

JJL**J.J. LAWSON**
CUSTOMS • FREIGHT • TRANSPORT

Bare Facts

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Bringing you the bear essentials

Matt's top tip



In previous Bare Facts, I have reported on various ways to reduce Customs Duties payable on imported goods. Here are some more, which rely on the Country of Origin of the Goods.

FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

Most importers are aware that Australia has Free Trade Agreements (FTA) with a number of countries - currently twelve. These countries are

the USA, New Zealand, Thailand,

Singapore, Chile and the ASEAN Countries (Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam).

With some countries, we have more than one FTA - such as New Zealand, Singapore and Thailand with whom we have bi-lateral Free Trade Agreements and who also fall under the umbrella of the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (AANZFTA).

Where imported goods may be covered by more than one FTA, goods only need to meet the criteria of one of the FTAs to be eligible for preferential rates of Customs Duty. As such, the importer and supplier should discuss which FTA to use before the goods have been shipped (having such discussions after shipment may be too late).

Please note that while Indonesia is a member of ASEAN, it has not completed its domestic legislation to implement the AANZFTA and so the AANZFTA will not apply to Indonesian goods until after this has happened.

In addition to the above Free Trade Agreements, Australia is currently negotiating Free Trade Agreements with the following countries - China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, South Korea, the Gulf Co-Operation Council States (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates), the Pacer Plus Countries (the Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu) and the Trans-Pacific Partnership Countries (Brunei, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, Peru, the United States and Vietnam).

Under the Free Trade Agreements, goods made in the country with which Australia has an FTA and which comply with the requisite rules of origin, consignment provisions and for which a Certificate of Origin has been issued (if required), can be imported Duty Free or at reduced duty rates (compared to the General Rate of Customs Duty).

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Import Export Show 2011

JJLawson will be exhibiting at the Import Export Show 2011 at Rosehill Gardens Event Centre in Sydney on September 15-16 and everyone is welcome to come along.
www.importexportshow.com.au

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