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Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), Duty Free & Quota Free Market Access and Export Documentation

Generalised System of Preferences (GSP)

Generalized system of Preferences (GSP) is a preferential treatment of tariff (by way of reduced or duty free tariff rates) which is granted by the industrially developed countries to the eligible products imported from developing or least developed countries. In fact this is an international effort with a view to encouraging greater co-operation among the industrialized countries to promote the development of developing and least developed countries. It is a non-reciprocal and non discriminatory system of preferences in favour of the developing countries including the special measures for the least developed countries with the following objectives:

To increase export earnings of the preference receiving countries.

(B) To promote their industrialization.

(C) To accelerate their economic growth.

Implementation of the GSP Scheme

The original six states of EEC implemented the first full fledged GSP scheme in July 1971. Japan followed a month later, Norway introduced GSP in October 1971. Denmark, Finland, Ireland, New Zealand and Sweden Implemented the scheme in January 1972. Switzerland and Austria followed shortly thereafter, USA as a late entrant to the scheme implemented the same in 1976. As on today 35 developed countries are offering GSP facilities to all the developing and LDC countries of the world. Bangladesh being a beneficiary of the scheme has been enjoying this facility since the inception of all the schemes.

In order for goods exported from a preference-receiving country to be eligible for the preferential tariff treatment they must be recognized as originating in that country under the origin criteria of the preference-giving country GSP scheme.

Origin : Why and How?

The implementation of trade policy measures often requires differentiation in the treatment of goods coming from different countries. Examples of such trade policy measures are the application of preferential rates of duty, anti-dumping duty, import licensing requirements, quotas, embargoes, and so on.

If such treatment only depended on the country where the goods were sent from, it would soon be found that products from all over the world were traveling via the country that enjoys the most favourable (or the least restrictive) treatment. Therefore, something more is necessary in order to make these trade policy measures work : namely to link these measures to the economic nationality of a product.

In order to establish the economic nationality,- the country of origin-certain criteria-rules of origin-are applied. A complication is that there is no such thing as a general set of rules of origin that can be applied world-wide in every possible situation. Countries have their own rules of origin, which more often than not vary in substance depending on their purpose. Even for the purpose of the GSP, the various donor countries apply different rules of origin. Therefore if a product satisfies the rules of origin in the framework of, for example, the USA GSP scheme, it cannot be taken for granted that it also fulfils the rules of origin laid down for the EC GSP scheme and vice versa. Origin criteria used in the GSP schemes offered by the donor countries often differ fundamentally. Therefore, if goods are to be exported to/imported into the EC under the EC GSP scheme, the only origin criteria to be taken into consideration are those laid down by the EC in the appropriate legislation. However, the EC, Norway (NO) and Switzerland (CH) have the same GSP RoO, which has allowed a connection between the different schemes on certain aspects, as explained below, which is implemented through an exchange of letters.

Application of the rules of origin provides the answer to the following question : does the product originate in the beneficiary country in question ? A positive answer means the product is eligible for preferential tariff treatment upon importation into the EC.

For the purpose of the application of the EC GSP RoO, the beneficiary countries are normally each regarded as an individual territory but in some cases they can work together using 'regional **cumulation**'. They may also work together with the Member States of the EC (which constitute a single territory) or Norway or Switzerland in the framework of **bilateral cumulation**.

GSP Donor Countries:

The Generalized System of Preference was designed to allow industrialized countries to grant non-reciprocal tariff reduction to developing countries. As a least developing country, Bangladesh is enjoying this facility. Thirty five countries including European Union region are providing GSP facilities to Bangladesh. Name of the GSP donor countries are stated below :

<u>E.U Countries</u>	<u>Other then EU Countries</u>
----------------------	--------------------------------

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1) Austria | 1) Australia |
| 2) Belgium | 2) Canada |
| 3) Denmark | 3) Japan |
| 4) Finland | 4) Newzeland |
| 5) France | 5) Norway |
| 6) Germany | 6) Switzerland |
| 7) Greece | 7) USA |
| 8) Ireland | 8) Republic of Belarus |
| 9) Italy | 9) Republic of Bulgaria |
| 10) Luxembourg | 10) Russian Federation |
| 11) Netherlands | 11) Republic of Turkey. |
| 12) Spain | |
| 13) Sweden | |
| 14) Portugal | |
| 15) United Kingdom | |

New EU Countries

- 16) Czech Republic
- 17) Republic of Hungary
- 18) Republic of Poland
- 19) Slovakia
- 20) Estonia
- 21) Cyprus
- 22) Latvia
- 23) Lithuania
- 24) Malta
- 25) Slovenia

Duty Free and Quota Free Market Access

The European Union under its Everything But Arms (EBA) initiated Schemes has provided Duty Free and Quota Free Market access to export of all products originated from the LDC's like Bangladesh, except Rice, Sugar and Banana. The other developed Countries like Australia, Canada, Norway has also provided Duty Free Access to Bangladesh for export of all their products.

2.0. India, Pakistan, Thailand, China and Russia have already provided partial duty free access to Bangladeshi Products. Negotiations are also going on with China, Malaysia, Indonesia, Iran, and other neighbouring countries for having further duty free access.

Export Documentation

Documentation is the foremost important part in any business especially in export trade. Implementation of business agreement depends to some extent on preparing the documents correctly and submission of the same. On the contrary, many problems may arise if documents are not prepared correctly.

Generally the following documents are to be submitted before shipment of the goods:

- (a) Copy of export agreement
- (b) Copy of letter of credit
- (c) EXP form
- (d) Invoice
- (e) Packing list
- (f) Bill of lading or airway bill
- (g) Certificate of origin
- (h) Bill of export

Special cases the following documents may be required

- (a) Sanitary & Phyto sanitary certificate
- (b) quality control certificate
- (c) GSP / SAPTA certificate / GSTP Certificate
- (d) Inspection certificate
- (e) Registration with the US FDA for exporting food items to the USA