

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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URUGUAY - IMPORT SURCHARGES

Communication from the Government of Uruguay

The Uruguayan Government has transmitted the text of the Decree reproduced hereunder.

The question has been placed on the agenda for the twenty-second session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

URUGUAYAN IMPORT SURCHARGES

Decree of 24 November 1964

HAVING REGARD TO:

I. Article 2 of Act No. 12670 of 17 December 1959, authorizing the Executive to establish surcharges and prior deposits on imports of merchandise considered non-essential, of a luxury character or competitive with domestic industry.

II. The Decree of 17 February 1960 establishing regulations for the classification of imports.

III. The Decree of 14 April 1963 establishing a minimum surcharge on imports.

NOTING: I. That recently the import declarations registered have been for amounts in excess of the normal supply requirements of the country, so that they are of a speculative nature to a considerable degree.

NOTING: II. That this situation has caused a wide gap between import and export registrations, and substantial disequilibrium between global supply and demand in the exchange market.

CONSIDERING: I. That the present domestic costs of our manufacturing industries make it necessary to review the surcharges established on products which are competitive with domestic industry, so that the latter's competitive capacity may not be impaired by foreign products and in order to avoid any slowing down in the process of import substitution.

CONSIDERING: II. That so long as there is no large increase in export flows, as is expected to result from the measures recently taken by the Executive and the Bank of the Republic, in the agricultural sector as well as in the sector of non-traditional manufactures, it is necessary to limit imports of non-essential and luxury goods so that the major part of the country's import capacity may be used for the goods best suited to economic development needs, for example, fuels and raw materials, capital goods etc.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT DECREES AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1 - The minimum surcharge established by the Decree of 14 April 1963 is hereby raised to 30 per cent.

Article 2 - In general, the surcharges of 60 per cent, 100 per cent and 150 per cent on imports of certain specified goods shall be replaced by surcharges of 90 per cent, 150 per cent and 225 per cent respectively.

Article 3 - A surcharge of 60 per cent is hereby established on the following products, the average c.i.f. prices already established being maintained:

Fresh shell-fish
Cinnamon
Spices in general
Nutmeg
Pepper
Time-locks for safes
Air-conditioning machinery of more than 1/2 H.P.
Automatic oil-burners and parts thereof
Musical instruments: wind instruments; piano-accordeons; organs;
harmoniums; vibraphones; direct percussion instruments except
tambourines, castanets and drums; parts and accessories therefor
Cinema publicity material
Antiseptics or disinfectants¹
Gelatin capsules for bottle closures
Specialties¹ and specifics
Bottles and containers of glass, for injectable solutions
Medicinal gelatin
Sera and vaccines for human use¹
Vaccines against the following diseases: foot-and-mouth disease (sub-
cutaneous or hypodermic); anthrax; brucellosis; black-leg; gas gangrene
in sheep; fowl typhoid; pneumoenteritis in calves
Firearms of 22 calibre; accessories and parts therefor
Bullets and cartridges of not more than 9 mm. bore
Padlocks
Slides for metal fasteners
Gaskets and joints
Fowling-pieces, accessories and parts therefor
Cotton wicks, cylindrical, asbestos-lined with metal inserts
Equipment and apparatus for aviculture
Equipment and apparatus for cattle-raising and farming
Synthetic or artificial precious stones and pearls; natural and cultured
pearls
Materials for drawing, modelling and painting
Domestic sewing machines and parts thereof
Absorption-type refrigerating apparatus, flame-operated
Industrial plants, complete or incomplete¹
Replacement parts for domestic sewing machines
Bauxite
Cellophane
Insulating material for electricity and boilers, except ornamental sheets or
coating of any kind

¹The inclusion of these goods in the treatment established by this Article does not invalidate the provisions concerning surcharge exemption which are contained in the various legal texts on the subject.

Mixtures of natural products, whether or not comprising chemical products for industrial use, not elsewhere specified or included¹

Mixtures of chemical products for industrial use, not elsewhere specified or included¹

Paper for accountancy based on perforated cards, not bleached or coloured, in rolls, weighing 150/170 gr. per square meter

Printing ink

Rubber gloves for medical and surgical use

Sterilized thread for surgical sutures of all kinds²

Orthopaedic appliances etc., in general

Bandages and gauze for medical use

Fabric with double border, of a width of from 40 to 56 cms., for the manufacture of umbrellas

Outside shutters

Article 4

The following goods are hereby excluded from the provisions of Article 3 of the Decree of 14 April 1963:

Unexposed film, not perforated, for microfilming

Supplies, parts and accessories for watches in general, except machinery

Pocket watches, wrist-watches and the like, included under sub-heading

48042/6 of the Import Code of the Bank of the Republic

Ball-point pens, accessories and parts therefor

Fountain-pens, accessories and parts therefor

Pencils

Propelling pencils, accessories and parts therefor

Aircraft³

Aviation equipment

Article 5

The following shall be added to the list of goods in Article 3 of the Decree of 14 April 1963:

Moulded trays of cellulose pulp for packaging fresh fruit and eggs

Sheep-shearers and parts therefor

Agricultural machinery and tools n.e.s.

Shearing machines

Hammer-mills for agricultural use

¹The provisions of Article 1 of the Decree of 9 February 1961 and Article 1 of the Decree of 23 March 1961 shall remain in force.

²The inclusion of these goods in the treatment established by this Article does not invalidate the provisions concerning surcharge exemption which are contained in the various legal texts on the subject.

³The Bank of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay will not apply the surcharge established for these goods wherever the latter are imported by national airline companies.

Windmills with a sail diameter of 3.60 m. or more
Parts and accessories for windmills with a sail diameter of 3.60 m. or more
Flexible harrows of the tooth or chain-link type
Scientific and laboratory apparatus
Apparatus and instruments for medical and dental clinics
Parts and accessories for medical apparatus and utensils
Radiological apparatus
Articles for surgery, other than dental
Parts and accessories for scientific and laboratory apparatus
Parts and accessories for apparatus for medical and dental clinics
Parts and accessories for radiological apparatus
Clinical thermometers
Laboratory utensils
Autogenerating projectors and reflectors for medical use
Parts for autogenerating projectors and reflectors for medical use

Article 6 - The provisions of Article 31 of the Decree of 12 March 1964 on fertilizers, as extended by Article 4 of the Decree of 17 September 1964, shall remain in force until the date established by the latter Decree.

Article 7 - Products which are, or may become, subject to surcharges of 150 per cent or more shall in all cases be liable to a prior deposit of 200 per cent; this prior deposit shall be applied on import declarations registered as from the date of entry into force of this Decree.

Article 8 - This Decree shall enter into force as from the date of its publication in two daily newspapers of the national capital.

Article 9 - This Decree shall be brought to the notice of the General Assembly.

Article 10 - This Decree shall be communicated, etc.