

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** April 28,2020

**Report Number:** CE2020-0006

**Report Name:** Sri Lanka Increases Special Commodity Levy on Imported Fruits

**Country:** Sri Lanka

**Post:** Colombo

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

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**Report Highlights:**

Government of Sri Lanka has notified revision of a Special Commodity Levy on imported fruits under 4 Harmonized System (HS) headings; the notification is effective for 2 months, beginning April 17.

## General Information:

DISCLAIMER: The information contained in this report on Special Commodity Levy is retrieved from the [Ministry of Finance, Sri Lanka](#) website notification under Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, Order under Section 2, issued on April 16, 2020. USDA and the U.S. Government make no claim of accuracy or authenticity.

Sri Lanka relaxed its month-long lockdown on April 20 for most districts countrywide. The curfew restricting citizen movements is relaxed during daytime but remains in effect each evening from 8.00 pm until 5.00 am. The full lockdown will remain in effect until May 4 for Colombo and three other high-risk districts.

Even as it relaxed its lockdown, government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) enacted other stringent measures to counter the economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis: on March 19, 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, 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 on imported fruits under 4 Harmonized System (HS) headings. The new levy is effective for 2 months beginning April 17, 2020.

Sri Lanka's annual fruit imports for the past five years have averaged \$71 million, about a quarter of which are imported from China and 8 percent from the United States. Apples constitute about 33 percent of all fruits imported, with just under half sourced from China and just under 20 percent from the United States. Of total US fruit shipments to Sri Lanka, about 75 percent are fresh apples, followed by grapes and oranges.

The import tariff of this Special Commodity Levy on apples was revised twice within a year, from an initial Rs.45 per kilogram, to Rs.60 per kilogram in July 2019, and again to Rs.90 per kilogram with the recent change.

**Table 1: SCL changes of a few important fruit types**

H.S Heading	H.S. Code	Description	Previous SCL	New SCL
08.05	0805.10.10	Oranges- fresh	Rs.80 per Kg	Rs.120 per Kg
08.06	0806.10	Grapes - Fresh	Rs.130 per Kg	Rs.165 per Kg
08.08	0808.10	Apples	Rs.60 per Kg	Rs.90 per Kg
08.08	0808.30	Pears	Rs.175 per Kg	Rs.220 per Kg

Note: Excerpt of GOSL notice – more details are available in the notice

**Attachments:**

[200416\\_Fruits Tariff Changes TIP MOF \(final\).pdf](#)