

European Community Tariff Information Now Available in New Software Package

Thanks to a new software package, exporters now have access to a quick and easy method for finding the relevant tariff rate on any product being exported to the European Community (EC).

The European Community Tariff Database software package is essentially the EC's tariff book (TARIC) —all three volumes worth— condensed into a search program that now can be accessed by punching in the Harmonised System (HS) commodity code or simply a descriptive word.

Europe 1992 has been a product of the growing interdependence of national economies, and with this evolution has followed the need for market access information. For any firm interested in exporting its product abroad, the most common first question to ask has been: What tariff will my goods face?

Thanks to the software package—developed with the Electronic Data Dissemination Unit at Statistics Canada, for External Affairs and International Trade Canada (EAITC)'s European Community Trade and Economic Relations Division (REM)— exporters now have EC tariff rates at their fingertips.

Program Features

- fast;
- replaces over four cubic feet of costly paper reference material;
- focuses on information relevant to Canada;
- provides output in useful form for reference or incorporation into documents;
- instantly available—no on-line hook-up required;
- portable: the entire database

can be compressed into one 1.2 Mb diskette—English and French versions together occupy only 6.4 Mb of disk space.

The new tariff rate software package is part of REM's campaign to inform the Canadian business community of the implications of Europe 1992 in which will be created a 12-member-state Single European Market, free of internal barriers to trade.

The information contained within the database was obtained by EAITC directly from the Commission of the European Communities. The retrieval software is protected by copyright.

Decision Maker

The package is an experimental information product to help Canadian business make strategic decisions about entering the EC market. It should not be viewed as an authoritative method of classifying goods for customs purposes.

The tariff rate software package is available to the Canadian business community, free of charge. Contact EAITC's Info Export. Tel. (toll free): 1-800-267-8376. Fax: (613) 996-9709. For those firms without computer capabilities, contact your nearest International Trade Centre.

For comments or questions on the software, contact J.G. Stinson, Statistics Canada. Tel.: (613) 951-8211. For information on EC tariffs, contact Brent McGregor, European Community Trade and Economic Relations Division (REM), External Affairs and International Trade Canada. Tel.: (613) 995-8783. Fax: (613) 995-1277.

Brazil: Import Duties Drop

Brazil is a market worth looking into, having announced further reductions in its import duties in an effort to build a more efficient, competitive economy.

Although Brazil is currently going through a recession, there are still export opportunities in that country which imported some U.S. \$20 billion-worth of goods in 1990 alone—including approximately \$500 million from Canada.

Recent liberalization steps include opening the Brazilian market to foreign competition—in March 1990, most of the decades-old non-tariff barriers were eliminated and steps towards import liberalization were taken.

The gradual reduction of import duties—the plan is to reduce the average rate from the current 32.2 per cent, one of the highest in the world, to 14.2 per cent in 1994—is part of Brazil's "industrial competitiveness program".

This will allow sensitive Brazilian industrial sectors time to adjust to the new reality. During this transition period, some protection will be given to local industry—for example, the import duty on machinery and equipment would be higher than the average duty on spare parts and components, thereby giving some protection to local production for similar products while allowing local industry to acquire state-of-the-art technology. This may encourage foreign companies to enter into Brazilian joint venture agreements.

Gradual import duty reductions (given in per cent) between 1991 and 1994 include:

Capital goods: machinery and equipment, 30 to 20; numeric control equipment, 50 to 25; agriculture equipment, 25 to 20; wheel tractors, 40 to 20; agriculture tractors, 40 to 20; informatic equipment, 50 to 40; locomotives and wagons, 40 to 20.

Consumer goods: cars, trucks and motorcycles, 60 to 35; liquefi-

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