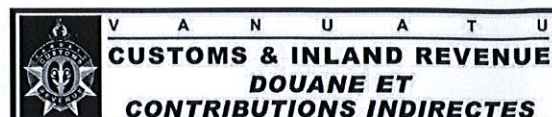


**PORT VILA
VANUATU GOVERNMENT**

The Constitution Building, Lini Highway, PMB 9012 Port Vila
All general enquiries contact Tel: 678 22168 Fax: 678 24257

Email: customsttc@vanuatu.gov.vu Web: <http://customsinlandrevenue.gov.vu>



CUSTOMS NOTICE No. 2 of 2014

To: All Agents, Customs Brokers and Importers
From: The Director of Customs and Inland Revenue
Legislation: Import Duties Act (CAP 91) Schedule II – Customs Valuation of Imported Goods
Subject: Inclusion of Bank Charges & Delivery Order Fees in Customs Value

Representations have been made by Customs Brokers expressing their concerns in relation to the difficulties confronted by them by the inclusion of bank charges and delivery order fees (master bill fees) in customs value of goods imported into Vanuatu.

Careful analysis has been under taken to compare the revenue benefit of the inclusion of these costs in the customs value against the trade facilitation and expediency benefits which accumulate if they are not included.

Bank Charges

Financial services such as bank fees and charges are exempt VAT, and as a consequence are not included in the customs value for VAT purposes. Inclusion of bank charges in the customs value for customs purposes but not VAT creates a complication, for which there is no obvious remedy. Single payments are at times made for multiple consignments, making the attribution of the bank fees associated with that payment over a number of importations also difficult.

It has been determined that bank fees and charges will no longer be included in the customs valuation of imported goods. This cancels advice provided previously in Customs Ruling No. 4 of 2013.

Master Bill Charges (Delivery Order Fees)

It has been determined that these fees occur post importation and are considered by the trade as a handling fee imposed by the Vanuatu agent of the carrier. Consequently they are no longer required to be included in the customs value of goods imported into Vanuatu.

This Customs Notice is applicable from the date of signing and negates any previous advices to the contrary.


John Sala
Deputy Director, Customs
Department Customs & Inland Revenue

30th May 2014

Customs Trades, Tariff and Compliance