

## IN THIS ISSUE

Botswana  
Estonia  
EU  
Jordan  
Israel  
Lesotho  
Namibia  
South Korea  
Swaziland  
Switzerland  
US

## DENIED PARTY UPDATES

### EU

12 denied parties have been added and 53 modified. *Source: Official Journal of the European Union*

### US

28 denied parties have been added and 4 deleted.  
*Source: Office of Foreign Assets Control; Department of State; Department of Commerce (Bureau of Industry and Security)*

## LANDED COST UPDATES

### MIDDLE-EAST/AFRICA

#### **BOTSWANA**

Change in Excise Duty rates.  
*Source: South African Revenue Services (SARS)*

#### **ISRAEL**

Israeli Customs and VAT announced change in description for sound recording or reproducing apparatus as per the customs website.  
*Source: Israeli Customs and VAT*

#### **JORDAN**

Updates to the Jordan - Agadir Preferential Agreement.  
*Source: Jordan Customs*

#### **LESOTHO**

Change in Excise Duty rates.  
*Source: South African Revenue Services (SARS)*

#### **NAMIBIA**

Change in Excise Duty rates.  
*Source: South African Revenue Services (SARS)*

#### **SWAZILAND**

Change in Excise Duty rates.  
*Source: South African Revenue Services (SARS)*

### ASIA-PACIFIC

#### **SOUTH KOREA**

1. Ministry of Finance and Economy announced landed cost updates for the year 2008, which include new HS records, units of measurement, default duties, preferential duties, excise and VAT etc. under various regulations.
2. This is the second part of 2008 Landed Cost updates which includes various domestic taxes.  
*Source: Korea Customs Service*

### EUROPE

#### **ESTONIA**

Update on 2008 Excise rates.  
*Source: Estonia Tax and Customs Board*

#### **EU**

The EU has introduced autonomous trade preferences for the Republic of Moldova.  
*Source: EU Commission*

#### **SWITZERLAND**

Updates to the Customs Tariff for the year 2008.  
*Source: Switzerland Customs*



**QUOTA UPDATES**

The quota updates for this week include:

1. EU Quota fill-rates
2. US Absolute Quota fill-rates
3. US Tariff Rate Quota fill-rates.

**ON THE ANVIL****Updates being processed:**

Argentina  
Australia  
Austria  
Botswana  
Brazil  
Canada  
Chile  
China  
EU  
India  
Israel  
Lesotho  
Malaysia  
Mexico  
Namibia  
New Zealand  
Saudi Arabia  
South Africa  
Swaziland  
Switzerland  
Taiwan  
Turkey  
US  
Venezuela  
Vietnam

**CONTRACT ASSESSORIAL UPDATES****Other Surcharge Updates:****EUR-MED**

EMTA member lines announce the following surcharge updates, effective April 1<sup>st</sup>:  
IMO Surcharge  
Israel: USD 100 per TEU; Cyprus: Euro 70/GBP 55 per TEU

**Special Equipment Surcharge**

Israel: USD 500 per TEU; Cyprus: Euro 340/GBP 255 per TEU

**CARRIER SERVICE UPDATES****MED**

Evergreen Line has launched its new Tyrrhenian Feeder Service (TFS), which will cover Italian ports via the Mediterranean hub port of Taranto. The ten-day rotation will include the following locations: Taranto, Civitavecchia, La Spezia, Tunis, and Misratak.

**ASIA-US**

MSC is pleased to announce that they will slot charter on Maersk Line's TP9 service between Yantian and Los Angeles. Commencing in April 2008, the Condor Express service will run weekly in order to provide additional coverage of the South China market to North America.

**MED-S.AM**

ZIM is pleased to announce an enhancement to its New Sirius Service, which connects the Mediterranean with the East Coast of South America. The new service, which will commence March 2008, will consist of 2 slings: the New Sirius Service (NSU) and the New Sirius South America Service 2 (NS2). Please see the company's website for port rotation.

**TRADE WATCH****USDA Analyzes Impact of Absence of Farm Bill on Trade and etc.**

At the request of Congressional requestors, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has issued a document analyzing the impact to current USDA programs in the absence of enactment of a new farm bill or extension of the 2002 farm bill past March 15, 2008. Among other things, USDA noted that funding for the following trade and international development programs would expire on March 16, 2008: export credit guarantees, export credit guarantees for emerging markets, market access, foreign market development cooperator, technical assistance for specialty crops, food for progress, dairy export incentives, and facilities credit guarantees.

**OFAC Designates 15 Individuals, Entities under Narcotics Trafficker EO**

The Office of Foreign Assets Control has issued a notice publishing the names of 15 newly-designated individuals and entities whose property and interests in property are blocked, effective February 12, 2008, pursuant to Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995, "Blocking Assets and Prohibiting Transactions with Significant Narcotics Traffickers."

**China and New Zealand to sign Free Trade Agreement (FTA)**

New Zealand will sign a free trade agreement with China in early April, the first FTA between China and a developed economy. China states that it entered into talks with New Zealand because it was the first developed country to recognize it as having a market-based economy.

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**MANAGEMENT DYNAMICS, INC.**

One Meadowlands Plaza  
East Rutherford, NJ 07073  
(T) 201 935 8588 (F) 201 935 5187  
[www.ManagementDynamics.com](http://www.ManagementDynamics.com)

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