

LINCOLN LEGAL SERVICES (MYANMAR) LIMITED

NEWSLETTER 195 - 3 April 2025 (corrected 4 April)

Dear Readers,

Welcome to a new edition of our newsletter. The newsletter has been corrected; the correction is flagged in red below.

1. US tariffs on goods from Myanmar

(a) The Trump administration's "reciprocal tariffs"

On 2 April 2025, the Trump administration imposed a 10% tariff on all goods imported into the US, starting from 5 April, and what it calls "specific reciprocal tariffs" on the goods from about 60 jurisdictions, starting from 9 April.

The administration claims that it calculated the specific reciprocal tariffs based on the tariffs charged by the targeted jurisdictions "to the U.S.A. Including Currency Manipulation and Trade Barriers", but [in reality](#), its tariff rates do not seem to have much to do with this metric but are, across the board, 50% of the US's trade deficit in goods with the respective jurisdiction divided by the value of the US's imports from this jurisdiction. If the US has a low trade deficit or a trade surplus, the tariff rate is 10% flat.

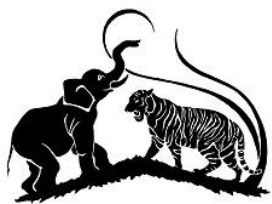
The import of automobiles and automobile parts is taxed at 25%. There (as for now) appear to be exemptions for pharmaceuticals, semiconductors, copper, and energy products. Goods imported from Russia, Belarus, Cuba and North Korea seem to be exempt "as there are sanctions".

(b) Impact on Myanmar

As according to the [Office of the United States Trade Representative](#), US goods exports to Myanmar in 2024 were USD 77 million and US goods imports from Myanmar were USD 656.5 million, the "specific reciprocal tariff rate" now slapped by the US on goods from Myanmar is $(77 - 656.5) / 656.5 \times 0.5 = 44\%$.

US imports from Myanmar include textiles and apparel (the biggest item), agricultural products, rubber and rubber products, fish and seafood, and teak (restricted) and other wood products.

The US had a Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) under which least-developed countries could export various types of goods such as many manufactured items and inputs, jewelry, many agricultural products, luggage, handbags, backpacks, wallets and pocket goods



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duty-free to the US and to which Myanmar was readmitted in 2016. However, the programme [expired](#) on 31 December 2020 as it was not renewed by Congress. Following the programme's expiry, US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) seems to have instructed importers to continue flagging GSP-eligible products on import documents so that it may automate duty refunds if Congress retroactively reauthorises the programme. However, hoping for the programmes restoration anytime soon now seems to be unrealistic.

The US import tariff rates for textiles and apparel from Myanmar, **the biggest category of goods exported from Myanmar to the US**, seem to have been 10-32% so far which is now to increase to 44%.

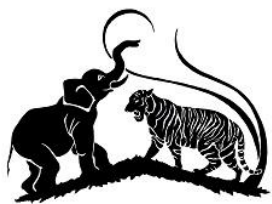
The latest figures available suggest that Myanmar exports textiles and apparel worth [USD 3.1 billion](#) annually out of which [USD 125 million](#) go to the US, which is just 4%. Whether the new tariff rates will worsen the position of Myanmar's exporters to the US in comparison to their competitors from other countries remains to be seen as the US has increased tariffs also for other countries, depending on the amount of the respective country's trade surplus with the US.

2. Thailand to introduce mandatory digital arrival cards from May 2025

Thailand seems to be requiring digital arrival cards [starting from 1 May 2025](#), to be completed within 72 hours before entering the country. The online form can be found [here](#). Once completed, travellers are to receive a QR code to present to immigration officials upon arrival in Thailand.

We hope that you have found this information useful.

Sebastian Pawlita
Managing Director



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About Lincoln Legal Services (Myanmar) Limited

Lincoln Legal Services (Myanmar) Limited provides the full range of legal and tax advisory and compliance work required by investors. We pride ourselves in offering result-oriented work, high dependability and a fast response time at very competitive prices. Please do not hesitate to contact us:

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