Trade Obstacle Report

Id
348

Status
Ongoing resolution (Days published: 265)

Trade flow
Importing from South Africa to Mauritius

Date and location
20/03/2019 - Government institution, Ministry of Health Food Import Unit, Mauritius

Description
Ministry of Health does not allow import of edible organic coconut oil for some importers whereas two other companies namely Mantra and Health Solution are allowed to import edible coconut oil and are permitted by the Ministry of Health to sell it in supermarkets all over Mauritius. This is a discriminating act for the importers which are blocked and the issue is going on for almost a year now. Dr Bronner coconut oil is available everywhere as Health Solution is bringing it in illegal and they declare it as cosmetic coconut oil which doesn't need the approval of the Food Import Unit, however once it passes Customs it's sold in supermarkets as edible coconut oil and nobody minds.

Trade obstacle
Arbitrary behavior of officials regarding classification and valuation of the reported product

Trade regulations involved
National regulation: Other prohibitions or restrictions of products or substances (please specify)
Regulation name: Food Regulations

Affected products
151319 - Coconut (copra) oil&its fractions refined but not chemically modified

Additional product details
Unrefined cold pressed organic coconut oil

Conclusive remarks and recommendations
Do not discriminate importers and merchants, either the laws apply to everybody or nobody. We suffer loss of business

Complaint history

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25/03/2019</td>
<td>New</td>
<td>Dear Sir,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Thank you for using the TOAM platform for reporting this obstacle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Kindly note that your complaint has been approved and has been</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>forwarded to the concerned government agency.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26/03/2019</td>
<td>Ongoing resolution</td>
<td>Best Regards,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The National Focal Point</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>