

Customs and Exchange Controls

Documentation — Customs regulations for import to Sweden are few. Only regular invoices, bills of lading or airway bills are necessary. Consular or special customs invoices are not required, nor are there any special stipulations as to the form of bills of lading, commercial invoices or other shipping documents.

Certificates of origin are required to qualify for duty-free entry from countries who are signatories to the European Free Trade Agreement, from the European Economic Community and the European Coal and Steel Community. The same is true for preferential treatment of imports from developing countries.

In addition, imported machines, electrical equipment, building materials, chemicals, etc. must often comply with various standards and regulations. Foods must meet the regulations of the National Food Administration which inter alia requires a listing of the ingredients in food products.

Customs Duties — Sweden is a country highly dependent on exports; its policies, therefore, are directed towards trade liberalization. Accordingly, its industry is not overly protected by high customs duties.

The Swedish customs tariff is based on the Brussels Nomenclature. Most duties are ad valorem calculated on the c.i.f. value determined on the basis of the invoiced price. The specific duties are mostly calculated on the real net weight. Raw materials, basic inorganic chemicals, pharmaceuticals, wood pulp, newsprint, pig iron and some finished goods, including ships and aircraft, are free of duty. Duties of 2.5 to 10 per cent are levied on imports of most semi-manufactured and finished products. Duties of 10 to 15 per cent are levied on textiles and clothing. Almost all imports, as well as most domestic transactions, are subject to a value-added tax of 23.46 per cent and some products to special taxes.

Exchange Control — Payment for all imports and exports may be made freely through authorized banks and without the formality of presenting an import or export licence, if such is required, to the bank. Com-