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Legal Insight Vol. July 2026

Key Thai Exports Avoid Additional US Tariffs

The United States' decision to exempt 2,120 Thai export products from an additional 12.5% tariff under Section 301 represents an important development for Thailand's international trade and export sector. The exemptions cover a range of significant products, including agricultural goods, food products, electrical equipment and machinery. While the measure provides some relief for Thai exporters, it also demonstrates the increasing importance of product-specific tariff classifications and the ability of businesses to navigate a more complex US trade regime.

From a legal and regulatory perspective, the development highlights the importance of accurate tariff classification, rules of origin and customs documentation for businesses engaged in Thailand–US trade. Whether a product benefits from an exemption may depend on its specific tariff classification and whether it satisfies the conditions imposed by US trade measures. Exporters should therefore maintain appropriate documentation demonstrating the origin, composition and classification of their products, particularly where goods are manufactured using components or raw materials sourced from multiple jurisdictions.

The exemptions may also influence supply-chain and investment decisions. Thai manufacturers whose products remain subject to additional tariffs may face higher costs and reduced competitiveness in the US market, potentially encouraging businesses to restructure sourcing arrangements or production processes. At the same time, exempted product categories could become more attractive for investment and expansion in Thailand. This makes customs compliance and supply-chain traceability increasingly important, particularly for businesses seeking to demonstrate that their products qualify for preferential treatment or specific tariff exclusions.

Ultimately, the US tariff measures illustrate the increasingly strategic role of trade regulation in Thailand's investment and export environment. While the exemptions provide short-term support for affected Thai industries, Thailand remains exposed to changes in US trade policy and should continue negotiations aimed at reducing trade barriers and improving market access. For Thai exporters and international investors, the key lesson is that tariff exposure should be assessed as part of broader legal and supply-chain planning rather than simply as a cost of doing business. Strengthening customs compliance, origin documentation and supply-chain transparency will be increasingly important to maintaining Thailand's competitiveness in the US market.

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