

WHERE CAN I FIND THE EU IMPORT DUTY RATE FOR MY PRODUCT ?!?

What is the EU import duty tariff for my products? This is a question I often get. In this paper I'll explain **how** (and **where**) you can find the EU import duty rate. If you still can't find the EU import duty tariff for your product, send me an email, or give me a call. We'll go through it together. I love to hear from the visitors of our website.

Two steps

For finding the EU import duty rate, you need to take two steps. The first step is to determine the correct commodity code or 'statistical code' of the products that you intend to import. With that code, you can extract the duty rate from the free European and national public databases. The first step of finding the correct commodity code is vital though.

Step 1 - Determine the applicable EU commodity code

Perhaps you already have an idea on the commodity code of your product. Maybe it is on one of the documents of the manufacturer. That would be a good start, but I recommend to verify the code yourself with care, because mistakes are easily made; and mistakes cost money.

The European nomenclature ("CN") is based on the globally recognized nomenclature that is called the Harmonized System ("HS"). This Harmonized System provides for a classification of goods up to a 6-digits level.

Since the customs nomenclatures in for example the United States, the People's Republic of China and India are all based on the HS, as a rule of thumb, the first 6 digits of the code should correspond exactly to the code that is applicable in Europe. For example:

In the US nomenclature dialysis instruments and apparatus have number: 9018 90 7520

In the European nomenclature that would fall under renal dialysis equipment with number: 9018 90 30

If you have no idea what the commodity code is for your product, try to find it in one of the many free databases that you can find online. For example of the website of the US international Trade Commission: <http://www.usitc.gov/tata/hts/bychapter/index.htm>. Or that on the website of India Customs Authorities <http://www.cbec.gov.in/>. Or the helpful website on UK businesslink: <http://tariff.businesslink.gov.uk/tariff-bl/mainMenu>. You'll probably find that customs in your own country have a free HS database available as well. Once you have found the code. Note down the first 6 digits.

I must admit, it is not always easy to locate the correct code. That is why there are many classification disputes.

Step 2 – Obtain the EU import tariff

If you know the first six digits code for your product, take that code into the database for the EU import duty rate. That system is called TARIC. It is a really a great database that contains all information that you need on applicable import tariffs, import regulations and so on (but all on a European level). Here is the link: http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/dds2/taric/taric_consultation.jsp?Lang=en

Type in the six digit commodity code, as well as the country of origin. Please notice that the country of origin is the country where goods are manufactured, as opposed to country of where the goods were dispatched from. Sometimes it is very difficult to establish the origin of a product. Let's look at an example of sunglasses (with non-optical plastic glasses) that are manufactured in Vietnam. You have found out that the first 6 digit commodity code, which is: 900410. Fill that in, as well as Vietnam as the country of Origin.

European Commission > Taxation and Customs Union > Databases > TARIC > measure

TARIC site has been upgraded. The following document is a guide to this upgrade : [\[User Guide\]](#) (6.7 Mb)

TARIC Consultation

Measure Geographical area Regulation

Search for measures

Goods code [Browse] Country of origin/destination

900410 Vietnam - VN

[Advanced search]

Retrieve Measures

The current reference date for the query is 16-01-2012 [change]

Press enter and you'll get the relevant part of the European nomenclature, in which you'll have to further precise what sunglasses you want to import.

Here is what you see:

TARIC measure information [\[Show all information\]](#)

Area: Vietnam - VN
Goods nomenclature code: 900410

SECTION XVIII OPTICAL, PHOTOGRAPHIC, CINEMATOGRAPHIC, MEASURING, ACCESSORIES THEREOF

CHAPTER 90 OPTICAL, PHOTOGRAPHIC, CINEMATOGRAPHIC, MEASURING, CHECKING, F

- 9004 Spectacles, goggles and the like, corrective, protective or other
- 9004 10 - Sunglasses
 - 9004 10 10 - - With lenses optically worked
 - - Other
 - 9004 10 91 - - - With lenses of plastics
 - 9004 10 99 - - - Other

Note that sunglasses are further divided, on a two indentation level, between (i) sunglasses with optically worked lenses, and (ii) others. Our glasses are not optically worked, so we pick other and then proceed to the third indentation level where we have to choose between (i) with lenses of plastics and (ii) other. Our glasses have plastic lenses, so the correct EU commodity code is 9004 10 91.

Important: make sure that you always work from one indentation level to another, instead of shooting straight at what appears to be a correct description.

When you click on the applicable commodity code 9004 10 91, you get to the the EU custom tariff for sunglasses with plastic lenses (not optically worked). Here is what you see:

TARIC measure information [\[Show all information\]](#)

Area: Vietnam - VN
Goods nomenclature code: 900410

1 - 3 / 3

SECTION XVIII OPTICAL, PHOTOGRAPHIC, CINEMATOGRAPHIC, MEASURING, CHECKING, PRECISION, MEDICAL OR SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS AND APPARATUS; CLOCKS AND WATCHES; MUSICA

CHAPTER 90 OPTICAL, PHOTOGRAPHIC, CINEMATOGRAPHIC, MEASURING, CHECKING, PRECISION, MEDICAL OR SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS AND APPARATUS; PARTS AND ACCESSORIES THEREOF

9004 Spectacles, goggles and the like, corrective, protective or other

9004 10 - Sunglasses

9004 10 10 - - With lenses optically worked

- - Other

9004 10 91 - - - With lenses of plastic

ERGA OMNES (ERGA OMNES)

→ Import control measure (15-08-2010 -) (C0370)
[Show conditions]

→ Third country duty (01-01-1999 -) : **2.90 %**

GSP (R.08/732) - General arrangements (SPGL)

→ **Tariff preference (01-01-2009 - 31-12-2013) : 0 %**
Excluding: China (CN)

All third countries (ALLTC)

→ Export authorization (prior surveillance) (01-01-2007 -) (TMS71)
Additional Code 4053: Optical, photographic or cinematographic apparatus, between 50 and 100 years old, other than those covered by the additional codes 4008, 4010, 4011, 4013, 4023, 4040 - 4048

→ Export authorization (prior surveillance) (01-01-2007 -)

Additional Code 4099: Other than those mentioned in Regulation (EC) no 1210/2003 (OJ L 169): no restrictions

→ Export control measure (15-08-2010 -) (C0371)
[Show conditions]

→ Export control on cultural goods (02-03-2009 -) (C0483) (CG024)
[Show conditions]

ERGA OMNES (ERGA OMNES)

⇄ Supplementary unit (01-01-2008 -) : p/st

9004 10 99 - - - Other

1 - 3 / 3

C0370 If the product is mentioned in the list annexed to Regulation (EC) No. 338/97 and its last amendments, an import authorization must be presented.

C0371 If the product is mentioned in the list annexed to Regulation (EC) No 338/97 and its last amendments, an export authorization must be presented.

C0483 If the declared goods are described in the "CP" footnote linked to the measure, an export license must be presented.

The first EU import duty rate that is shown, is the ERGA OMNES duty rate, which stands for standard rate, irrespective where the goods originate from. Below that, you see the EU import duty tariff that applies for the sunglasses from Vietnam, which is 0%. That is because Vietnam is part of the SPGL countries. Goods of those countries are eligible for a tariff preference, which in this case results in a full relief of import duties. You'll need a Certificate of Origin in order to be entitled to the tariff preference.

More information

TARIC contains more information, such as information on EU antidumping duty, EU import regulations, tariff quota's, and so on. This paper is about finding the EU import duty rate, so I will explain those aspects another time, but if you have a question on any of these other matters, please call or sent me an email with your query.

Furthermore each Member State may have its own national additional measures. For that you will have to verify in the databases of the EU Member State in which you intent to import. I am glad to refer you to these websites.

Finally, I should add that, import of goods into the EU will also attract import VAT (Value Added Tax). In most cases, the import VAT will be fully refundable, but you may still need to fulfill some import VAT compliance. That is why foreign traders often ask me if the need a VAT number. More information about import VAT in Europe is available on our website as well.

Good luck!