CUSTOMS TARIFF AMENDMENT BILL 1981

Date Introduced: 6 May 1981
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Hon. J.C. Moore, Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs

Short Digest of Bill

Purpose

To enact formally the tariff changes made since May 1980 in customs Tariff Proposals Nos. 8-20 (1980) and Nos. 1-5 (1981). Also to amend tariff preference rates for certain goods from developing countries, and to give effect to changes to the New Zealand Australian Free Trade Agreement.

Background and Main Provisions

Individual Tariff Proposals, which may make a number of amendments, are periodically introduced into Parliament. The Proposals are individually given effect through specific clauses of the Bill, and are detailed in Schedules to the Bill. Generally the amendments follow recommendations of the Industries Assistance Commission (IAC) and the Temporary Assistance Authority (TAA).

Details of the 18 Schedules are as follows:-

Schedule 1, the amendments have effect from 2 May 1980. The changes cover gearboxes, gear and shaft couplings and are generally based on the relevant Industries Assistance Commission Report.

Schedule 2 takes effect from 1 June 1980. It concerns various pharmaceutical and veterinary products following the report by the I.A.C.

Schedule 3, having effect from 9 June 1980 results from the governments decision on the I.A.C. report on Pharmaceutical and Veterinary Products. Included is a decrease in the general and preferential rate from 15 per cent to 5 per cent for streptomycin sulphate and certain mixtures.
Schedule 4, having effect from 1 July 1980, contains 13 amendments. Following the I.A.C. Report on Apples and Pears the general and preferential rates are lowered for fresh apples, pears and quinces. The tariff rates for goods such as attache cases, school cases, suitcases and so on are reduced resulting from the Government's decision on the I.A.C. Report of 11 May 1979 on Travel Goods, Brief Cases, Toilet Cases and Similar Goods. Temporary assistance for certain insulators comes about following the Government's decision on the T.A.A. report on 8 June 1979 on Continuation of Assistance for Insulators.

Schedule 5, having effect from 7 July 1980, increases the New Zealand tariff rate for such goods as self contained air conditioning parts, electrical refrigerator parts, clothes dryers and evaporative coolers, whilst decreasing the rate for chest type freezers and certain washing machine. These changes follow the phasing of rates on certain whitegoods by New Zealand.

Schedule 6, having effect from 24 July 1980, follows the I.A.C. report on Polymeric Plasticisers and Certain Polyester Polyols. The amendment increases the tariff rate of polyester polyols and addition products of polyester polyols, as well as saturated polyesters.

Schedule 7, having effect from 18 August 1980, concerns various types of carpet. Generally the tariff rates are increased, though carpet tiles of jute or sisal, and tufted rolled carpeting of coir, jute or sisal are decreased. The basis is the I.A.C. report on Part 'H' - Textiles, Clothing and Footwear.

Schedule 8, having effect from 27 August 1980, contains 25 amendments concerning chemical products. These changes follow the I.A.C. report on Chemical Products (Part 13).

Schedule 9, having effect from 1 September 1980, is based on the I.A.C. report of Textiles, Clothing and Footwear.

Schedule 10, having effect from 10 September 1980, increases the tariff rates on stackers, battery operated trucks and pallet trucks entered for home consumption on or before 31 March 1981. This follows the T.A.A. report on Certain Works Trucks and Stackers.

Schedule 11, having effect from 1 October 1980, contains 10 amendments. The amendments concern goods made
of carbon or graphite, electric motors, generators and rotary converters and musical instruments. All are the result of the relevant I.A.C. report.

Schedule 12, having effect from 3 December 1980, contains in Part 2 various reductions in Developing Countries' tariff rates in accordance with the governments' decision to improve the margin of preference goods from Developing Countries.

Schedule 13, having effect from 1 January 1981, provides for the following concessional rates of duty to countries party to the South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Co-operation Agreement; alteration of the preferential tariff arrangements on certain textiles, clothing and footwear from developing countries; provision for textiles, clothing and footwear from New Guinea to be duty free when within quota; the addition of certain goods to Schedule A of NAFTA.

Schedule 14, having effect from 21 January 1981, follows the I.A.C. report on Tanned and Finished Leather; Dressed Footwear. Largely the amendments lower the rates on various skin leathers processed by tanning processes other than chrome tanning.

Schedule 15, having effect from 4 February 1981, increases the rates from certain soft sided containers following the T.A.A. report on the same.

Schedule 16, having effect from 1 April 1981, deals with a number of types of goods. Following consultation with New Zealand, and reduction in the New Zealand margin of preference originally provided for under an Interim Agreement between Australia and New Zealand, the rate on certain types of glycerol and glycerol lyes and tall oils other than crude are reduced. This follows the I.A.C. report on Soaps and Detergents. The I.A.C. report on Manufactured Tobacco preceded the decrease in tariff rates for manufactured cut tobacco. The temporary assistance recommended by the T.A.A. for stackers continues, as it does for battery operated trucks and pallet trucks. Rates for fluorescent and filament lamps increase following the I.A.C. report. Following the I.A.C. report on Crushing or Grinding Machines the preferential and general rates for certain machines are equalised.

Schedule 18, having effect from 1 July 1981, deals mainly with administrative changes.

For further information, if required, contact:

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