

FIJI ISLANDS CUSTOMS SERVICE PUBLIC CIRCULAR NO.8 OF 2008

GUIDELINE FOR SEEKING APPROVAL FROM CUSTOMS FOR A CONCESSIONARY RATE OF DUTY ON LOCALLY MANUFACTURED GOODS

Importers, Exporters, Customs Agents, Manufactures and the Trading Communities are advised that the foregoing procedure is effective immediately. This procedure maps out the steps to be taken by the concerned parties to avoid unnecessary delays.

Any goods that are manufactured locally for which an importer intends to seek approval from Customs for a concessionary rate of duty, the importer shall first enquire from the local manufacturers(at least two) if the goods can be manufactured locally **before placing any order from abroad**. Such enquires is to be in writing, e-mails or an official order from the importer.

If the required goods cannot be manufactured locally, the local manufacturer shall give a letter to the importer and Customs stating that the goods cannot be manufactured locally with valid reasons as to why the goods could not be manufactured locally. The approval letter shall be given to the importer and Customs within 48 hours from the time of first enquiry or discussion.

The local manufacturer will confirm within 48 hours with the following options:

- Cannot be processed locally in Fiji
- Ready Stock available and ready for despatch within 2 days
- Raw material available and can be processed and supplied within 14 working days
- Raw material out of stock but shipment incoming - supplied within 4 weeks of order.

- Raw material not available but the goods can be processed in Fiji on special order. If urgently required, the raw material can be airfreighted and supplied within 2 weeks. The airfreight cost to be borne by the customer. By Sea Freight, the goods can be manufactured and supplied within 4-6 weeks of order.

If the goods can be manufactured locally, the manufacturer shall provide an approval letter stating a time limit for the manufacture of the goods to the importer and also copied to Customs. The stated time shall be two to four weeks, depending on the availability of the required raw materials. The approval letter shall be given to the importer and Customs within 48 hours from the time of first enquiry or discussion.

The manufacturer may draw up a Sales Contract stating the terms and conditions in which both the importer and the manufacturer are legally binded.

Customs will not give any approval for concessionary rate of duty if the mentioned conditions are not adhered by the importer, however, if the local manufacture refuses to provide a letter after a lapse of 48 hours as required from first enquiry, then Customs will grant the concession to the applicant to import the required goods.



Jitoko Tikolevu
Chief Executive Officers and Comptroller of Customs
Fiji Islands Revenue and Customs Authority

15th December 2008