

BILL NO. 7 OF 2020

A BILL

FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE CUSTOMS TARIFF ACT 1986

ENACTED by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji—

Short title and commencement

1.—(1) This Act may be cited as the Customs Tariff (COVID-19 Response) (Amendment) Act 2020.

(2) This Act comes into force on 27 March 2020.

2 *Customs Tariff (COVID-19 Response) (Amendment)— of 2020*

Schedule 2 amended

2. Schedule 2 to the Customs Tariff Act 1986 is amended by—

(a) in Part 1, deleting the duty rates appearing in the third column and substituting the new duty rates in the fourth column specified in the table below for the following tariff items—

<i>Tariff Items</i>	<i>Column</i>	<i>Delete</i>	<i>Substitute</i>
2710.12.11	3	“46¢ per litre”	“66¢ per litre”
2710.12.12	3	“46¢ per litre”	“66¢ per litre”
2710.12.19	3	“46¢ per litre”	“66¢ per litre”
2710.12.31	3	“20¢ per litre”	“40¢ per litre”
2710.12.32	3	“20¢ per litre”	“40¢ per litre”
2710.20.11	3	“46¢ per litre”	“66¢ per litre”
2710.20.12	3	“46¢ per litre”	“66¢ per litre”
2710.20.19	3	“46¢ per litre”	“66¢ per litre”
2710.20.31	3	“20¢ per litre”	“40¢ per litre”
2710.20.32	3	“20¢ per litre”	“40¢ per litre”

(b) in Part 3 after concession code 297, inserting the following new concession code—

Code No.	Persons or Bodies	Goods Eligible for duty Conc.	Import Duty Rates			Conditions	Certificate To Be Signed By
			Fiscal	Excise	VAT		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
298	Companies, entities and individuals	<p>(i) Diagnostic test instruments, apparatuses, hand sanitisers, anti-bacterial hand wash, gloves, masks, disposable hair nets, face shields, protective clothing and equipment, disinfectant wipes, tissue paper, medical spectacles and goggles, scanners and cameras (HS 9018/9022), protective garments for surgical/medical use, disinfectants, medical consumables, medical/surgical/lab sterilisers, medical ventilators, electro-diagnostic apparatus, air purifiers, boots for use in medical facilities, hospital beds, hydrogen peroxide, paper bed sheets, thermometers, medical equipment, medicaments under chapter 30 of Schedule 2 to the Act, microscopes and any other medical goods that are required to manage any medical emergencies;</p> <p>(ii) Ethanol alcohol to be specifically used in the manufacture of hand sanitisers.</p>	Free	Free	Free	<p>(a) That the goods are imported for the purposes of responding to medical emergencies as declared by the World Health Organization or the Government;</p> <p>(b) That the goods and ethanol specified in this concession are used exclusively by the company, entity or individual for the purposes for which the concession was granted;</p> <p>(c) That for the purposes of the import of ethanol, the company or entity is approved by the Comptroller;</p> <p>(d) That the concession must be reflected in the price of the goods;</p> <p>(e) That the disposal or use of the goods for purposes other than that for which the concession is granted be subject to the provisions of section 17 of the Act; and</p> <p>(f) That this concession will be valid only within a period determined by Government.</p>	The person approved by the Comptroller

March 2020

CUSTOMS TARIFF (COVID-19 RESPONSE) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2020

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Bill and is intended only to indicate its general effect)

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Customs Tariff (COVID-19 Response) (Amendment) Bill 2020 (**'Bill'**) seeks to amend the Customs Tariff Act 1986 (**'Act'**).

2.0 CLAUSES

- 2.1 Clause 1 of the Bill provides for the short title and commencement. If passed by Parliament, the amending legislation will come into force on 27 March 2020.
- 2.2 Clause 2 of the Bill amends Part 1 of Schedule 2 to the Act to allow for an increase in fiscal duty by 20¢ per litre for diesel and unleaded fuel.
- 2.3 Clause 2 of the Bill also amends Part 3 of Schedule 2 to the Act by introducing a new concession which will allow for the exemption of import duty and import value added tax (**'VAT'**) on medical supplies during medical emergencies such as the current COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2.4 The world has been greatly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and Fiji now has confirmed cases of the coronavirus. To ensure the containment and treatment of persons affected by the coronavirus, it is important that essential health and medical care goods are available to each citizen of our country as and when required. This is an unforeseen situation that has put all countries around the world in a very delicate position and the number of confirmed cases and casualty rates is increasing each day. While the hospitals around the country are well equipped with the necessary equipments for daily cases and operations, these unforeseen situations may require additional health and medical care goods that are needed to ensure the well-being of our people.
- 2.5 To ensure adequate supply of these health and medical care goods, the Fijian Government is allowing for the exemption of import duty on items which are essential in the containment and treatment of COVID-19. In addition, for ease of

doing business and reducing the red tapes to encourage companies, entities and individuals to import the required items, VAT is also exempt on the importation of health and medical care goods related to COVID-19.

- 2.6 The exemption of import duty and import VAT will be valid for a period as determined by the Fijian Government.
- 2.7 It is important that items which contribute to hygiene and which also assist in the prevention of COVID-19 (such as masks, hand sanitisers, gloves, disinfectant wipes and anti-bacterial hand wash) are available to each individual in our country at an affordable price. The exemption of import duty and import VAT will also ensure that these items remain affordable to Fijian citizens and that there is adequate supply imported and available in this time of need.
- 2.8 Protective equipment such as surgical or medical gowns, protective footwear, gas masks, disposable hair nets, medical goggles and spectacles and plastic face shields are some other items on which import duty and import VAT have been exempted. These items are essential goods that are required by our health and medical service providers so that they are better able to assist the people of this country in such medical emergencies.
- 2.9 Other medical items and medicaments that may be required for this purpose will also be exempt from import duty and import VAT under this concession.

3.0 MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- 3.1 The Act comes under the responsibility of the Minister responsible for finance.

A. SAYED-KHAIYUM
Attorney-General