



Customs Department Introduces Digital Tariff Classification E-Service to Enhance Trade Facilitation

The Customs Department is set to launch a new electronic customs tariff classification service in August as part of the Government's ongoing digital transformation initiative. The platform will enable importers, exporters, customs brokers, and other businesses engaged in international trade to obtain advance tariff classification rulings and verify whether imported goods require import licences through a fully online system. The initiative is intended to improve efficiency, enhance transparency, and provide businesses with greater certainty when planning cross-border transactions.

Tariff classification plays a critical role in determining the applicable customs duty rates and regulatory requirements for imported goods. Under the new e-service, users will be able to submit applications electronically, upload supporting documents and product images, track application progress in real time, and receive legally binding tariff classification rulings directly through the system. Each ruling will remain valid for three years, enabling businesses to plan import costs and compliance obligations with greater confidence. Notably, the service will also be accessible to individuals and new entrepreneurs without requiring prior registration as an importer or exporter.

The Customs Department currently administers approximately 21,000 tariff classifications. To improve the consistency and accuracy of customs decisions, the new platform will integrate advance tariff classification rulings, appeal decisions, and classification databases maintained by the World Customs Organization. In addition, the system will provide information on prohibited and regulated goods, including hazardous substances, narcotics, and protected plant species, helping businesses identify applicable legal requirements before importing goods into Thailand.

The introduction of the digital platform forms part of the Government's broader objective of creating a fully digital public administration while promoting transparency and reducing administrative discretion. In support of these governance reforms, the Customs Department has also announced the abolition of reward payments relating to seizures and arrests for senior

customs officials, reflecting its commitment to strengthening integrity and minimising potential conflicts of interest.

The launch of the e-service represents a significant step towards modernising Thailand's customs administration and facilitating international trade. By providing businesses with easier access to legally binding tariff classifications and clearer information on import licensing requirements, the initiative is expected to reduce compliance risks, minimise customs disputes, and improve supply chain planning. From a broader legal perspective, the development demonstrates Thailand's continued commitment to digital governance and regulatory transparency, while encouraging businesses to adopt more proactive customs compliance and risk management practices in an increasingly complex global trading environment.

Should you have any question, please do not hesitate to contact us via info@bgloballaw.com

