

Important information on Swiss Imports as of January 1st 2024

Abolition of Customs duties on Industrial tariffs in Switzerland

Industrial tariffs in Switzerland will be abolished from 1 January 2024 (Federal Gazette 2021 2330).

Why?

Goods cost significantly more on average in Switzerland than in neighbouring countries. A number of factors make the country particularly expensive compared with its neighbours. One is the variety of tariff and non-tariff trade barriers that have the effect of isolating the Swiss market.

Removing industrial tariffs will strengthen Switzerland's position as a business and industrial location. Whereas customs duties once served to protect domestic industry from foreign competition, today they make it more expensive to procure materials from abroad.

With the lifting of customs duties and the associated simplification of administrative procedures, businesses in Switzerland will benefit from cheaper imports and thereby also from lower production costs improving its international competitiveness.

Consumers also benefit because import duties are still currently levied on various consumer goods such as cars, bicycles, personal care products, household appliances and clothing. In sectors with functioning competition, the savings will be passed on to consumers.

What?

As of January 1st 2024, industrial tariff duties will be removed. This means that these products will no longer be subject to customs duties when imported into Switzerland from 01.01.2024, regardless of the origin of the goods.

The lifting of industrial tariffs thus concerns goods under Chapters 25–97 of the Swiss customs tariff, with the exception of certain products under Chapters 35 and 38 classified as agricultural products)

How does this impact GLS customers?

From 1 January 2024, the normal (non-preferential) rate of duty for industrial products imported into Switzerland will be zero.

If importing industrial products which at the time of import are expected to remain or be consumed in Switzerland, there is no longer a need to apply any free trade agreements (FTAs) or the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) in favour of developing countries.

This means there is no need to submit preferential proofs of origin for such imports.

The elimination of duties and the reduction in complexity should support volume growth for exports to Switzerland!

Along with the lifting of industrial tariffs, the number of Swiss customs tariff codes for industrial products will be reduced strongly to eliminate complexity.

The lifting of customs duties for industrial products and the streamlined tariff structure will therefore result in changes to the Swiss working tariff, GLS customers have to ensure that correct HS codes are included in their invoices or Customs data files so there is no disruption on parcel and data processing.

Please find below a link to Swiss tariff data base to verify correctness of your HS codes.

[Please check your HS code in Tares](#)

VAT tax rates to be increased on 1 January 2024

As of 1er January 2024 VAT tax rates will be increased as follows:

	Until December 31, 2023	New from 1 ^{er} January 2024
Normal Rate:	7,7 %	8,1 %
Reduced rate:	2,5 %	2,6 %
Special rate for services in the accommodation sector:	3,7 %	3,8 %

More information related to rate changes can be found in the

Further information links.

[SECO - State Secretariat for Economic Affairs \(admin.ch\)](#)

[Modifications du 1.1.2024 - Suppression des droits de douane sur les produits industriels \(admin.ch\)](#)

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