INTERNATIONAL TRADE / WTO

CLIENT ALERT

MARCH/2020

BRAZIL REDUCES TO ZERO THE IMPORT TARIFF APPLIED TO GOODS AND PRODUCTS USED TO FIGHT COVID-19

On March 18, 2020, the Brazilian Chamber of Foreign Trade (*Câmara de Comércio Exterior – CAMEX*) published Resolution No. 17/2020, reducing to zero the import duty applied to a list of goods used to fight COVID-19. The measure is to be enforced until September 30, 2020.

All MERCOSUR countries have a Common External Tariff (*Tarifa Externa Comum* - TEC) which was established by its members and is subject to changes only by means of consensus. Considering the ongoing coronavirus pandemic situation, Brazil understood that Article 50, letter "d", of Decree nº 66/1981, which incorporated the Montevideo Treaty in Brazil, allows for changes in the import duty based on the need to protect people's health and lives.

Among the products benefited by the measure are ethyl alcohol, antiseptic gel, protection gloves, protection masks, safety glasses, catheters, sterile drapes and thermometers. A complete list of the products benefitted and corresponding Mercosur Common Nomenclature (*Nomenclatura Comum do Mercosul* – NCM) code can be found in the official publication (in Portuguese).

The Resolution also establishes that the administrative authorities that carry out activities of licensing, control or inspection must now prioritize these products to expedite their clearance.

We remain at your disposal should you have any questions.

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