

CUSTOMS MANAGEMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2016

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CUSTOMS MANAGEMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2016

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE CUSTOMS MANAGEMENT ACT

Enacted by the Parliament of The Bahamas

1. Short title and commencement.

- (1) This Act which amends the Customs Management Act¹, may be cited as the Customs Management (Amendment) Act, 2016.
- (2) This Act shall come into force on the 1st day of July, 2016.

2. Amendment of section 78 of the principal Act.

Subsection (3) of section 78 of the principal Act is amended by the deletion of the word “height” and the substitution thereof of the word “eight”.

3. Amendment of section 99 of the principal Act.

Section 99 of the principal Act is amended by the insertion immediately after subsection (15), the following new subsection—

“(16) For the purposes of this section, “customs broker” shall include an authorised courier.”.

4. Amendment of section 104 of the principal Act.

Subsection (2) of section 104 of the principal Act is amended—

- (a) by the deletion of the words “in writing”; and
- (b) in paragraph (a)—

¹No. 30 of 2011

- (i) by the deletion of the words, “in such form and manner, including”; and
- (ii) by the insertion immediately before the symbol “;” the words “or in such form and manner as the Comptroller may allow”.

5. Amendment of section 142 of the principal Act.

Subsection (2) of section 142 of the principal Act is amended by the deletion of the words “, benefiting from preferential tariff provisions contained in international trade agreements which The Bahamas has concluded with countries or groups of countries and territories,”.

6. Amendment to section 354 of the principal Act.

Subsection (2) of section 354 of the principal Act is amended by the insertion immediately after paragraph (e) of the following new paragraph—

“(ee) prescribing requirements for certain category of persons engaged in the facilitation of the import or export of goods;”.

OBJECTS AND REASONS

Clause 2 of the Bill seeks to amend a typographical error in section 78 of the Act.

Clauses 3 and 6 of the Bill seeks to amend the principal Act to provide for the licensing and to empower the Minister to make regulations relative to authorised couriers.

Clause 4 of the Bill seeks to provide for all entries to be made electronically therefore eliminating the previous option of entering items manually in writing while empowering the Comptroller to permit entry by other means where necessary.

Clause 5 of the Bill seeks to amend the principal Act to further establish the framework for the implementation of tariff rate quotas in accordance with section 142 of the Act to provide trade support to local industries which are experiencing serious injury from the importation of like competing goods.