

RESTRICTED

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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## CENTRAL AFRICAN CUSTOMS UNION: TARIFF SITUATION

The following communication has been forwarded to the secretariat by the permanent mission of the Republic of Gabon.

On 1 January 1966 the Central African Customs and Economic Union came into effect.

The treaty establishing the Customs Union, signed at Brazzaville on 8 December 1964, provided for:

- (1) a customs territory comprising the following countries:

Cameroon, Gabon, Congo (Brazzaville), Central African Republic and Chad, with the following implications:

(a) the adoption of a common customs and fiscal import tariff in relations with third countries, and the replacement of all duties and charges by a single internal charge in trade relations between the member States;

(b) a common external tariff comprising:

- the customs duty of the common external tariff,
- the fiscal charge on imports,
- the turnover tax on imports,

(c) the rates of these duties and charges are common to all the member States;

(d) goods originating in the member countries of the European Economic Community and the countries belonging to the former Afro-Malagasy Organisation for Economic Cooperation (OAMCE) are admitted duty free;

(2) an institutional organization comprising supervisory bodies (Council of the Heads of State, Management Committee, Secretariat) and in particular common customs offices;

(3) a common investment code.

The crisis which the Union experienced in 1968 ended with the withdrawal of Chad, and the following new provisions therefore ensued:

- (1) the customs territory now comprises only four countries: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo (Brazzaville) and Gabon;
- (2) the list of common customs offices has been amended accordingly, as have all provisions and references concerning Chad in the customs tariff and tariff regulations;
- (3) Chad is now included in the list of countries considered, for purposes of customs treatment, as a member of the former OAMCE.

In addition certain tariff amendments became necessary, as follows (see table):

TARIFF AMENDMENTS  
(since 1 January 1969)

Tariff item No.	Description of products	Amendments
01-05-00	Live poultry	Suspension until further notice of the import duties and charges applicable to live poultry <u>less than three days old</u> , imported into the Central African Republic, the Gabonese Republic and the Republic of the Congo.
	Meat	(Suspension until further notice of the import duties and charges applicable to these products (when originating in the member States of the former OAMCE and imported into the Republic of (the Congo or the Gabonese Republic.
02-01-01	Meat of horses, asses and mules	
02-01-02	Meat of bovine animals	
02-01-03	Meat of swine	
02-01-04	Meat of sheep or goats	
02-01-019	Edible offals, imported separately	
03-02-012	Stockfish	
03-02-013	Klipfish	
23-07	Fodder preparations and other preparations for animal feeding	Suspension until further notice of the import duties and charges applicable to prepared poultry feed imported into the Gabonese Republic, Republic of Cameroon and Central African Republic.
25-32-01	Natron	Suspension until further notice of the import duties and charges applicable to natron originating in the member States of the former OAMCE.

Tariff item No.	Description of products	Amendments
34-01-01 34-01-11 34-01-21 34-01-90	Ordinary soap Toilet soap or scented soap Medicated soap Other soap	<p>Ordinary : CFAF 120 per kg. net      Toilet and scented : CFAF 150 per kg. net      Medicated : CFAF 150 per kg. net      Other : CFAF 120 per kg. net</p> <p>In addition, all imported hard soaps are subject to standards of composition and quality.</p>
48-16-11	Packaging, of paperboard	<p>Suspension until further notice of the import duties and charges applicable to paperboard packaging specially intended for eggs, when imported into the Central African Republic, the Republic of the Congo or the Gabon Republic.</p>
48-21-90	Other articles of paper pulp, paper, etc.	<p>Suspension until further notice of the import duties and charges applicable to moulded sheets for packing eggs, when imported into the Central African Republic and the Republic of the Congo.</p>

Tariff item no.	Description of Products	Amendments
51-02-00 (until December 1968)	Monofil, strip etc. (until December 1968)	Since January 1969 two sub-headings have been established: 51-02-01: fishing lines - import duty: 20 per cent 51-02-90: other monofil - import duty: 35 per cent
55-09-06 55-09-56 ex 55-09-90	Woven fabrics of cotton, printed	Prior to establishment of two sub-headings, duty was at the rate of 35 per cent on the only tariff heading then existing. Imports of these goods into the Republic of the Congo are dutiable at the rate of 80 per cent of the customs duty prescribed in the import tariff of the UDEAC, i.e. 30 per cent x 80 per cent = 24 per cent.)
60-05-00	Outer garments etc. and other articles knitted or crocheted, not elastic nor rubberized	Minimum charge of CFAF 2,000 per kg. net
61-01-00 61-02-00 61-03-00 61-04-00	Men's outer garments Women's outer garments Men's under garments Women's under garments	.....
73-25-01 73-25-90 (until December 1968)	Cables, slings and the like Cordage, plaited bands and the like	Establishment of a single tariff heading: 73-25-00: cables, cordage, plaited bands etc.

Tariff item No.	Description of products	Amendments																				
73-25-01 73-25-90 (cont'd)	<p>The customs duties and charges formerly applicable were:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="412 314 593 1107"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="412 314 593 919">Customs duty</th> <th data-bbox="412 919 593 1107">Import charge</th> <th data-bbox="593 314 806 919">Single import charge</th> <th data-bbox="593 919 806 1107"></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="527 961 593 1107">73-25-01</td> <td data-bbox="527 961 593 1107">10%</td> <td data-bbox="757 961 806 1107">20%</td> <td data-bbox="921 961 971 1107">10%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="527 961 593 1107">73-25-90</td> <td data-bbox="527 961 593 1107">20%</td> <td data-bbox="757 961 806 1107">30%</td> <td data-bbox="921 961 971 1107">10%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The customs duties and charges applicable now are:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="675 314 823 1107"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="675 314 823 919">Customs duty</th> <th data-bbox="675 919 823 1107">Import charge</th> <th data-bbox="823 314 1003 919">Single import charge</th> <th data-bbox="823 919 1003 1107"></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="790 961 823 1107">73-25-00</td> <td data-bbox="790 961 823 1107">10%</td> <td data-bbox="921 961 971 1107">20%</td> <td data-bbox="1086 961 1135 1107">10%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Customs duty	Import charge	Single import charge		73-25-01	10%	20%	10%	73-25-90	20%	30%	10%	Customs duty	Import charge	Single import charge		73-25-00	10%	20%	10%	
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