



ADHYATAN

TPM Newsletter

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The Month in Flashback

Trade Remedial Measures in India

Number of investigations initiated	0
Number of findings issued	.....	4
Duties imposed or continued	.....	1
Duties recommended but not imposed	.....	2
Ongoing anti-dumping investigations	.....	16
Ongoing anti-subsidy investigations	.....	4
Ongoing safeguard investigations	.....	0

Non-Tariff Barriers

Number of non-tariff notifications by India	.....	0
Number of non-tariff notifications by others	.....	294

Key Highlights

India

A second PLI Scheme for textile sector to be rolled out soon (26 Jun)

Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal, extended support to apparel manufacturing sector by announcing that a second PLI scheme is being devised for the labour-intensive sector. The Government may not allow duty-free imports of fibre beyond 30th September in light of falling prices of cotton and yarn. India is planning to achieve textiles and garments exports of \$100 billion annually in the next five years.

Schemes launched to give a boost the MSME Sector (30 Jun)

Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, during Udhyaami Bharat Programme launched schemes such as "Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance", "Capacity Building of First-Time MSME Exporters" and "Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme" to ramp up the MSME Sector. These initiatives are likely to boost exports by MSME sectors.

WTO

12th WTO Ministerial Conference held at Geneva (12-17 Jun)

Ministers from across the world attended the 12th Ministerial Conference at Geneva to review the functioning of multilateral trading system and take action on future work of WTO. The Ministers debated and decided on fisheries subsidies, WTO response to emergencies, including a waiver of certain requirements concerning compulsory licensing for COVID-19 vaccines, food safety and agriculture, and WTO reform. This is cumulatively referred to as the Geneva Package. The members decided to work towards having a fully and well-functioning dispute settlement system accessible to all Members by 2024.

With regard to the SPS related aspects, the members discussed multiple issues, most important ones being pesticide MRLs, animal diseases and COVID-19 related measures. Ukraine provided information on its SPS infrastructure and other SPS-related aspects which have an impact on the food security as a result of conflict with Russia. Negotiations on fisheries subsidies were taken forward. Global rules to curb harmful fisheries are under discussion since 2001. According to data from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, fish stocks are at risk of collapsing in many parts of the world due to overexploitation. Such overexploitation is a result of state funding which enables many fishing fleets to operate longer and farther at sea.

WTO

WTO members review Regional Trade Agreements and the Transparency Mechanism (27 Jun)

WTO members considered six Trade Agreements between WTO and non-WTO member States at a meeting of the WTO Committee on Regional Trade Agreements (RTA) held on 27th June 2022. The members considered the agreements between Ukraine and Israel, Namibia and Zimbabwe, UK and Jordan, UK and Chile, UK and Canada, and European Union and Central America. Additionally, the members also examined the implementation of the 2006 RTA Transparency Mechanism, wherein all members are required to inform the Committee of their RTAs, to ensure greater transparency. At present, 61 RTAs involving WTO members and 37 involving non-WTO members are yet to be notified to the Committee.

Global

USA holds imposition of duties on imports of Solar Panels and Parts imported from Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia and Thailand (06 Jun)

On 1st April 2022, the Department of Commerce initiated an anti-circumvention investigation into imports of Solar Panels and Parts originating in China being imported from Malaysia, Cambodia, Malaysia and Thailand. However, President Biden declared a national emergency in relation to energy resources and extended the time for duty free imports of solar panels and parts. The Department of Commerce said that it will support the Declaration by the President. It is likely that any anti-circumvention findings will be prospective and not retrospective.

Principles of Natural Justice: An Inherent Aspect of Trade Remedial Investigations

Brief

- **Principles of natural justice imply that justice must be fair, reasonable and equal. Although such principles are not codified in any law, they are required to be followed by all judicial, administrative and quasi-judicial authorities.**
- **The Supreme Court has held that the Designated Authority, DGTR is also a quasi-judicial authority, bound to follow principles of natural justice in trade remedial investigations. Further, the Rules applicable to such investigations also ensure compliance of the principles.**
- **As per the Rules, the Designated Authority is required to give due notice of the initiation of investigation to all parties. Further, the Authority has to notify its findings publicly.**
- **The evidence and information provided by each party is also shared with other interested parties.**
- **The Authority also provides all interested parties an opportunity of being heard. In fact, even if the incumbent Designated Authority changes during an investigation, a fresh hearing is required to be conducted before the new Designated Authority.**
- **The Authority is also required to give a reasoned decision, explaining its conclusions on dumping, injury and causal link, and its recommendations.**

The principles of natural justice are a vital element of all justice delivery systems across the globe. The phrase “natural justice” literally translates to law of nature and implies that justice must be fair, reasonable, equal and must protect rights of individual against any arbitrary exercise of power by the State or its functionaries, including judiciary, and to prevent miscarriage of justice. While the concept of natural justice is not expressly codified under any statute or law, it is indispensable in any decision-making process that adversely impacts the substantive rights of individuals.

While the principles of natural justice are not codified, the concept has been evolved by the courts over time. Initially, the concept of natural justice was restricted to only judicial proceedings and decisions rendered by courts were required to adhere to such principles. Later, with the increasing role of administrative authorities in decision-making, administrative decisions taken by authorities were also required to comply with principles of natural justice. In addition, there exist certain administrative authorities which exercise adjudicatory functions, which include determination of facts and drawing conclusions therefrom which form the basis of an official action. Such authorities, known as ‘Quasi-Judicial’ authorities, are also required to follow principles of natural justice while making decisions.

Investigating authorities under different jurisdictions conducting trade remedial investigations are essentially quasi-judicial bodies performing quasi-judicial functions and thus, must follow principles of natural justice. This was affirmed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of Automotive Tyre Manufacturer's Association (ATMA) vs. Designated Authority wherein it was held that the functions performed by the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), or Designated Authority, under the statute are quasi-judicial functions, and as a consequence, "*the duty to follow the principles of natural justice is implicit in the exercise of power conferred on him [Designated Authority] under the said Rules*". Thus, trade remedial investigations conducted by the DGTR are required to comply with the principles of natural justice.

The concept of natural justice broadly comprises of two principles – *Nemo judex in causa sua* (rule against bias) and *Audi alteram partem* (rule of fair hearing). The first principle of natural justice provides that no person shall be judge in their own cause, in order to ensure there is no personal or pecuniary or official bias in the decision-making process. Decisions made in violation of the principle are null and void. For instance, if there is any evidence of bias in a finding, order or decision, such a finding, order or decision may be set aside by courts.

The second principle of natural justice, rule of fair hearing, is an umbrella term which encompasses a number of rules, which ensure that no one should be condemned unheard. The procedure followed by a quasi-judicial body must safeguard the right of each individual to defend themselves by allowing them a fair opportunity. The procedure laid down for conducting trade remedial investigations in India under the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 and Rules made thereunder strictly comply with the rule of fair hearing, as can be seen below.

- Right to Notice

The decision-making authority is required to give a valid and proper notice to the required parties before proceeding with any action against such parties. Rules 6 of the Anti-Dumping Rules provide that the Designated Authority shall issue public notice containing adequate information concerning the investigation. Further, such notice must be forwarded to all known exporters of the product, the Governments of the exporting countries and any other interested parties. Additionally, the Designated Authority, as practice, also notifies all interested parties with regards any oral hearing scheduled. The Designated Authority shall issue a public notice recording its final findings, under Rule 17(4) of the Anti-Dumping Rules respectively. Before arriving at the final findings, the Designated Authority also notifies the essential facts under consideration forming basis of its decision, to all interested parties, under Rule 16.

- Right to present and know evidence

All parties to a proceeding have a right to present evidence to defend their case and also have the right to know or receive evidence that will be used against while making a decision. At the stage of initiation itself, the Authority shall furnish a non-confidential copy of the application filed by or on behalf of the domestic industry, under Rule 6(2). Under Rule 6(5) of the Anti-Dumping Rules, the DGTR can call information from all interested

parties which may allow them to draw conclusions. Further, under Rules 6(3) and 6(7), the DGTR shall share evidence or information with all interested parties, including that filed by the domestic industry, governments of subject countries, exporters, importers, users, and associations representing them.

- Right to be heard

A reasonable opportunity of being heard must be given to parties participating in a proceeding. Such opportunity of hearing may be oral or in the form of written information. Rule 6(6) of the Anti-Dumping Rules provide that the Designated Authority may allow any interested party or their representative any opportunity to present information orally. It is interesting to note that while the Anti-Dumping Rules provide that the Authority “may” allow parties to present information orally; in India, such a hearing is required to be mandatorily provided in following principles of natural justice.

In fact, the Hon’ble Supreme Court in the case of ATMA vs. Designated Authority has even taken a view that it is necessary that the decision-making authority, which hears the interested parties, must decide. This implies that when there is a change in the incumbent Designated Authority, and the oral hearing has already been conducted before the earlier Authority, the Authority that is passing the finding must give a fresh hearing to all parties before taking a final decision. As a result, in some cases, such as the anti-dumping investigation concerning flat rolled products of stainless steel, there were three hearings,

- Reasoned decision

Lastly, the Designated Authority is required to give a reasoned order. The findings issued by the Designated Authority shall contain detailed reasoning with regard to its conclusions on dumping, injury and causal link, and its recommendations based on the same.

Similar rules, ensuring compliance of principles of natural justice, are contained in Countervailing Duty Rules, Safeguard Duty Rules and Quantitative Restrictions Rules as well.

The principles of natural justice, while not enshrined under any law expressly, have been sufficiently incorporated under the Rules applicable to various trade remedial investigations. By virtue of such incorporation, the investigation process ensures that all parties involved are given equal and fair opportunity to present and defend their case, before a definitive conclusion is reached by the Authority, thus fulfilling the purpose of justice. After all, it has long been accepted that “*justice should not only be done, but should manifestly and undoubtedly be seen to be done*”¹.

– Ojasvi Nautiyal, Associate

1. Lord Hewart in Rex vs. Sussex Justices, [1924] 1 KB 256.

Trade Remedial Actions in India

Duties recommended

- Continuation of anti-dumping duty on imports of Ammonium Nitrate from Iran and Russia. (10 Jun)
- Continuation of anti-dumping duty on imports of Toluene Di-isocyanate from China, Japan and Korea. (24 Jun)
- Anti-dumping duty on imports of Clear Float Glass from Bangladesh and Thailand. (29 Jun)
- Preliminary anti-dumping duty on imports of Ursodeoxycholic Acid (UDCA) from China and Korea. (30 Jun)

Duties recommended but not imposed

- Anti-dumping duty on imports of Low-Density Polyethylene (LDPE) from Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Thailand and United States of America. (06 Jun)
- Anti-dumping duty on imports of Certain Rubber Chemicals viz. TDQ from China, European Union and Russia, PVI from China and CBS from China and European Union. (23 Jun)

Customs Notifications

- Provisional assessment of Saccharin imported from Thailand pursuant to initiation of anti-circumvention investigation of anti-subsidy duty imposed on imports from China. (02 Jun)
- Extension of anti-dumping duty on imports of Toluene Di-isocyanate from China, Japan and Korea till 27th September 2022 . (03 Jun)
- Extension of anti-dumping duty on imports of New/Unused Pneumatic Radial Tyres used in Buses and Lorries/Trucks from China till 17th December 2022. (08 Jun)
- Imposition of anti-dumping duty on imports of Fluoro Backsheet excluding Transparent Backsheet from China. (15 Jun)

Trade Remedial Actions outside India

Chapter 25 – Salt; sulphur, earths and stones; plastering materials, lime and cement

Trade remedial actions against India

United States of America

Preliminary affirmative determination issued in the administrative review of anti-subsidy duty on imports of Quartz Surface Products from India. (15 Jun)

The US DOC has preliminarily determined the subsidy margin for the sole participating producer, Divyashakti Granites Limited and has found the subsidy rate as 1.98% for 2019 and 1.18% for 2018. While the request for administrative review was made by 23 companies, the same was rescinded as being timely withdrawn by interested parties.

Other trade remedial actions

United States of America

- Initiation of sunset review of anti-dumping duty on imports of Cement and Cement Clinker from Japan (01 Jun)

Chapter 28 – Inorganic Chemicals

Trade remedial actions against India

United States of America

Preliminary affirmative determination issued in the anti-subsidy investigation into imports of Barium Chloride from India. (17 Jun)

The US DOC has preliminarily determined that Indian producers of Barium Chloride have received countervailable subsidies from the Government. DOC has determined a subsidy rate of 1.64% for Chaitanya Chemicals as well as all other producers. The DOC will now continue further investigation before making final determinations.

Preliminary affirmative determination issued in the anti-subsidy investigation into imports of Sodium Nitrite from India. (21 Jun)

The US DOC has preliminarily determined that Indian producers of Sodium Nitrite have received countervailable subsidies from the Government. DOC has determined a subsidy rate of 12.88% for Deepak Nitrite Limited as well as all other producers. The DOC will now continue further investigation before making final determinations.

Other trade remedial actions

European Union

- Initiation of expiry review of anti-dumping duty on imports of Tungsten Carbide from China (01 Jun)

Trade Remedial Actions outside India

Chapter 28 – Inorganic Chemicals

United States of America

- Final affirmative determination issued in the sunset review of anti-dumping duty on imports of Pure Magnesium from China (13 Jun)
- Final affirmative determination issued in the anti-subsidy investigation into imports of Sodium Nitrite from Russia (27 Jun)

Chapter 29 – Organic Chemicals

Trade remedial actions against India

United States of America

Revocation of anti-dumping and anti-subsidy duties on imports of Sulfanilic Acid from India. (14 Jun)

The US DOC has revoked the anti-dumping duties and anti-subsidy duties imposed on imports of Sulfanilic Acid from India in absence of any participation by the US domestic industry. This was the fifth sunset review initiated by the DOC to review duties imposed since 1993.

Other trade remedial actions

Argentina

- Imposition of anti-dumping duty on imports of Sodium Benzoate from China (03 Jun)

Chapter 31 – Fertilizers

Australia

- Initiation of anti-dumping investigation into imports of Ammonium Nitrate from Chile, Lithuania and Vietnam (08 Jun)

United States of America

- Final affirmative determination issued in the sunset review investigation of anti-subsidy duty on imports of Ammonium Sulfate from China (08 Jun)
- Final affirmative determination issued in the anti-dumping and anti-subsidy investigations into imports of Urea Ammonium Nitrate from Russia and Trinidad & Tobago (24 Jun)

Chapter 39 – Plastics and articles thereof

Australia

- Initiation of anti-circumvention investigation into imports of Concrete Underlay Film having width of 1.95 metres from Malaysia (23 Jun)

Trade Remedial Actions outside India

Chapter 39 – Plastics and articles thereof

Malaysia

- Final affirmative determination issued in the safeguard investigation into imports of Linear Low-Density Polyethylene (LLDPE) (03 Jun)

Turkey

- Termination of anti-dumping investigation into imports of Self-Adhesive Digital Printing Foils from Germany (10 Jun)

United States of America

- Final affirmative determination issued in the sunset review investigation of anti-dumping duty on imports of certain Biaxial Integra Geogrid products from China (08 Jun)

Chapter 40 – Rubber and articles thereof

Trade remedial actions against India

United States of America

Final affirmative determination issued in the sunset review of anti-dumping duty on imports of certain New Pneumatic Off-the Road Tires from India. (06 Jun)

The US DOC has determined that dumping of new pneumatic off-the-road tires from India is likely to continue in case of revocation of anti-dumping duty. The US ITC will now determine whether such dumped and subsidised imports are likely to continue to cause injury in absence of duty.

Other trade remedial actions

United States of America

- Final affirmative determination issued in the anti-dumping investigation into imports of Acrylonitrile-Butadiene Rubber from France and Korea (24 Jun)

Chapter 48 – Paper and paperboard articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard

European Union

- Initiation of expiry review of anti-subsidy duty on imports of Coated Fine Paper from China (30 Jun)

United States of America

- Continuation of anti-dumping and anti-subsidy duties on imports of Coated Paper from China and Indonesia (13 Jun)

Trade Remedial Actions outside India

Chapter 54 - Man-made filaments

European Union

- Initiation of interim review of anti-dumping duty on imports of High Tenacity Yarns of Polyester from China (30 Jun)

Chapter 56 – Wadding, felt and nonwovens; special yarns; and other articles

Turkey

- Imposition of anti-dumping duty on imports of Non-woven Fabrics of Man-made Textile Fibres from Jordan and Malaysia. (09 Jun)

Chapter 59 – Impregnated, coated, covered or laminated textile fabrics

United States of America

- Final affirmative determination issued in the sunset review investigation of anti-dumping duty on imports of certain Artist Canvas from China (03 Jun)

Chapter 70 – Glass and glassware

Australia

- Termination of anti-dumping investigation into imports of Clear Float Glass from United Arab Emirates. (23 Jun)

United States of America

- Final affirmative determination issued in the sunset review investigation of anti-subsidy duty on imports of Amorphous Silica Fabric from China (07 Jun)

Chapter 72 – Iron and Steel

Trade remedial actions against India

United Kingdom

Initiation of transition review of anti-subsidy duty on imports of certain Stainless-Steel Bars and Rods from India (21 Jun)

The TRA has initiated a transition review of the anti-subsidy duty existing on imports of stainless-steel bars and rods originating in India imposed by the EU in June 2017. Following Brexit, the TRA will determine whether duties imposed by EU are necessary to be extended to imports into UK. All interested parties willing to participate are required to intimate their interest to the TRA by 6th July 2022.

Trade Remedial Actions outside India

Chapter 72 – Iron and Steel

Other trade remedial updates

European Union

- Initiation of expiry review of anti-subsidy duty on imports of Hot-Rolled Flat Products of Iron from China (08 Jun)

Malaysia

- Termination of anti-dumping investigation into imports of Pre-painted, Painted or Colour Coated Steel Coils from China (08 Jun)

Mexico

- Imposition of anti-dumping duty on imports of Steel and Zamak Handles from China (15 Jun)

Thailand

- Initiation of expiry review of anti-dumping duty on imports of Flat Hot-Rolled Steel from China and Malaysia (21 Jun)

United Kingdom

- Initiation of investigation concerning suspension of anti-dumping duty on imports of certain Hot Rolled Flat Products of Iron, Non-alloy Steel or other Alloy Steel from Ukraine. (24 Jun)
- Initiation of transition review of anti-dumping duty on imports of certain Hot Rolled Flat Products of Iron, Non-alloy Steel or other Alloy Steel from Brazil, Iran, Russia and Ukraine. (24 Jun)

United States of America

- Initiation of sunset review of anti-dumping duty on imports of Steel Concrete Reinforcing Bar from Japan, Taiwan and Turkey. (01 Jun)

Chapter 73 - Articles of iron or steel

Trade remedy actions against India

European Union

Continuation of definitive anti-subsidy duty on imports of Tubes and Pipes of Ductile Cast Iron from India (15 Jun)

The European Commission has issued final determination regarding continuation of anti-subsidy duty imposed on imports of Tubes and Pipes of Ductile Cast Iron (also known as spheroidal graphite cast iron). The product scope excludes tubes and pipes of ductile cast iron without internal and external coating (bare pipes). The Commission has continued the same duties as levied earlier on imports from India, including 6% duty on Jindal Saw Limited and 9% duty on others.

Trade Remedial Actions outside India

Chapter 73 - Articles of iron or steel

Trade remedy actions against India

United States of America

Preliminary affirmative determination issued in the anti-subsidy investigation into imports of Steel Nails (07 Jun)

The US DOC has preliminarily determined that countervailable subsidies are being provided to producers of Steel Nails in India. The DOC has recommended imposition of preliminary duties in the range of 2.73% to 2.93% on the producers. The DOC and ITC will now conduct further detailed investigation to determine final subsidy margins.

Other trade remedial actions

Argentina

- Imposition of anti-dumping duty on imports of Steel Doors from China (03 Jun)

Canada

- Termination of anti-dumping and anti-subsidy investigations into imports of certain Drill Pipes from China (03 Jun)

China

- Continuation of anti-dumping duty on imports of Carbon Steel Fasteners from European Union and United Kingdom (28 Jun)

European Union

- Initiation of anti-circumvention investigation of anti-dumping duty on imports of certain Stainless-Steel Tubes and Pipe Fittings of Stainless Steel from China when exported from Malaysia (07 Jun)
- Initiation of expiry review of anti-dumping duty on imports of certain Concrete Reinforcement Bars and Rods, made of Iron or Non-Alloy Steel from Belarus (15 Jun)

United States of America

- Continuation of anti-dumping and anti-subsidy duties on imports of Construction Casting from Brazil, Canada and China (03 Jun)

Chapter 76 – Aluminium and articles thereof

Australia

- Continuation of anti-dumping duty on imports of Aluminium Extrusions from Malaysia and Vietnam (24 Jun)

Vietnam

- Initiation of expiry review of anti-dumping duty on imports of certain Aluminium products from China (13 Jun)

Trade Remedial Actions outside India

Chapter 82 – Tools, implements, cutlery and parts thereof of base metal

United States of America

- Continuation of anti-dumping duty on imports of Heavy Forged Hand Tools from China (08 Jun)

Chapter 83 - Miscellaneous articles of base metal

Mexico

- Initiation of anti-dumping investigation into imports certain Coated Flat Steels (02 Jun)

Chapter 84 – Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances

Turkey

- Imposition of anti-dumping duty on imports of Chillers used for central air conditioning and water cooling. (14 Jun)

Chapter 86 – Railway or tramway locomotive and parts thereof

United States of America

- USITC finds that material injury is not caused to the U.S. industry by imports of Freight Rail Coupler systems from China (14 Jun)

Other Trade Updates

Foreign Trade Policy

Amendment in the Handbook of Procedures 2015-20 with regards to Advance Authorisation (07 Jun)

The Handbook of Procedures 2015-20 has been amended to relax the requirements for Export Obligation Discharge Certificate (EODC). The requirement to submit the “Bill of Export” was challenged by many exporters before various High Courts due to the non-availability of this provision for the period covered upto FTP 2009-14. As a result, for any supplies made to SEZ units prior to 1st April 2015, the exporters can submit corroborative evidence in lieu of Bill of Exports such as:

- a. ARE-F form duly attested by jurisdictional Central Excise/GST Authorities of AA holder.
- b. Evidence of receipt of the supplies by the recipient in the SEZ
- c. Evidence of payment made by the SEZ unit to the AA holder

Amendment in the Handbook of Procedures 2015-20 with regards to guidelines for applicants under ANF- 4F (07 Jun)

Guidelines for applicants under ANF-4F have been amended in order to simplify the procedure and reduce the compliance burden for applying EODC in case of deemed exports. The following amendments have been made for deemed exports:

- a. The copy of invoice should be duly signed only by the unit receiving the material certifying the item of supply, its quantity, value and date of such supply.
- b. For supply of non-excisable items or supply of excisable items to a unit producing non excisable products, a project authority certificate (PAC) certifying quantity, value and date of supply would be acceptable in lieu of excise/GST certification.
- c. For supplies to EOU/EHTP/STP/BTP, a copy of CT-3/ ARE-3 duly signed by the jurisdictional excise/GST authorities certifying the item of supply, its quantity, value and date of such supply would be accepted in lieu of the excise/GST attested invoice.
- d. For supply of products by the intermediate supplier to the port directly for export by the ultimate exporter, copy of the shipping bill with the name of domestic supplier as intermediate supplier endorsed on it along with the File No. / Authorisation No. of the ultimate exporter and the intermediate supplier shall be required to be furnished.

Amendment in the Handbook of Procedures 2015-20 with regards to EPCG scheme (09 Jun)

The Handbook of Procedures 2015-20 has been amended to extend the last day for filing of annual returns under Para 5.15 which states that “Authorisation holder shall submit to RA concerned by 30th April of every year, report on fulfilment of export obligation by secured electronic filing using digital signatures/ or hard copy thereof”. Further, a penalty of Rs. 5,000 shall be applicable for any late filing for annual returns from 2022-23.

Other Trade Updates

Amendment in the Handbook of Procedures 2015-20 with regards to the procedure for Global Authorisation for Intra-Company Transfer (GAICT) of SCOMET items (13 Jun)

The procedure for issue of Global Authorisation for Intra-Company Transfer (GAICT) of SCOMET items, including software and technology, under the Handbook of Procedures 2015-20 has been amended. Under this amendment, GAICT policy would be applicable only for exports or re-exports of items including software and technology under SCOMET Category 8 and to only the countries prescribed. For this purpose, revised ANF forms and End Use Certificate proforma has been notified.

Trade Agreements

India and UK launched fourth round of talks on Free Trade Agreement

India and the United Kingdom launched the fourth round of talks on Free Trade Agreement in Geneva. Some of the key highlights of the Agreement are non-tariff barriers, rules related to investor protection, intellectual property rights, and harmonisation of governance and standards. The two countries plan to sign the Agreement by late October this year.

India-Canada initiate talks on Free Trade Agreement

India and Canada launched talks on Free Trade Agreement with an aim to strengthen economic ties between the two countries. The two countries has also committed to finalise the EPTA Agreement which will include high-level commitments in goods, services, rules of origin, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical barriers to trade, dispute settlement, as well as any other areas mutually agreed upon.

India and Israel to resume negotiations on Free Trade Agreement

India and Israel are moving closer to signing a Free Trade Agreement. As per the sources, delegation from India arrived at Jerusalem to discuss the framework of the deal with the agenda of striking a deal by the middle of 2022.

Bureau of Indian Standards

Establishment of Quality Control Orders (06 Jun)

The Ministry of Textiles has notified that the following types of jute bags shall conform to the applicable Indian Standards and shall bear the Standard Mark under the license of Bureau of Indian Standards. The effective date of the following Quality Control Orders has been modified.

- A-twill jute bags - IS 1943: 1995
- B-twill jute bags for packing foodgrains - IS 2566:1993
- Jute bags for packing 50 kg foodgrains - IS 12650:2018
- Jute bags for packing 50 kg sugar - IS 15138:2010
- Light weight jute sacking bags for packing 50 kg foodgrains - IS 16186:2014
- Jute bags for packing up to 30 kg foodgrains - IS 16372:2015

Other Trade Updates

Extension of effective date of Quality Control Orders (08 Jun)

The effective date of the Automobile Wheel Rim Component (Quality Control) Order, 2021 has been modified and it shall now be applicable with effect from 22nd June 2023.

Extension of effective date of Quality Control Orders (13 Jun)

The effective date of the Quality Control Orders applicable to following products has been extended and they shall now come into force with effect from 22nd December 2022.

- Toluene
- Phthalic Anhydride
- n- Butyl Acrylate
- Terephthalic Acid
- Ethylene Glycol

Amendment to Indian Standards (20 Jun)

The Standards applicable to the following products have been amended. However, the earlier Standards shall continue without amendment till 13th September 2022.

- High Density Polyethylene (HDPE)/Polypropylene (PP) Woven Sacks for Packaging 50 kg/25 kg Sugar - IS 14968 : 2015
- Agro Textiles – Insect Nets for Agriculture and Horticulture Purposes - IS 16513 : 2016

About Us

TPM was founded in 1999 at a time when the practice of trade remedies in India was in its infancy and there were only a handful of firms in the field. While other firms added these services to their existing portfolios, TPM dealt exclusively in cases in the domain of trade remedies.

TPM began its journey with a staff of merely 2 professionals. Today, it has a team of more than 40 professionals including Cost Accountants, Chartered Accountants, Company Secretaries, Lawyers, Engineers and MBAs.

From the beginning, TPM was focused on providing consultancy in the field of trade remedies. TPM helps domestic producers suffering due to cheap and unfair imports into India to avail the necessary protection under the umbrella of the WTO Agreements. TPM has also assisted the domestic producers in other countries to avail similar measures in their respective countries. Besides assisting domestic producers in India and other countries, TPM also assists exporters and importers facing trade remedial investigations in India or other countries. TPM has assisted Indian exporters facing investigations in a number of jurisdictions such as Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Egypt, European Union, GCC, Indonesia, Korea RP, Turkey and USA.

TPM has an enviable experience in the field, of more than 700 cases. Its unique experience in the field sets it apart from other firms. While the firm is primarily dedicated to trade remedies, it also provides services in the field of trade policy, non-tariff barriers, competition law, trade compliance, indirect taxation, trade monitoring and analysis. It also represents industries before the Government in matters involving customs policy.

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