



# St Kitts - Nevis Customs & Excise Department

*"To Protect and Collect"*

## COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE

### MEMORANDUM

**TO: IMPORTERS, CUSTOMS BROKERS AND CUSTOMS CLERKS**

**FROM: COMPTROLLER OF CUSTOMS (AG.)**

**SUBJECT: MEASURES TO COMBAT THE GENERAL RISE IN PRICES OF IMPORTED GOODS**

**DATE: 23<sup>RD</sup> MAY, 2022**

Further to the announcement by Prime Minister, Dr. the Honourable Timothy Harris, in an effort to combat the general rise in the price of food and general grocery items imported into the Federation, a number of measures were approved by the Cabinet for immediate implementation.

All importers, Customs Brokers and Customs Clerks are hereby informed of the following:

1. Reintroduction of the duty-free allowance that is usually permitted during the month of December, on the importation of foodstuff by non-commercial importers. The duty free allowance is applicable to the importation of up to 500lbs of non-commercial foodstuff from 01<sup>st</sup> May, 2022 to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2022.
2. A further extension of six months, from 01<sup>st</sup> July, 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2022, of the existing initiative that was originally announced in 2020, in relation to the removal of the VAT and the Import Duty on hygiene items, and the removal of the Import Duty and Customs Service Charge on selected items such as vegetables, fruits, fruit juices, cough and cold preparations and vitamins. The Customs Procedure Codes (CPC) R62 and R60 will continue to be used to reflect this concession.
3. An eight month cap on the freight cost that is used in the calculation of duties and taxes that are paid on imported goods. The cap would be set at US\$3,300 for a 20ft dry container and US\$4,800 for a 40ft dry container. The cap for refrigerated containers would be set at US\$3,700 and US\$5,700 for 20ft and 40ft containers respectively. **Please note that this measure is applicable only to full container loads of imported food and general grocery items, imported by sea. It is not applicable to Less Than Container Load (LCL) shipments or shipments imported by air.**

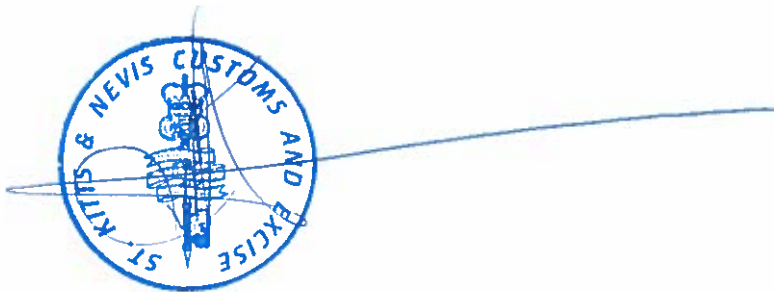
**For example:**

A company has imported a 20ft container of dry groceries. The freight on this container, based on the amount paid by that company, is US\$6000. According to the information above, the CAP for a 20ft dry container is US\$3,300. This means that when the company submits their declaration (entry) for this particular shipment, the amount for the freight that is submitted in ASYCUDA should be US\$3,300.

Where the freight is less than the “cap” amount, the freight that is paid or payable should be used in the calculation of the Customs Value (CIF).

Importers will still be required to upload the correct freight bill or bill of lading to the ASYCUDA World platform.

All are asked to take note and be guided accordingly. If you have any questions please contact the Customs and Excise at 1-869-466-7227.



Jomo Butler  
Comptroller of Customs (Ag.)