

For all these services,  
customers are to submit  
applications to the Chief  
Executive Officer.



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**BOTC**  
Botswana Trade  
Commission

## INTRODUCTION

The Botswana Trade Commission (BOTC) is a parastatal under the Ministry of Trade and Industry, established by an Act of Parliament, being the Botswana Trade Commission Act.

### Mandate

To regulate export and import of goods within Customs Area and to provide for matters incidental thereto.

### Vision

An organization of reckon in promotion of fair trade and industry competitiveness

### Mission

To promote fair trade, through the administration of trade instruments and provision of technical advice in trade and industry matters

### CORE VALUES

Integrity

Excellence

Accountability

Innovation

Teamwork



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## STRATEGIC INTENT

**BOTC promotes fair trade, industry growth and competitiveness, as catalytic enablers for economic development, through the administration of trade instruments, and contributes to Botswana's industrialization agenda.**

## FUNCTIONS

**Specific functions of the Commission are as follows:**

- a)** Investigate and determine the impact of tariffs in Botswana and provide written recommendations regarding any tariff change to the SACU Tariff Board;
- b)** Investigate allegations of dumping, subsidized exports and import surges within the Common Customs Area that affect Botswana and make recommendations to the SACU Tariff Board;
- c)** Formulate guidelines for the application of trade remedies and tariff amendments within Botswana;
- d)** Regulate the import of goods into Botswana – import permits;
- e)** Regulate export of goods from Botswana – export permits;
- f)** Assess and determine eligibility of infant industry protection from goods coming from the Common Customs Area;
- g)** Receive requests from SACU Tariff Board to evaluate recommendations made from members of the Common Customs Area;
- h)** Investigate requests received from the SACU tariff Board in relation to allegations of dumping, subsidized exports, import surges and tariff amendments by members of the Common Customs Area; and
- i)** Investigate trade matters that are referred to the Commission by the Minister. – policy advise and instruments.

## SERVICES OFFERED:

## TARIFF AMENDMENT

Tariff are meant to protect and ensure competitiveness of industries. There are three (3) types of tariff amendments: namely, decrease in the rate of customs duty (tariffs), increase in the rate of customs duty and creation of rebates and duty drawbacks.

### Decrease in the Rate of Customs Duty

A reduction or removal of duty is usually considered where a product attracting a duty is used in production processes of an industry as :

- raw materials;
- intermediate inputs e.g. buttons; or
- capital goods (machinery).

### Increase in the Rate of Customs Duty

An increase of customs duty is considered when there is a SACU industry that produces the product(s) in question and the domestic industry is experiencing unfair competition that threatens its survival.

### Creation of Rebates/Duty Drawbacks

Rebate: – it is an exemption of importers from paying customs duty.

Duty drawbacks: – operators pay customs duty at point of entry then claim it after producing for exportation purposes (for exports only).

Rebates and duty drawbacks are created on products that attract duties but are not available or are insufficiently produced in the SACU market. Rebates and drawbacks form a key pillar of industry development programmes. A rebate or refund of the duty is also applicable on raw materials used for the production of goods destined for the export market.

### Infant Industry Protection

Infant Industry Protection (IIP) is a temporary measure in the form of additional customs duty, intended to enable newly established industries in the lesser

developed Member States to withstand competition from other producers in or outside the Common Customs Area. Protection is afforded to an infant industry that has been in existence for less than eight (8) years and it remains protected for a period of eight (8) years.

### Criteria Used for Infant Industry Protection (IIP)

- The infant industry should have been established in Botswana for not more than 8 years (not all industries less than 8 years will qualify);
- Demonstrate potential for growth (growth strategy in place);
- Demonstrate potential for employment creation and retention;
- Demonstrate impact of these competing imports on domestic producers of like products; and
- Demonstrate whether imports are entering at prices that will significantly have a depressing or suppressing effect on domestic prices and would likely increase demand for further imports.

## TRADE REMEDIES

Trade remedies or trade defence instruments are measures enacted to defend local industries against unfair competition from imports. These are World Trade Organisation (WTO) measures domesticated through national regulations on Anti-dumping, Countervailing and Safeguard measures.

- Anti-dumping Measure is taken by imposing additional tariff on imports that are alleged to be priced below fair market value of a similar product in the SACU market;
- Countervailing Measure is an action against imported products which are subsidised by a foreign Government which threatens to cause injury to industry in the SACU market, and
- Safeguard Measure is an action taken to protect the SACU industry against “unforeseen surges of imports” which threatens to cause serious injury.

## IMPORT/EXPORT CONTROL

Import and export of goods are regulated for health, safety and environmental purposes. In some instance control of goods is done for promotion of growth, sustainability, and competitiveness of the domestic industry as well as to ensure availability of inputs for strategic industries