Trading Under the AfCFTA – a Guide for Botswana

Botswana’s trade with SACU and SADC member states will continue under existing regimes

As a customs union, SACU has a common external tariff and a common customs territory. There are no customs duties on intra-SACU trade. To protect the integrity of the customs union, SACU member states have made a collective offer of tariff concessions in the AfCFTA. Botswana will continue to trade in goods, with other SACU member states under SACU rules. Trade in services is not covered in SACU, each member state has its own commitments in the AfCFTA.

Botswana, together with the other 12 SADC member states that are party to the SADC FTA, will continue to trade with one another under these SADC FTA rules. Angola, Comoros and DRC are members of SADC, but have not joined the SADC FTA. Angola has submitted a tariff offer to join the FTA.

New preferential trade opportunities for Botswana under the AfCFTA will be with non-SACU, non-SADC countries in East, West, North and Central Africa, with whom Botswana currently trades under WTO tariffs.

AfCFTA Operational instruments

The AfCFTA e-tariff book is a digital platform containing the tariff schedules with applicable tariff rates for all AfCFTA State Parties based on the WCO 6-digit Harmonized System (HS). Goods are classified in three Categories: i) Category A – non sensitive products, ii) Category B – sensitive products, and iii) Category C – products that are excluded from liberalization.

http://etariff.au-afcfta.org/

The AfCFTA Rules of Origin Manual provides detailed information on how to determine the national origin of goods so that they can be traded between State Parties under the AfCFTA preferential tariff rates.

https://au-afcfta.org/rules-of-origin/

The AfCFTA Online Mechanism for Reporting, Monitoring and Elimination of NTBs is a portal for online reporting of identified non-tariff barriers (NTBs), including for reporting via SMS. Reported NTBs and the status of their resolution can be tracked.

www.tradebarriers.africa

The Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS), developed by the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) in collaboration with the African Union and AfCFTA Secretariat, is a cross-border payment and settlement infrastructure for transactions across Africa. PAPSS allows for payment and settlement using local currencies.

https://papss.com/