

EAC Trade Regime with COMESA and SADC countries

According to the provisions of the EAC Customs Management Act (2004), Section 112, goods imported by EAC Partner States under the COMESA and SADC arrangements attract preferential tariff treatment as prescribed in each of the EAC Partner States legislation.

According to the EAC Partner States legislation, applicable rates on imported goods from COMESA and SADC are as follows: -

1. Burundi, Kenya and Rwanda

Burundi, Kenya and Rwanda are members of COMESA FTA. They extend preferential tariff treatment to all COMESA FTA member countries of 0% on all imports.

However, for the following Non FTA member countries, the following are the applicable rates.

- a) Eritrea and DR Congo: 80% reduction on EAC CET rate
- b) Ethiopia: 10% reduction on EAC CET rate
- c) Swaziland: 90% reduction in Kenya. In Rwanda and Burundi CET rate applies.

Burundi, Kenya and Rwanda charges CET rate on all imports from SADC countries, because they do not have a trade arrangement with SADC. It is however worth noting that all SADC countries that are members of COMESA are accorded preferential tariff treatment under the COMESA and EAC arrangement. The only SADC countries that face non preferential import duties with Burundi, Kenya and Rwanda for lack of a trade arrangement are:

- a) Angola
- b) Botswana
- c) Lesotho
- d) Mozambique
- e) Namibia
- f) South Africa

2. Tanzania

Tanzania is a member of SADC FTA and extends preferential tariff treatment to all SADC member countries of 0% on all imports.

Tanzania charges CET rate on all imports from COMESA countries because it does not have a trade arrangement with COMESA. It is however worth noting that all COMESA countries that are members of SADC are accorded preferential tariff treatment under the SADC and EAC arrangement. The only COMESA countries that face import duties with Tanzania for lack of a trade arrangement are:

- a) Djibouti
- b) Egypt
- c) Eritrea
- d) Ethiopia
- e) Libya and
- f) Sudan

3. Uganda

Uganda is implementing COMESA FTA trade regime and is currently according imports from all COMESA member countries preferential tariffs as follows:

- a) Goods that attract an EAC CET rate of 25%, when imported from COMESA they are charged 6%
- b) Goods that attract an EAC CET rate of 10%, when imported from COMESA they are charged 4%
- c) Goods that attract an EAC CET rate of 0%, when imported from COMESA they are charged 0%
- d) Goods on the EAC Sensitive list are charged the Sensitive list CET rate.

Uganda charges CET rate on all imports from SADC countries, because it does not have a trade arrangement with SADC. It is however worth noting that all SADC countries that are members of COMESA are accorded preferential tariff treatment under the COMESA and EAC arrangement. The only SADC countries that face non preferential import duties with Uganda for lack of a trade arrangement are:

- a) Angola
- b) Botswana
- c) Lesotho
- d) Mozambique
- e) Namibia
- f) South Africa

4. COMESA and SADC FTA countries

a) COMESA FTA countries

- i) Burundi
- ii) Comoros
- iii) Djibouti
- iv) Egypt
- v) Kenya
- vi) Libya
- vii) Madagascar
- viii) Malawi
- ix) Mauritius
- x) Rwanda
- xi) Seychelles
- xii) Sudan
- xiii) Zambia
- xiv) Zimbabwe

b) SADC FTA countries

- i) Angola
- ii) Botswana
- iii) Comoros
- iv) Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)
- v) Lesotho
- vi) Madagascar
- vii) Malawi
- viii) Mauritius
- ix) Mozambique
- x) Namibia
- xi) Seychelles
- xii) South Africa
- xiii) Swaziland
- xiv) United Republic of Tanzania

- xv) Zambia
- xvi) Zimbabwe