Customer Advisory

EAC Gazette Vol. AT 1 No. 16 of 30 June 2026: Kenya Import Duty Measures and Client Action Points

Prepared for Kenya Tradex clients in Kenya | 16 July 2026

Executive Brief

- The Gazette introduces one-year EAC Common External Tariff stays, Kenya-specific import duty changes, and duty remission windows that can materially affect landed cost from FY 2026/2027.
- The highest-impact Kenya changes are in vehicles and transport equipment, textiles and apparel, steel and construction materials, selected food and household goods, electrical goods, furniture, LPG-related items and manufacturer inputs.
- Importers should not rely on old landed-cost templates. HS classification, valuation basis, quantity units and specific duty floors now matter more for many goods.
- Manufacturers may benefit from approved remissions, but only where the importer/manufacturer is vetted and quantities are gazetted under Section 140 of the EAC Customs Management Act, 2004.

What This Means For Clients

Client area	Practical impact
Infrastructure and projects	PPP infrastructure goods for direct and exclusive project use may access 0% duty with National Treasury approval and line ministry recommendation. Project cargo teams should build approval time into procurement.
Vehicles and transport equipment	Kenya applies 35% on road tractors for semi-trailers, trailers and semi-trailers, and motor vehicles under headings 8702, 8703 and 8704 that previously attracted 25%. Vehicle landed-cost files should be repriced before shipment.
Textiles, apparel and made-ups	Specified fabrics under Table III attract 25% or US$ 0.75/kg, whichever is higher. Apparel in Chapters 61 and 62 is broadly set at 35%, with other measures on linen, blankets, carpets, floor coverings and wall coverings.
Food and consumer goods	Kenya measures cover rice, preserved vegetables, sweet corn, tomatoes and tomato paste, peas, edible oils, margarine, sauces, sweet biscuits, cereal preparations, malt extract, dates, alcohol and other consumer lines.
Steel, aluminium, construction and household goods	Multiple steel, aluminium, wood panel, furniture, plastic household, cookware, LPG, prefabricated building and construction lines move to 35% or specified duty floors. Unit of measure and net weight must be checked.
Electrical, energy and ICT goods	Kenya-specific measures include 25% on mobile phones, 0% on lithium-ion batteries, 35% on selected electric cables and lead-acid accumulators, 10% on optical fibre cables, and 10% on packaged software media.
Manufacturer remission opportunities	Kenya remissions include smart telecommunications devices, animal feeds, roofing tiles, leather goods and tannery chemicals, cranes, pharmaceutical clean rooms, hard wheat, furniture inputs, compressed air systems and cold room panels.

Selected Kenya Measures To Watch

Area	Selected Kenya measure	Client implication
PPP infrastructure	0% duty for direct and exclusive use in approved PPP infrastructure projects.	Secure approvals before import entry; keep project-use evidence.
Mobile phones	HS 8517.13.00 and 8517.14.00: Kenya applies 25% for one year.	Revise landed cost and retail pricing for handset imports.
Lithium-ion batteries	HS 8507.60.00: Kenya and Uganda apply 0% for one year.	Potential landed-cost relief for eligible battery imports.
Rice	Rice lines 1006.10, 1006.20, 1006.30, 1006.40: 35% or US$ 200/MT, whichever is higher.	Specific duty floor can dominate low-value consignments.
Vehicles	Headings 8702, 8703 and 8704 currently at 25% move to 35%.	Reprice vehicle imports and check contracts already in transit.
Furniture	Selected furniture lines are sensitive for Kenya and move from 35% to 45%.	Furniture importers should reassess margins and alternatives.
Textile inputs	Table III specified goods: 25% or US$ 0.75/kg, whichever is higher.	Check fabric HS codes and shipment weights before quoting.
Garment manufacturing	Kenya garment-input remission under EAC/168/2026 at 0% or 10% for specified inputs.	Eligible manufacturers need vetting and gazetted quantities.
Steel and metal goods	Many steel/aluminium lines apply 35% or specific duty floors per MT or kg.	Confirm net weight, tariff line and specific-duty exposure.
EAC CET amendments	Active yeast, lubricants, paper, ceramic tiles and nails receive amended duty floors.	Apply revised CET even where not limited to Kenya-specific measures.

Duty Remission Opportunities

The remissions are valuable, but they are controlled benefits. Clients should treat them as approval-based routes, not automatic exemptions.

Sector or product	Gazette treatment	Control point
Smart telecommunication devices	Inputs for laptops, tablets and smart devices at 0% for one year.	Confirm eligible inputs and manufacturer approval.
Animal feeds	Raw materials used in animal-feed manufacture at 0%.	Use only for approved manufacturing quantities.
Roofing tiles	Stone chips and alu-zinc coated coils for acrylic-coated roofing tiles at 0%.	Match inputs to specified manufacturing process.
Leather goods and tanneries	Rivets, hooks, eyelets and finishing chemicals at 0%.	Maintain production and value-addition records.
Cranes	Pulley tackle, hoists and selected parts at 0% for manufacturers of cranes.	Separate manufacturing inputs from finished goods imports.
Pharma clean rooms	Inputs for assembly of clean rooms by pharmaceutical manufacturers at 0%.	Support with technical descriptions and end-use evidence.
Furniture and doors	Sheets for veneering and MDF not exceeding 5mm at 10%.	Confirm manufacturer use and exact board specification.
Garments and made-ups	Legal Notice EAC/168/2026 grants specified inputs at 0% or 10%.	Kenya must submit vetted manufacturers and quantities for gazettement.

Immediate Client Actions

- Run HS-code validation before supplier contract, pro-forma invoice approval or shipment booking.
- Refresh landed-cost calculators for percentage duties and specific duty floors such as US$/kg, US$/MT, US$/SQM and US$/litre.
- Check whether goods are under a one-year stay, a permanent CET amendment, or a remission that requires prior approval.
- For remission claims, confirm that the manufacturer is vetted and that the intended quantities have been submitted for gazettement.
- For goods already in transit, review ETA, customs entry timing and whether KRA/iCMS has implemented the updated rate.
- Keep technical specifications, catalogues, product composition, net weights and unit measures ready for customs verification.

Kenya Tradex Support

- HS classification and tariff-impact review before shipment.
- Landed-cost recalculation for percentage rates and specific duty floors.
- Remission eligibility review and support with manufacturer documentation.
- Customs clearance planning through Mombasa, Nairobi ICD and JKIA.
- Regional advisory where goods may move onwards into East and Central Africa.

Contact Kenya Tradex

Scan to contact Kenya Tradex

Website: https://kenyatradex.africa
Email: info@kenyatradex.africa
WhatsApp: +254 721 596 259

Important Note

This advisory is a practical client guide based on the Gazette reviewed. It does not replace a binding tariff ruling, KRA customs entry validation or legal advice. Before shipping, confirm the HS code, origin, valuation, unit of measure, arrival timing and any remission approval status.

Primary source reviewed: East African Community Gazette, Vol. AT 1 No. 16, Arusha, 30 June 2026.

Key legal notices: EAC/160/2026, EAC/161/2026, EAC/168/2026, EAC/174/2026, EAC/175/2026 and EAC/176/2026.