

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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30 April 1984

Committee on Trade and Development
Consultations on Tropical Products
2-4 May 1984

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THE CONSULTATIONS ON TROPICAL PRODUCTS IN MAY 1984

Notification by developed contracting parties

In GATT/AIR/1981 dated 15 February 1984, developed contracting parties were invited to inform the secretariat of any action taken or under consideration with respect to the six product groups covered by the 1983 consultations and the new product group - jute and hard fibres. In response to the invitation, the delegation of Japan has provided the following information in a communication dated 16 April 1984.

Japan

Actions Taken with respect to Tropical Products since November 1983

1. Tropical fruits

08.01-110 Bananas, fresh		Up to March 1984	From April 1984
April - September	GSP	25 %	17.5%
October - March	GSP	40 %	35 %

2. Vegetable oils

15.07-810 Palm oil	GSP	4 %	3 %
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3. Jute and hard fibres

Improvements in the special tariff treatment for the least developed countries within the framework of GSP.

(a) CCCN 5710 woven fabrics of jute or of other textile bast fibres - A special duty-free treatment for least-developed countries has been extended to this item. However, ceiling limitations continue to apply to this item.

(b) CCCN 5904, 1-4 twine, cordage, ropes and cables and CCCN 6203 sacks and bags, of a kind used for the packing of goods. - These two items have been removed from the list of exceptions for the duty-free and ceiling-free treatment for the least-developed countries. In other words, these items, subject to zero GSP rates, have been granted ceiling-free treatment as far as imports from least-developed countries are concerned.

4. Tropical wood and wood products

			Up to March 1984		From April 1984
44.11	Fibre building board of wood or other vegetable material, whether or not bonded with natural or artificial resins or with other organic binders	MFN	8.6%	—	7.9%
44.18	Reconstituted wood, being wood shavings, wood chips, sawdust, wood flour or other ligneous waste agglomerated with natural or artificial resins or other organic binding substances, in sheets, blocks or the like:				
-100	1. In sheets or in boards	MFN	13.1%	—	12%
-200	2. Other	MFN	11.9%	—	10%
44.19	Wooden beadings and mouldings including moulded skirting and other moulded boards	MFN	10.1%	—	9.2%
44.20	Wooden picture frames, photograph frames, mirror frames and the like	MFN	8.6%	—	7.9%
44.21	Complete wooden packing cases, boxes, crates, drums and similar packings	MFN	4.9%	—	4.7%
44.22	Casks, barrels, vats, tubs, buckets and other coopers' products and parts thereof, of wood, including staves:				
	Other than riven or sawn staves				
-210	Used	MFN	3.5%	—	3.4%
-220	Other	MFN	4.9%	—	4.7%
44.23-020	Builders' carpentry and joinery (including pre-fabricated and sectional buildings and assembled parquet flooring panels)	MFN	5.3%	—	5.2%
-090	Other than Tategu (door, window sash and the like) and Tokobashira				
44.24	Household utensils of wood	MFN	7.4%	—	7.3%

			Up to March 1984		From April 1984
44.25	Wooden tools, tool bodies, tool handles, broom and brush bodies and handles; boot and shoe lasts and trees, of wood:				
	1. Boot and shoe lasts and trees	MFN	3.5%	—	3.4%
	2. Other	MFN	4.9%	—	4.7%
44.26	Spools, cops, bobbins, sewing thread reels and the like, of turned wood:				
-100	1. Bobbins	MFN	4.9%	—	4.7%
-200	2. Other	MFN	5.3%	—	5.1%
44.28	Other articles of wood:				
	1. Fans and hand screens, non-mechanical: frames and handles thereof and parts of such frames and handles	MFN	6.2%	—	5.8%
-110	(1) Combined or trimmed with precious metals, rolled precious metals, metals plated with precious metals, precious stones, semi-precious stones, pearls, coral, elephants' tusks or Bekko				
-121	(2) Other				
	A. Made of, or combined with red sandal wood, rosewood, ebony wood or sandal wood				
-129	B. Other				
-510	2. Other	MFN	7.3%	—	6.8%
	Of Kwarin, Tsuge or box- wood, Tagayasan (Cassia siamea Lam.), red sandal wood, rosewood or ebony wood, excluding ebony wood with white streaks				
-529	Other than those of Kwarin, Tsuge or boxwood, Tagayasan (Cassia siamea Lam.), red sandal wood, rosewood or ebony wood, excluding ebony wood with white streaks (Exclusive of Kushi, of bamboo)	MFN	7.4%	—	6.9%

			Up to March 1984		From April 1984
94.01	Chairs and other seats (other than those falling within heading No.94.02), whether or not convertible into beds, and parts thereof:				
	1. Covered with leather	MFN	6.4%	—	6.1%
-110	Chairs and other seats				
-120	Parts				
	2. Of rattan	MFN	5.8%	—	5.7%
-210	Chairs and other seats				
-220	Parts				
	3. Other	MFN	6%	—	5.6%
-310	Chairs and other seats				
-320	Parts				
94.03	Other furniture and parts thereof:				
	1. Of Kwarin, Tsuge or boxwood, Tagayasan (Cassia siamea Lam.), red sandal wood, rosewood or ebony wood (excluding ebony wood with white streaks)	MFN	6%	—	5.6%
-110	Furnitures				
-120	Parts				
	2. Of rattan	MFN	5.8%	—	5.7%
-210	Furnitures				
-220	Parts				
-311	3. Other than those of Kwarin, Tsuge or boxwood, Tagayasan (Cassia Siamea Lam.), red sandal wood, rosewood or ebony wood (Excluding ebony wood with white streaks) and rattan	MFN	6%	—	5.6%
-312					
	Of wood:				
	Furnitures				
	Parts				
-390	Other	MFN	5.7%	—	5.2%