

FOR PRESS



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TARIFF CHANGES ON TEXTILES AND SOUND RECORDERS AND REPRODUCERS

(Statement by the Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry, Mr. J. McEwen)

The Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry, Mr. J. McEwen, announced today that the Government has adopted reports by the Tariff Board on textiles and on sound recorders and reproducers.

Mr. McEwen said the reports on textiles represented the conclusion of the General Textile Reference made on 5th October, 1960. The reports covered a wide variety of textiles which had not been included in the earlier interim reports on this reference.

The Government had adopted the Tariff Board's recommendations subject to some minor variations which were necessary to comply with Australia's international commitments. On felts for paper making machines, for example, increased duties recommended by the Board would not be brought into effect until current international tariff negotiations have been completed.

The Prime Minister stated that the new duties would simplify areas of the Tariff which had not been reviewed in recent years. Some of the more important changes were consolidation of the duties of fabrics coated with P.V.C. and cellulose derivatives at the levels of the combined present ordinary and temporary duties; increased duties on certain monofil and strip of synthetic resin; increased duties on certain elastic and elastomeric fabrics. Reduced duties would apply to a wide range of the textiles covered by the report. The present quantitative restrictions on imports of twine, cordage and rope of polyethylene would be continued until 31st December, 1968, and would be extended to cover similar products made from polypropylene.

Mr. McEwen also announced that the Government had adopted the Tariff Board's recommendations on sound recorders and reproducers. Duties of 45% (General) and 32½% (Preferential) would apply to most recorders and reproducers of the types made locally. The present duties on tape recorders will not be varied but the general rate

of duty on record players will be reduced from the present level of 60% ad valorem. Other changes include reduction of the duties on gramophone records to 7½% (General) Free (Preferential) and increased protection for certain grades of magnetic tape.

Mr. McEwen added that details of the new duties, which would apply after the close of business today, had been published in the Commonwealth Gazette. Copies of the Tariff Board's reports and the duty changes are available from Collectors of Customs in all States and from the Office of Secondary Industry, Department of Trade and Industry, Canberra.

Canberra, A.C.T.  
5th January, 1968.

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