

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Sri Lanka Revises Import Control Regulations Further on June 30
Due to COVID-19

Country: Sri Lanka

Post: Colombo

Report Category: Agricultural Situation, Agriculture in the News, FAIRS Subject Report

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Report Highlights:

Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) revised the temporary import controls on June 30, 2020 as an interim measure to tackle adversities of COVID 19. The new regulation applies mainly on commodities loaded on or after June 30, 2020 at the loading port, though differing dates are stipulated for some specific commodities, based on the payment terms. The regulation is flexible for import of raw materials for local value addition, and export processing, while others are allowed on a restricted basis. GOSL revised import control regulations at several stages since March 19, 2020.

General Information:

DISCLAIMER: The information contained in this report on revised import restrictions was retrieved from the notification available on [Department of Import and Export Control](#) website. USDA and/or the U.S. Government make no claim of accuracy or authenticity.

Sri Lanka imposed an island-wide lock down from March 20, 2020 to reduce the spread of COVID-19. While the lockdown was gradually relaxed from April 22, 2020 the government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) enacted other stringent measures to counter the economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis: on March 19, 2020 the [Central Bank of Sri Lanka directed](#) commercial banks to curtail facilitation of financial instruments in the importing of non-essential commodities; on April 16, 2020 GOSL announced [temporary suspension of import](#) of commodities under 156 HS headings; and the same notice listed commodities under 111 HS headings for which the terms of payment for any imports would be delayed for three months. At the same time, [Ministry of Finance, Sri Lanka](#) notified an increase of Special Commodity Levy (SCL) on imported fruits for two months under four Harmonized System (HS) headings beginning April 17, 2020. GOSL [revised the import restrictions](#) again on May 22, 2020, which applied on commodities loaded on a date not exceeding 90 days from April 16, 2020 from the exporting country. The regulation listed commodities under temporary suspension, commodities allowed to import under credit facility, and stipulates conditions required to fulfil to qualify for importation. It further listed out commodities under 32 HS headings which were under import control license earlier and suspended for a 90-day period from May 22, 2020.

The [latest revisions of import restrictions](#) came into effect on June 30, 2020 revising parts of the May 22, 2020 regulation. While the new regulation made changes to the previous, it provided more clarity. The latest regulation is mainly “effective only for importations of goods which are loaded on or before June 30, 2020 at the loading port”. However, the applicable date differs for some commodities specified in the regulation, based on the payment terms.

The revised regulation allows imports in a way to minimize the impact on domestic currency, while ensuring uninterrupted raw material supply for domestic manufacturing and export processing. The restriction also intends to protect certain local industries and production.

Attachments:

[200630_E_Import Export Control COVID.pdf](#)