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POLICY

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China Lowers Selected MFN Tariffs on November 1

Report Categories:

Trade Policy Monitoring

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Report Highlights:

On September 30, 2018, the State Council Duty Commission (SCDC) announced that import tariffs for 1,585 tariff lines will be lowered effective November 1, 2018. In terms of food and agriculture related products, the reduction of most-favored-nation (MFN) tariffs will affect certain seafood, juice, hides and skins, and wood products. This report contains an unofficial translation of the SCDC announcement, a table of adjusted MFN tariff rates for all food and agriculture related products covered in Annex 1. A second table notes the adjusted provisional tariff rates for all food and agriculture related products in the announcement covered in Annex 2. Adjusted provisional rates are tariff rates which are routinely raised and lowered by the SCDC each year and applied on a tentative basis to imported goods. They can be significantly lower than the MFN rate. U.S. exporters should be aware of the new tariffs and check with local importers to verify changes in their tariff rate.

General Information:

This report contains an unofficial translation of the “Notice of the State Council Customs Tariff Commission Reducing Import Tariffs of Certain Commodities” published on the People’s Republic of China’s Ministry of Finance website on September 30, 2018. Please refer to the following link for the official SCDC announcement (in Mandarin Chinese).

Announcement Link:

http://gss.mof.gov.cn/zhengwuxinxi/zhengcefabu/201809/t20180930_3033432.html

Disclaimer: This summary is based on an initial review of the announcements and therefore should not, under any circumstances, be viewed as a definitive reading of the measures in question, or of its implications for U.S. agricultural trade interests. In the event of a discrepancy between this summary and the announcements as published in Chinese, the latter shall prevail.

For information about the structure of China’s import tariffs, please refer to the U.S. Department of Commerce’s [China Country Commercial Guide](#).

UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF MINISTRY OF FINANCE ANNOUNCEMENT
State Council Tariff Committee Announcement on
“Lowering Import Tariffs of Certain Commodities”
Tariff Committee Notice [2018] No. 9

September 30, 2018

In order to adapt to industrial upgrading, reduce enterprise costs, and meet the multi-level demand of consumers, the MFN tariff rates for some commodities will be lowered as of November 1, 2018, which involve 1,585 tariff lines. As a result of the adjustment of the MFN tariff rates, the provisional MFN tariff rates for 39 imported commodities will be cancelled from November 1, 2018, and the provisional MFN tariff rate for the remaining commodities will continue to be implemented. The specific tariff lines and rate adjustments are shown in the annexes.

It is hereby announced.

State Council Tariff Commission

Annex 1. Adjustment table of MFN tariff rates for imported goods

<http://gss.mof.gov.cn/zhengwuxinxi/zhengcefabu/201809/P020180930650864922349.pdf>

Annex 2. Adjustment table of provisional MFN tariff rates for imported goods

<http://gss.mof.gov.cn/zhengwuxinxi/zhengcefabu/201809/P020180930650865463426.pdf>

Annex 1: Table of Adjusted MFN Tariff Rates for Imported Goods

(limited to the food and agriculture related products covered in the announcement)

Serial No.	HS Code	Commodity	Current MFN rate (%)	New MFN rate as of November 1 (%)
1	03011100	Fresh water ornamental live fish	17.5	10
2	03011900	Other ornamental live fish	17.5	10
3	03019190	Live trout	10.5	10
4	03019290	Live eels	10	7
5	03019390	Live carp	10.5	7
6	03019491	Live Atlantic Bluefin tunas	10.5	7
7	03019492	Live Pacific Bluefin tunas	10.5	7
8	03019590	Other live Southern Bluefin tunas	10.5	7
9	03019991	Live tilapia	10.5	7
10	03019992	Live puffer fish	10.5	10
11	03019993	Other live cyprinidae fish	10.5	7
12	03019999	Other live fish	10.5	7
13	13021400	Ephedra saps and extracts	20	9.5
14	13021940	Gingko saps and extracts	20	9.5
15	13021990	Other plant saps and extracts	20	9.5
16	13023200	Mucilages and thickeners derived from locust beans	15	10
17	13023911	Carrageenan	15	8
18	13023912	Algin	15	8
19	13023919	Mucilages and thickeners derived from other seaweeds and algae	15	8
20	13023990	Other plant mucilages and thickeners	15	8
21	15043000	Fats, oils and their fractions of marine mammals	14.4	14
22	20092900	Other grapefruit (including pomelo) juice	15	5
23	20093910	Lemon juice of brix value exceeding 20	18	5
24	20093990	Juice of any other single citrus fruit with brix value exceeding 20	18	5
25	20094900	Other pineapple juice	10	5
26	20096900	Other grape juice (including grape must)	20	5
27	20097900	Other apple juice	20	10
28	21011100	Coffee extracts, essences and concentrates	17	12
29	21069010	Beverage bases	35	12
30	21069020	Compound alcoholic preparations used for the manufacture of beverages	20	12
31	29054400	D-glucitol (sorbitol)	14	8
32	29054500	Glycerol	14	8
33	41015011	Whole Bovine Hide & Skin, Reversible Tanning, >16Kg	8.4	8

34	41019011	Other Bovine Hide & Skin, Incl. Butts, Bends And Bollies, Reversibly Tanned	8.4	8
35	44021000	Bamboo Charcoal, whether or not agglomerated	10.5	6
36	44029000	Other Wood Charcoal, whether or not agglomerated	10.5	6
37	44041000	Coniferous Hoopwood; Split Poles, Wooden Sticks	8	6
38	44042000	Non-Coniferous Hoopwood; Split Poles, Wooden Sticks	8	6
39	44050000	Wood Wool; Wood Flour	8	6
40	44081011	Coniferous Wood Veneer Sheets, of laminated plywood, Thick ≤ 6 Mm	8	6
41	44083111	Other Veneer Sheets of laminated plywood, Dark/Light Red Meranti & Meranti Bakau, Thick ≤ 6 Mm	10	6
42	44083911	Other Veneer Sheets of laminated plywood, other tropical wood non-Dark/Light Red Meranti & Meranti Bakau, Thick ≤ 6 Mm	10	6
43	44091010	Coniferous floor board strips, Continuously Shaped Along any of its edges or faces	7.5	6
44	44091090	Other continuously wood shaped along any of its edges or faces	7.5	6
45	44109011	Particle board, of wheat and rice straw	7.5	6
46	44109019	Particle board, of other wood	7.5	6
47	44109090	Other particle board	7.5	6
48	44111219	Fiberboard (Mdf) , Thick ≤ 5 Mm, D. > 0.8 G/Cm ³ , mechanically worked or surface covered	7.5	6
49	44111291	Other fiberboard (Mdf) , Thick ≤ 5 Mm, not mechanically worked or surface covered	7.5	6
50	44111319	Fiberboard (Mdf) , 5Mm $< \text{Thick} \leq 9$ mm, D. > 0.8 G/Cm ³ , mechanically worked or surface covered	7.5	6
51	44111391	Other fiberboard (Mdf) , 5Mm $< \text{Thick} \leq 9$ mm, not mechanically worked or surface covered	7.5	6
52	44111419	Fiberboard (Mdf) , Thick > 9 mm, D. > 0.8 G/Cm ³ , mechanically worked or surface covered	7.5	6
53	44111491	Other fiberboard (Mdf) , Thick > 9 mm, not mechanically worked or surface covered	7.5	6
54	44119290	Other fiberboard (Mdf) , D. > 0.8 G/Cm ³ , mechanically worked or surface covered	7.5	6
55	44119410	Other fiberboard (Mdf) , 0.35 G/Cm ³ $< D. \leq 0.5$ G/Cm ³	7.5	6

56	44119421	Other fiberboard (Mdf) , D.<0.35G/Cm3, not mechanically worked or surface covered	7.5	6
57	44121011	Bamboo Plywood, veneered panels and similar laminated wood, solely of sheets, each ply not exceeding 6 mm thickness, with at least one outer ply of tropical wood	12	6
58	44121020	Bamboo Plywood, veneered panels and similar laminated wood, with at least one outer ply of non-coniferous wood	10	6
59	44121091	Other bamboo Plywood, veneered panels and similar laminated wood, with at least one outer ply of tropical wood	8	6
60	44121092	Other bamboo Plywood, veneered panels and similar laminated wood, containing at least one layer of particle board	10	6
61	44123100	Other plywood consisting solely of wood (other than bamboo , each ply not exceeding 6 mm thickness, with at least one outer ply of tropical wood	12	6
62	44129410	Other Blackboards/ Laminboard/ Battenboard, with at least one outer ply of non-coniferous wood	10	6
63	44129491	Other Blackboards/ Laminboard/ Battenboard, with at least one outer ply of tropical wood	8	6
64	44129492	Blackboards/Laminboard/Battenboard, with at least one layer of particle board	10	6
65	44129910	Blackboards/Laminboard/Battenboard, with at least one outer ply of non-coniferous wood	10	6
66	44129991	Blackboards/Laminboard/Batten board, with at least one out ply of tropical wood	8	6
67	44129992	Other blackboards/ Lamin board/ Batten board, with at least one layer of particle board	10	6
68	44151000	Cases, Boxes, Crates, Drums & Similar Packings, cable drums	7.5	6
69	44152010	Pallets, Box Pallets And Other Load Board, pallet collars, of radiate pine	7.5	6
70	44152090	Other wood pallets, Box Pallets And Other Load Board, pallet collars, of radiate pine	7.5	6
71	44160010	Casks/Barrels/Vats/Tubs & Other Coopers' product and parts thereof including staves, of radiate pine	16	12

72	44160090	Other Wooden Casks/Barrels/Vats/Tubs& Other Coopers' products and parts thereof including staves	16	12
73	44170010	Tools, tool bodies, tool handles, Broom Or Brush bodies and handles, Boot Or Shoe Lasts and trees, of radiate pine	16	12
74	44170090	Other wooden tools, tool bodies, tool handles, Broom Or Brush bodies and handles, Boot Or Shoe Lasts and trees	16	12
75	44185000	Shingles and shakes	7.5	6

Note: The product abbreviation is for reference only. The specific product range is subject to the product description in Mandarin Chinese as defined in the official Import and Export Tariff Code of the People's Republic of China.

**Annex 2: Table of Adjusted Provisional MFN Tariff Rates for Imported Goods
(limited to the food and agriculture related products covered in the announcement)**

Serial No.	HS Code	Commodity	New MFN Rate as of November 1 (%)	Cancelled Provisional MFN Rate (%)
1	41041920	Other wet hides and skins of equine animals	5	5
2	41071210	Prepared after tanning or crusting of whole hides and skins of bovine animals, grain splits	6	6

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