

New restrictions on imports to Argentina

The Resolution 3252 from Federal Public Tax Administration (AFIP), published in Boletín Oficial (Official Gazette) on January 10, 2012 states that all Argentine importers registered at the Argentine Customs will have to comply with the new import guidelines that have come into effect from February 1st 2012. These mainly deal with the information regime regarding the destination of the imports of goods into the country.

Prior to placing any order or any other operation regarding purchase of goods from overseas, the importer will have to file a Declaración Jurada Anticipada de Importación (Anticipated Import Affidavit.) with the Secretariat of Foreign Trade. This will be examined for approval or rejection.

Later the Federal Public Tax Administration AFIP will communicate to the applicant importer through the system online MOA Mis Operaciones Aduaneras (My Customs Operations) the result of their petition.

In case of rejection, the importer will be informed the reasons and will have the opportunity to make the corrections indicated by the Secretary of Foreign Trade in order to be able to get the approval.

In case of approval, the importer will be able to prepare the documents for the final import, quoting the number of his Anticipated Import Affidavit. At the same time he will have to furnish to the Central Bank through the System of Control of Exchange Operations the number of his approved Anticipated Import Affidavit so he can make the money in foreign exchange transfer to the exporter.

With these the Argentine import restrictions have become even more stringent as part of the government policy to save foreign exchange and to promote domestic manufacturing in these times of global uncertainty. These restrictions apply to imports of all goods and from all the countries including Mercosur partners and **they are not are not country specific nor product specific.**

While the restrictions are arbitrary and non transparent, the same are being implemented through persuasion and reportedly indirect threats to importers. The approval of any request filed for import of any good from any country **would fully depend on the importers ability to satisfy the conditions** put forward by the Secretariat of Foreign Trade.