

## Safcor Panalpina's bulletin to our valued partners

18 October 2011

### Changes to the Import Tariff : "HS2012"

The Harmonized Customs Tariff commonly used by most trading nations, including South Africa, will be revised from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012. At the same time that the new revised version ("HS 2012") is adopted, SARS will also be amending many duty rates to give effect to previous undertakings in terms of various trade and other agreements.

The main thrust of the revised Harmonized Customs Tariff is to provide for changes in technology, to help monitor trends internationally regarding a growing number of "green" issues and to phase out tariff headings that have become obsolete. 2675 items will either be added, deleted or amended.

**We do not expect any of these changes to have a negative effect on any of our clients.** Some may find that the final digits of the sub-headings under which their goods are cleared alter and that the duties paid in respect of some imports are reduced. In a few instances the entire tariff item may change.

Safcor Panalpina's team of Customs specialists is currently studying the proposed changes in order to identify any anomalies and to bring these to the attention of the Customs authority.

Duty reductions: the duties on manufactured products from members of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) will be reducing further, while most duties on manufactured products from the European Union (EU) will fall away. Many papers, aluminium articles and primary polymers will also see their duties reduced to "FREE".

**Drafts of all proposed changes may be viewed on the SARS website under "legal and policy" on this link: <http://www.sars.gov.za/home.asp?pid=72382>**

Clients wishing to take advantage of these reductions NOW, are entitled to hold affected products in a registered bonded facility until after the reductions come into place. For rates and the availability of warehousing space please speak to your Safcor Panalpina client services representative.

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