates. Details on the tariff items subject to them, with corresponding rates, (except 22.3.) are available in the tariff schedule (see 1).



Internal taxes and charges levied on imports

23.1 General sales taxes

A Value-added tax (taxe sur la valeur ajoutée) replaced the former turnover tax on 1 January 1995. It is levied at a general rate of 6.5% on a full range of domestic production, distribution and covers all imported goods and services (but only services contracts exceeding Sw F 10.000); temporary imports are exempt from VAT, subject however, to the lodging of the full amount as a deposit with customs until re-exportation. A reduced rate of 2% applies to essential goods such as water delivered by the mains, non alcoholic foodstuffs and beverages, immediate consumption goods, animals, poultry, fish, seeds, tubers and bulbs for planting, plants, cut flowers, preparations for the protection of plants, mulches, and other covering materials of vegetable origin, medicaments, newspapers, magazines, books and other printed matter not an advertising nature. General rate of VAT will be increased to 7.5% on 1 of January 1999, and the reduced one will be 2.3% at the same date, as reported in MOCI Nos. 1348 of 30 July 1998, and 1354 of 10 September 1998.



23.2 Excise taxes

Droits de monopole (monopoly duties): is levied on a specific basis on imports of any goods with alcohol content: alcoholic beverages, when such beverages are imported in consignments exceeding 50 kg gross weight; raw materials for distilling and various products containing alcohol, such as chocolate, sugar, confectionery, preserved fruits, fine bakers' wares, perfumery, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals, high grade alcohol. Monopoly duty will not be collected on goods of an alcoholic strength by volume not exceeding 1.2% volume.

Droit de monopole spécial (a special Monopoly duty) as of 15 July 1998, has been set on alcoopos, i.e. sweet drinks or fruit juices with a maximum alcohol contain of 15% by volume. This has been reprinted in MOCI, No. 1352 of 27 August 1998.

Droit de compensation (compensatory duties): levied on products for technical use containing alcohol and on vinegar and products for the manufacture of vinegar.

Impôt sur la bière (beer tax): levied on malt beer.

Impôt sur le tabac (tobacco tax): levied on tobacco products and cigarette paper.

Note:

Detail on the above internal taxes (see 23.1 - 23.2) are available in the national edition of the tariff schedule (see 1).



23.9 Internal taxes and charges levied on imports n.e.s.

23.9 As of 1 January 1999, an Incentive Tax will be levied on extra light heating oil of a sulfur content by weight of more than 0.1%; this concerns the gas oils of the following tariff lines: 2710 00 24 extra light heating oil, dyed and marked, and 2710 00 14 diesel oil. The incentive tax will be levied in accordance with the Revenue Duty on Mineral Oils.

An environmental tax of SW F 75 is levied on imported vehicles by the Association Suisse des Importateurs de véhicules (VSAI); the tax is then remitted to the "Stiftung für die Umweltgerechte Entsorgung von Motorfahrzeugen", i.e. Foundation for a Friendly Recycling of Motor Vehicles, as reprinted in the Office Belge Commerce Extérieur, Edition 1995.



3. PRICE CONTROL MEASURES

31 Administration pricing

Reference prices are set on certain kinds of cheese.



32 Voluntary export price restraint

Selected woven fabrics of silk, wool and cotton, knitted or crocheted fabrics, and clothing accessories, are under price surveillance and therefore require an import permit which is issued automatically (see 51). A price margin is set on the above mentioned and some other textile products, if imported from Bulgaria, Romania and the former USSR. The prices of these articles must not fall below the margin of 10% to 20% in relation to the average market prices. Details are available in the ordinance of 2 December 1987 issued by the Département Fédéral de l'économie publique, Bundeshaus-Ost, 3003 Berne.



33 Variable charges

Elément mobile (variable component): levied on processed agricultural products such as yogurt, sweet corn, sugar confectionery, chocolate and other food preparations containing milk and dairy products, cereals, oils and fats, and eggs. As the variable component is incorporated in the total amount of customs duty, no information on this charge appears in the tariff schedule. A list of products subject to the variable component is included in the "Ordonnance sur l'élément mobile et les droits applicables à l'importation des produits agricoles" of 20 February 1978, updated irregularly. An update issued on 8 May 1989 was reprinted in BfAI No. Z 61/89 of 12 June 1989. Rates of variable component are adjusted every three months.



39 Price control measures n.e.s.

Supplément de prix (price supplement): levied on various animal and vegetable waste, certain cereals and products of the milling industry, oil seeds and oleaginous fruit, edible oils and fats, coffee husks, cocoa shells, bread crumbs, yeasts, fodder products, etc. The supplement is paid to the Swiss Cereal and Forage Co-operative (see 71.2 for the address) on the basis of an "Ordonnance concernant des suppléments de prix sur les denrées fourragères" of 23 December 1981. An annex to the above ordinance includes the list of tariff items subject to the price supplement. The list is amended quarterly, and is available on request from the above-mentioned cooperative. There is also a price supplement on certain cheeses, which is paid to the customs.



5. AUTOMATIC LICENSING MEASURES

51 Automatic licence

Under the tariffication introduced with the implementation of the results of the Uruguay Round, Switzerland no longer applies quantitative restrictions. Automatic licensing (General Import Licence) provides for the statistical control of imports and applies to all imports of agricultural products mainly. A permit which is issued automatically is required for imports of preserved milk products (excluding whole milk powder), cheese, eggs other than in the shell, honey, coffee, tea, bread grains, certain products of the milling industry, various fodder, straws, oilseeds and oleaginous fruit, edible oils and fats, sugar, cocoa and cocoa preparations, frozen vegetables, petroleum and other fuels, certain chemicals (including radioactive substances), antibiotics, sera and vaccines, immunobiological products, narcotic drugs, certain fertilizers, casein and egg albumin, soap and washing preparations, explosives, arms, war materials, selected textile fabrics and clothing (see also 32). Automatic permits which involve no quantity restrictions are intended for supervising the import of goods subject to various measures, such as price surveillance, maintenance of the compulsory reserve stocks, national security, health policy, etc.

Note:

Goods subject to licensing (see 61.1 - 61.72 and 51) are marked in the national edition of the tariff schedule with the initials of the licence issuing institution. A list of these institutions, with their full name and address, is included in the introduction ("remarques préliminaires") to the tariff.



6. QUANTITY CONTROL MEASURES

Licensing under the authority of
Division des Importations et Exportations (DIE)
Zieglerstrasse 30
3003 Berne

61 Non-automatic licensing

Although most commodities may be imported free of import licensing, a limited number are subject to licensing (certain textiles, agricultural products, petroleum, goods, washing powders and their components, fertilizers, fims, explosives, arms, drugs and narcotics).

Furthermore, non-automatic licensing is governed by conditions set forth in the PGI (general import licence) which provides for the individual allocation of (TQ) tariff quota shares and the control of their utilization. An import permit is required for the import of goods subject to quotas (see 62.1/3 and 67) and monopolistic measures (see 71.1/2).



61.41 Purchase of local goods

The issuance of import permits for certain agricultural products is conditioned by the purchase of a defined quantity of similar goods on the domestic market (so-called "take-over" system). These include live sheep and goats and meat derived therefrom, poultry meat, whole milk powder and casein, eggs in the shell and seedling small-sized onions. In addition, the

same measure applies seasonally to vegetables and fruits which are also produced within the country (with the exception of dessert grapes and peaches), as these goods fall under the so-called "three phases" system and thus may either be subject to the "take-over" of like domestic products or to quotas (see 62.1), or be seasonally prohibited (see 63.3), depending on the period of the year.



61.71 To protect human health

An import permit is required for goods subject to veterinary inspection or phytosanitary verification (see 81).



61.72 To protect animal health and life

OFAG, Office Fédéral de l'Agriculture is responsible for issuing authorizations under phytosanitary law for the import of goods not originating in non-member countries of the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EEPO), and which could present a risk of transmitting pest and diseases; following is the list of those goods: live trees and other plants, bulbs, roots and the like, cut flowers and ornamental foliage, edible vegetable and certain roots and tubers, edible fruit and nuts, peel of citrus fruit or melons, cereals, oil seeds and oleaginous fruits, miscellaneous grains, seeds and fruit, industrial or medicinal plants, straw and fodder, fertilizers. Legal bases: Law on Agriculture of 3 October 1951 (RS 910.1), Ordinance of 5 March 1962 on plant protection (RS 916.20), Ordinance of 28 April 1982 on the campaign against San Jose scale, bacterial canker and virosis of fruit trees constituting a general danger (RS 916.22).



61.75 To protect wildlife

Switzerland is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and therefore imposes the permit requirement on goods protected under the convention, such as lizards, snakes, ivory, tortoise-shell, feathers and down of protected birds, whalebone, etc.



Quotas

62.1 Global quotas

Global quotas are imposed on imports of live animals of the bovine, porcine and equine species and meat derived therefrom, meat preparations and preserves, fodder cereals and certain fodder products, wine in casks, bottled white wine and grape juice.

Numerous governmental and associative bodies are involved in the issuance of import permits. The DIE refers the applicant to the appropriate one (see also 5/Note).



62.3 Seasonal quotas


Seasonal quotas apply to imports of vegetables and fruits remaining under the "three-phase" system (see 61.41).

Cut flowers also fall under seasonal quotas (from May to October).



62.74 Quotas for sensitive product categories


The release into free circulation of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (1987) and its later amendments (CFCs, halons, fully halogenated CFCs, carbon tetrachloride and methyl chloroform - alone or in mixtures) and imported from a State that is a Party to the Protocol, is subject to quantitative limits.



Prohibitions

63.3 Seasonal prohibition


63.3 Imports of certain vegetables subject to the "three phase" system (see 61.41) such as cauliflowers, beans, cucumbers, carrots, lettuce, spinach, tomatoes and onions may be seasonally prohibited.



63.6 Prohibition on the basis of origin (embargo)

Switzerland applies autonomously the United Nations' embargoes on trade with the Republic of Iraq. Currently, trade sanctions on the former Republic of Yugoslavia have been suspended, in accordance with the Dayton Agreement.

Partial embargo is applied to Libya concerning air traffic, aircrafts and equipment material.



63.71 To protect human health

Imports of live cattle and in-bone beef originating from the UK and those of pork meat from several EEC countries are prohibited to avoid the spread of animal diseases, including BSE, bovine spongiform encephalopathy.




63.74 To protect environment

Imports of CFC-based sprays and PVC packaging (including bottles) are prohibited.


The Ordinance relating to Environmentally Hazardous Substances (9 June 1986) operates a ban on the import of several chemicals, with some specific exemptions like pharmaceutical products, when no replacement is available. According to the same Ordinance there are certain chemicals which are restricted depending on treatment with agents or substances that are prohibited in Switzerland.

As a party to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (1987) and its following amendments Switzerland operates a ban on the import of controlled substances listed in Annex A to the Protocol (chlorofluorocarbons and halons) from any State not Party to this convention. As of 10 August 1993 this ban is extended to ten additional types of fully halogenated CFCs, carbon tetrachloride and methyl chloroform (Annex B to the Protocol).



67 Enterprise-specific restrictions

Feature films are imported according to a company specific quota regime. Quota shares are allocated to individual distributors up to a limit of 35 films per year. The right to import is in principle confined to companies owned by Swiss nationals.



7. MONOPOLISTIC MEASURES

Single channel for imports

71.1 State trading administration

Imports of butter and alcohol are under State monopoly. Alcohol proper is imported exclusively by the Federal Alcohol Administration (Régie fédérale des alcools) while the right to import brandies of up to 80% of alcohol content is granted to the private sector under certain conditions. The following state-trading companies operate the monopoly:

Alcohol	Butter
Régie fédérale	Centrale suisse du
Alcools	ravitaillement en
Case Postale	beurre (BUTYRA)
3000 Berne	Wildhainweg 9
	Case Postale
	3001 Berne

71.2 Sole importing agency

Imports of animal feeding stuffs and selected cereals for human consumption are under the monopoly of the Swiss Cereals and Forage Co-operative (Société coopérative suisse des céréales fourragères), Gutenbergstrasse 31, 3001 Berne. The co-operative delegates the right to import the products under the monopoly to its members. A detailed list of these products is included in an ordinance quoted above (see 39).

8. TECHNICAL MEASURES

81 Technical measures

Compulsory product standards and/or marking, packaging and labeling requirements apply to such agricultural and food products as live animals, meat, fish, dairy produce, eggs, cut flowers, live trees and plants, cereals, oils seeds, edible fats and oils, food preparations, honey, fresh fruit with the exception of exotic fruit, wines, imported fruit juices, beverages, spirits and tobacco. As a general rule, food products must be marked and labeled in a way to avoid any deception about their nature and geographical origin. Tobacco packings must warn of possible health risk in two official languages. Cigarette packets must also indicate the content of nicotine and tar. Details of the above requirements are set in the Swiss Federal Council "Ordonnance sur les denrées alimentaires" of 26 May 1936, as amended. A recent edition of this ordinance was published on 1 July 1987 and followed by a number of updates; it is available from the Office central fédéral des imprimés et du matériel, 3000 Berne.

Trade Mark Registration serves to protect deposited or registered marks for goods of all kinds; prohibited are, among other things, to counterfeit marks, to make false indications of provenance and to create a risk of feint.

Permitted food additives are listed in the "Ordonnance sur les additifs admis dans les denrées alimentaires" of 20 January 1982, issued by the Département fédéral de l'intérieur, Bundeshaus, Inselgasse, 3003 Berne.

81.11 To protect human health

Pharmaceuticals, immuno-biological products and poisonous substances are subject to registration and conformity with the pre-established lists of

such goods admitted for imports and sale.



81.12 To protect animal health and life

The Swiss Federal Council and the Swiss Department of Federal Economy have enacted Ordinances of 26 of January 1994 and 1 of March 1995, to regulate the use of additives in animal foodstuffs. Provisions related to these ordinances came into force on 1 of April 1995, as reported in MOCI, No. 1180 of 11 of May 1995.



81.14 Product characteristics requirements to protect environment

Motor vehicles are subject to an expert's report concerning their conformity with the Swiss antipollution regulations, prior to release from customs area.



81.17 To ensure human safety

Central heating installations, certain construction materials and handling equipments must meet safety standard. Textiles and clothing must be free of flammability fabrics, as reported in the Office Belge du Commerce Extérieur, Edition 1995.



81.3 Labelling requirements

In December 1996, the Swiss health and agriculture authorities, approved the import of genetically altered soy. Therefore, all products containing generically altered soy will have to be labeled as such; source TISNET of 14 February 1997.



81.4 Packaging requirements

Packings containing hay, straw, are allowed to enter the country only through railway transportation, if they are accompanied by a signed declaration from a veterinary service, stating that they originate in a country where no foot-and-mouth disease has been declared for two months within a radius of ten kilometers. This has been reported in the Office Belge du Commerce Extérieur, Edition 1995.



81.5 Testing, inspection and quarantine requirements

All pharmaceuticals, chemicals containing toxic elements, vitamins, and cosmetics are subjected to analysis by the Swiss Intercantonal Office for the Control of Medicines, before being placed on sale; this is to ensure that their ingredients meet the required standards of safety and purity. (Reprinted in the Office Belge du Commerce Extérieur, Edition 1995).

Veterinary inspection is required for live animals, meat, fish, hatching eggs of exotic birds, animal waste, canned fish, sauces, soups and broths, and animal feeds. The tariff items subject to the above measures are marked in the national edition of the tariff schedule (see 1).

Phytosanitary verification is applied to live trees and plants, vegetables, fruits, cereals, oilseeds, garden soil, fertilizers, etc. Some of these goods require a health certificate issued in the country of origin. Certain goods, such as garden soil, may only be imported from the countries members of the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization.

Legal bases: Law on Agriculture of 3 October 1951 (RS 916.20) Ordinance of 28 April 1982 on the campaign against San Jose scale, bacterial canker and virosis of fruit trees constituting a general danger (RS 916.22).

The tariff items subject to the above measures are marked in the national edition of the tariff schedule (see 1).

Washing powder are subject to analysis, to ensure that their components can be degraded. Furthermore, since 1 July 1986, detergents must be free from phosphates.

Electrical household appliances must be approved for quality and safety by the Swiss Electrotechnical Association in Zurich. The Swiss Association of Electricians (Schweizerischer Electrotechnischer Verein SEV, Association Suisse des Electriciens) is authorized by the Federal Council to prohibit the importation of foreign-produced electrical equipment which does not meet SEV standards.



THE GSP SCHEME OF SWITZERLAND

Date of implementation: 1 March 1972

A substantial revision of the GSP scheme of Switzerland is currently undertaken. The scheme was extended and amended for a ten-year period from 1 March 1997 to 28 February 2007.

Beneficiaries

Switzerland grants preferences to 167 developing countries and territories, among them 48 are listed as least developed countries.

Agricultural products (H.S. Chapters 1 to 24)

Switzerland grants preferences for selected agricultural products falling within 182 H.S. headings (4 digit).

The agricultural products covered by the scheme are admitted duty-free in most cases or benefit from substantial reductions.

Forty-two least developed countries enjoy a broader product coverage than other beneficiaries and benefit from duty-free entry.

Industrial products (H.S. Chapters 25 to 97)

Switzerland grants preferences for all dutiable industrial products except on casein and albumins.

Most industrial products covered by the scheme receive duty-free treatment, the others (textiles, clothing, footwear, umbrellas, unwrought aluminium and primary cells and battery) are accorded preferential tariff cuts of 50 per cent and 75 per cent.

Forty-two least developed countries enjoy duty-free entry for all industrial products included in the scheme.

For a number of industrial items, China, Hong Kong, Macao, DPR of Korea, Rep. of Korea and Brazil are excluded from preferences.

Handicraft products

On the basis of bilateral agreements, Switzerland applies special provisions for the duty-free imports of specific handloom fabrics of silk, waste and cotton.

Quantitative limitations on preferential imports

No provision for quantitative limitation on preferential imports except for some agricultural products. Provision has been made for a general clause under which, subject to certain conditions, GSP treatment may be suspended for a certain period of time. Nevertheless, Switzerland has reserved the right to adapt preferential treatment to conditions in beneficiary countries, taking account of the economic development of the preference-receiving countries and encouraging its trade partners to practice more liberal import policies in order to promote the development of trade.

Rules of Origin

In order to qualify for preferential tariff treatment, eligible goods must:

- 1) Be transported, in principle, directly to Switzerland without passing through the territory of another country. Transit through the territory of a third country is allowed, provided that it is justified for geographical reasons or exclusively on account of transport requirements, that the goods remain under customs control and do not undergo operations other than unloading, reloading and any other operation required to keep them in good condition, and that goods have not entered into commerce in the country of transit; and
- 2) Comply with the origin criteria specified for these goods by Switzerland.

Goods are considered to have originated in a beneficiary country if they are wholly obtained in that country.

Switzerland accepts the following categories of goods as "wholly obtained" in a preference-receiving country:

- (a) Mineral products extracted from its soil or from its sea-bed;
- (b) Vegetable products harvested there;
- (c) Live animals born and raised there;
- (d) Products obtained there from live animals;
- (e) Products obtained from hunting or fishing conducted there;
- (f) Products obtained from sea fishing and other marine products taken from the sea by its vessels;
- (g) Products made on board its factory ships exclusively from the products referred to in (f) above;
- (h) Used articles collected there fit only for the recovery of raw materials;
- (i) Waste and scrap resulting from manufacturing operations conducted there; and
- (j) Products obtained there exclusively from products specified in (a) to (i) above.

If the goods are manufactured wholly or partly from materials, parts and components imported or of unknown origin, the materials, parts and components must have undergone sufficient working or processing in the exporting beneficiary country.

As a general rule, imported materials, parts or components (non-originating inputs) are considered to have undergone sufficient working or processing when the product obtained is classified in a heading of the Harmonized System at the four-digit level which is different from those in which all the non-originating materials, parts or components used in the process are classified (referred to as "change in HS heading"). However, since for quite a few products a change in HS heading does not always entail sufficient working or processing (or, per contra, while sufficient working or

processing may occur, but in some cases it does not involve a change in HS heading), Switzerland has drawn up a specific list of working or processing to be carried out on non-originated materials in order that the product manufactured can obtain originating status. This List contains a large number of particular products for which the conditions set out in the List must be fulfilled instead of the basic requirement of change in HS heading. For products contained in the List, the basic requirement of change in HS heading needs to be fulfilled only where it is explicitly mentioned in the List.

3) Be accompanied by appropriate documentary evidence.

The goods for which preferential tariff treatment is claimed must be accompanied by the Certificate of Origin Form A.

In addition, evidence that the conditions for direct consignment have been fulfilled must be provided by a thorough bill of lading, a certification issued by the customs authorities of the country of transit, or failing this, by any other substantiating documents.

For handicraft products, Switzerland requires a special certificate in addition to Form A, proving that the goods are manufactured on handlooms.

Cumulative origin

Switzerland applies a system of cumulative origin. Under that system a preference-receiving country exporting to one of the EFTA countries, Norway, Switzerland) is allowed, for the purpose of the origin rules, to regard materials used in production, which have originated in another preference-receiving country with which the exporting country co-operations in a regional economic grouping, as if those materials had originated in the exporting country. The member countries of ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations: Brunei Darussalem, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Singapore and Thailand) have been authorized to benefit from the cumulative acquisition of origin. Other preference-receiving countries forming an established regional economic grouping and wanting to take advantage of the cumulation system can apply for the authorization.

Proof of cumulative origin

It is the responsibility of the final exporting country to guarantee that the "cumulated" imported material has, in fact, originated according to the GSP rules of origin applied in Switzerland. The exporting country is responsible, upon request, for the verification of certificates. Switzerland reserves the right to request, in specific cases, the verification of the origin of imported "cumulated" materials used in the production of the exported products.

Products originally consigned from a beneficiary country to a member country of the European Economic Community (EEC) or Norway and then re-exported to Switzerland from that EEC or EFTA country are regarded as transported directly to Switzerland from the beneficiary country, provided that they have remained under customs control in the EEC or EFTA country and have not undergone loading, unloading or any operation required to keep them in good condition. A replacement Form A Certificate, issued by the customs authorities of the EEC or EFTA member country, is required.

Donors country content

Since 1 July 1996, Switzerland has applied a donor-country content provision. Under this provision imported inputs of Swiss origin incorporated in a product eligible for

preferential treatment under the Swiss scheme can be counted as though they were wholly produced in the exporting beneficiary country for origin purposes.

A N N E X

LIST OF BENEFICIARIES UNDER THE SCHEME OF SWITZERLAND

A. INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES

Afghanistan
Albania
Algeria
Angola
Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina
Armenia
Azerbaijan
Bahamas
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belize
Bhutan
Bolivia
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Botswana
Brazil
Burkina Faso
Burma (Myanmar)
Burundi
Cameroon
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
Chile
China
Colombia
Comoros
Congo
Costa Rica
Cote d'Ivoire
Croatia
Cuba
Djibouti
Dominica
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Fiji
Gabon
Gambia
Georgia

Ghana
Grenada
Guatemala
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Guyana
Haiti
Honduras
India
Indonesia
Iran
Iraq
Israel
Jamaica
Jordan
Kampuchea (Cambodia)
Kazakstan
Kenya
Kiribati
Korea, Democratic People's Republic of
Kyrgyz Republic
Laos
Lebanon
Lesotho
Liberia
Libya
Macedonia
Madagascar
Malawi
Maldives
Mali
Malta
Marshall Islands
Mauritania
Mauritius
Micronesia, Federated states of
Moldova
Mongolia
Morocco
Mozambique
Myanmar
Namibia
Nauru
Nepal
Nicaragua
Niger
Nigeria
Oman
Pakistan
Palau
Panama
Papua New Guinea
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Rwanda
Samoa, Western
Sao Tom and Principe

Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Serbia-Montenegro
Seychelles and dependencies
Sierra Leone
Solomon Islands
Somalia
South Africa
Sri Lanka
St. Kitts-Nevis
St. Lucia
St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Sudan
Surinam
Swaziland
Syria
Tajikistan
Tanzania
Thailand
Togo
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkmenistan
Tuvalu
Uganda
United Arab Emirates
Uruguay
Uzbekistan
Vanuatu
Venezuela
Vietnam
Yemen
Zaire
Zambia
Zimbabwe

B. DEPENDENT TERRITORIES

Australian Antarctic Territories
American Oceania (American Samoa; Baker; Guam; Howland; Jarvis; Johnston and Sand; Midway; Sporades of Central Polynesia; Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, incl. Carolines, Marianas, Wake)
Anguilla
British Antarctic Territories
British Virgin Islands
British Oceania (Ducie; Henderson; Oeno; Pitcairn)
Chagos Archipelago
French Polynesia
French Southern and Antarctic Territories (Adelie Coast; Crozet; Kerguelen; New Amsterdam; Mayotte)
French Territory of New Caledonia
French Territory of Wallis and Futuna
Gaza Strip
Gibraltar
Kuria-Muria
Macao
Netherlands Antilles (Aruba; Bonaire; Curacao; Saba; St. Eustache; St. Martin)
Montserrat

New Zealand Oceania (Tokelau and Niue Islands; Cook Islands)
Pacific Ocean Islands
Sikkim
St. Pierre and Miquelon
St. Helena and St. Helena dependencies
Taiwan Province of China
Turks and Caicos Islands
Virgin Islands of the United States
West Bank and Gaza Strip
Western Sahara

C. LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Afghanistan
Angola
Bangladesh
Benin
Bhutan
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
Comores
Djibouti
Eritrea
Equatorial Guinea
Ethiopia
Gambia
Guinea Bissau
Guinea
Haiti
Kampuchea (Cambodia)
Kiribati
Laos
Lesotho
Liberia
Madagascar
Malawi
Maldives
Mali
Mauritania
Mozambique
Myanmar
Nepal
Niger
Rwanda
Samoa, Western
Sao Tom and Principe
Sierra Leone
Solomon Islands
Somalia
Sudan
Tanzania
Togo
Tuvalu
Uganda
Vanuatu

Yemen
Zaire
Zambia

TRAINS ~ Country Notes