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NEWS ALERT

10th of November 2017

News Headlines

- [General Rate Increase and Other Surcharges](#)
- [Vitamins - Classified as a Food or Medicine?](#)
- [Implementation of revised Minimum Documentary and Import Declaration Requirements and Non Commodity Information Requirements Policies](#)
- [Continuing Congestion in Singapore](#)
- [Tarrif Concessions Information](#)

Newsletters, Blogs & Videos

- [Stockwell's Facebook](#)
 - [Corporate YouTube Video](#)
 - [For ongoing updates on FTA's, DAFF and customs](#)
 - [Introducing our New Importer Animation](#)
-

- [New Importer YouTube Video](#)

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News Headlines Extended

General Rate Increase and Other Surcharges

GRI

Ex all US Origins excl. Miami to all destinations (sailing from or via Port of Miami or Port Everglades) - **USD6 w/m effective 20th November**

Ex China, Hong Kong, Taiwan & Korea to East Australia - **USD300/TEU effective 15th November**

Ex North Asia to Australia - USD150/20' & USD300/40' & USD5 w/m

BUC

Ex USA/Canada to Australia & New Zealand - USD478/TEU effective 1st December

OTHER

Vitamins - Classified as a Food or Medicine?

As long as food imports attract duty and medicines are duty free, there will be debates about the tariff classification of vitamins and other health products. In the most recent version of this debate the Administrative Appeals Tribunal has ruled that vitamins should be classified as a duty free medicament. The decision is relevant for importers of health supplements and any products added to food for health reasons.

The Facts

In [Pharm-A-Care Laboratories Pty Ltd and CG of Customs](#) the Administrative Appeals Tribunal had to consider an application for review of the tariff classification of two types of product. The first type of products were "VitaGummies" a chewable multivitamin which was said to be 70-80% sucrose and gelatine. The second type of goods were described as weight loss gummies, which did not contain vitamins, but contained hydroxy citric acid.

Customs argued that the VitaGummies should be classified under either chapter 1704 (sugar confectionary) or 2106 (food preparations not elsewhere specified or included). The importer argued that the VitaGummies should be classified to 3004 (medicaments ... consisting of mixed or unmixed products for therapeutic or prophylactic uses).

Crucially, note 1 to chapter 30 provides that the chapter does not cover food or beverages or food supplements (among other items) ... [read more](#)

Implementation of revised Minimum Documentary and Import Declaration Requirements and Non Commodity Information Requirements Policies

Department of Agriculture and Water Resources recently published Industry advice notice 101-2017 <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/import/industry-advice/2017/101-2017>

Please note the below highlighted key points that may need consideration/action:-

- Bamboo packaging is aligned with other packaging materials and may be released if appropriately treated - this means that revised consignment specific and annual packing declarations will be implemented on **20 November 2017**.
- Due to recent changes/amendments with packing declarations the department is allowing industry/suppliers/clients more time to adjust to the new forms
- All consignments shipped on or after **1 July 2018**, must be accompanied by a packaging declaration that meets the revised requirements.
- Updated templates will be available on the [Acceptable documentation templates](#) webpage from **20 November 2017**.

For any questions and/or comments regarding IDN 101-2017 please contact us at sales@stockwells.com.au

Continuing Congestion in Singapore

Please note that there continues to be issues in tranship ports due to congestion and lack of available sailings, equipment and space. Singapore is suffering the worst of the delays at about 4-6 weeks, so for vessels going to Perth this may be a real issue where there is no options but to tranship.

We are doing everything we can to minimise the impact on our clients but where there is no option but to tranship our hands are tied. Sometimes it is taking 4-6 weeks just to get space on vessels so this is an extremely stressful time for everyone and I ask our clients to try and maintain patience and know we are trying to do everything we can.

Please don't hesitate to contact us on 1300 786 468 for further information.

Tariff Concessions Information

If your imported goods are not currently enjoying a free rate of duty by utilising free trade, then the tariff concession system (TCS) could be your answer to saving on duty TODAY.

[Click here to read more.](#)



Customer Feedback

If you have any issues you would like to resolve or feedback in general good, or bad, please send an email to feedback@stockwells.com.au. This goes directly to Angela Gambell (Director) for immediate action
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