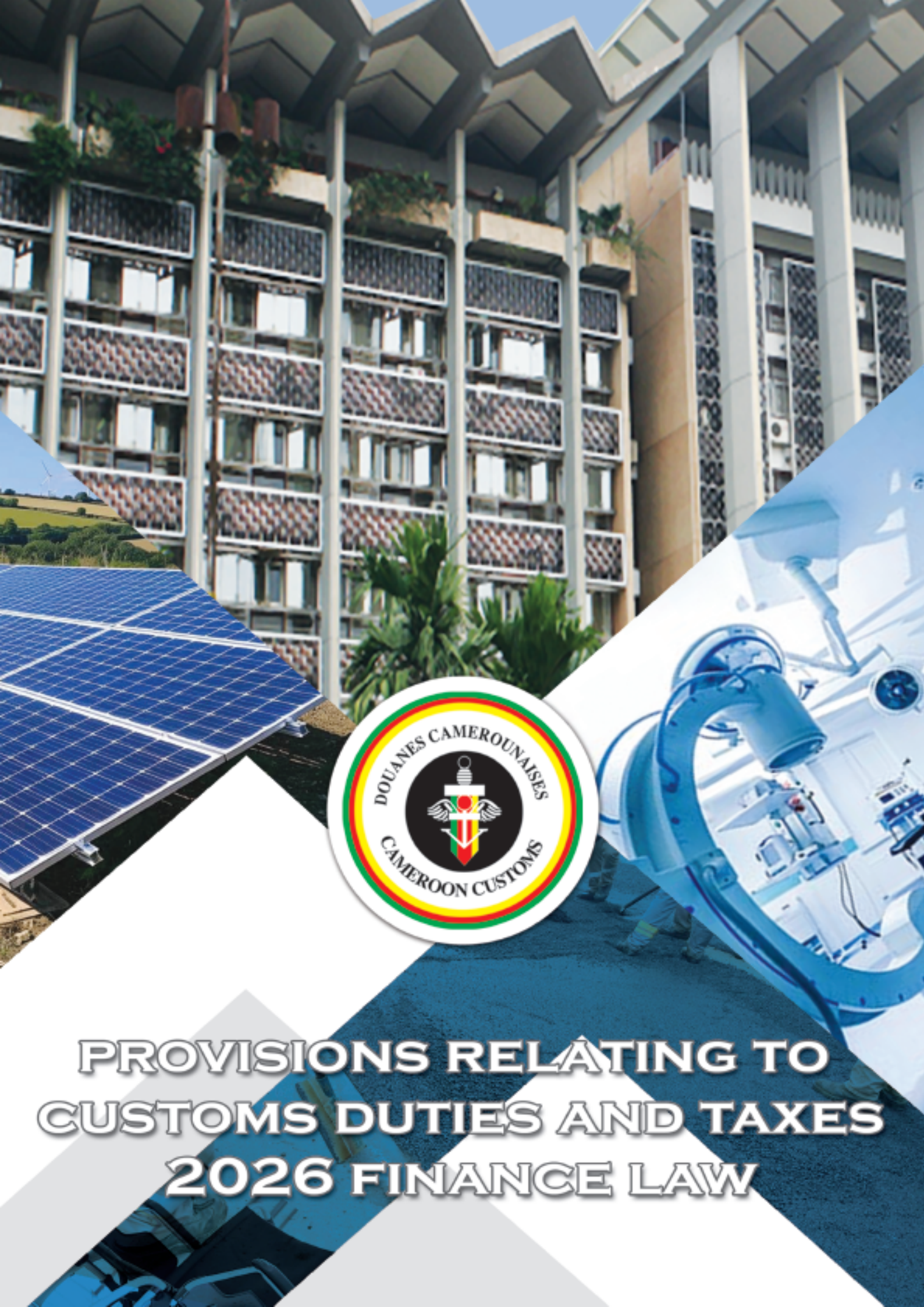


PROVISIONS RELATING TO CUSTOMS DUTIES AND TAXES 2026 FINANCE LAW

CHAPTER ONE

PROVISIONS RELATING TO CUSTOMS LEGISLATION

SECTION 5

Support to the Priority Public Health Sector.

1. The exemption from import duties and taxes of medical equipment and appliances, including their accessories, provided for in Section 5 of Law N°2023/019 of 129 December 2023 : Finance Law of the Republic of Cameroon for the 2024 financial year, long with its applicable implementing terms and conditions, shall be extended for 24 (twenty-four) months.

2. « Food supplements » intended for human health support not manufactured locally, shall benefit from a 30% reduction in the taxable value upon importation.

3. The list of products referred to in (2) above shall be established by an instrument of the Minister in charge of finance, in consultation with the Ministry in charge of public health.

SECTION 6

Support to Green Energy Promotion.

The exemption from import duties and taxes of equipment and materials intended for drinking water, solar and wind energy, and biomass production, provided for by Section 5 of Law N°2023/ 019 of 19 December 2023 : Finance Law of the Republic of Cameroon for the 2024 financial year, along with its applicable terms and conditions, shall be extended for 24 (twenty-four) months.

SECTION 7

Support for the Development of Training Centres and the Promotion of the Digital Economy.

1. Technical equipment and tools intended for vocational training shall be exempt from import duties and taxes.

2. Capital goods intended for the development of start-ups as part of efforts to promote the digital economy shall be exempt from import duties and taxes.

3. The list of technical equipment and tools referred to in (1) and (2) above shall be established by an instrument of the Minister in charge of finance, in consultation with the ministries in charge of vocational training and digital economy.

SECTION 8

Support to people with Disabilities.

1. Equipment, materials and vehicles specially designed or adapted for use by people with disabilities, and imported by holders of a disability card issued by the Ministry in charge of social affairs or approved specialized centres for the care of people with disabilities, shall be exempt from customs duties and taxes.

2. The list of goods and the conditions of eligibility for the exemption from customs duties and taxes referred to in (1) above shall be determined by an instrument of the Minister in charge of finance, after consultation with the Ministry in charge of social affairs.

SECTION 9

Support for Road Infrastructure Development.

1. Technical capital goods intended for the petroleum bitumen production industry shall be exempt from imports duties and taxes.

2. Inputs intended for the local production of petroleum bitumen shall benefit from a 5% reduction in customs duty and exemption from the Value Added Tax (VAT) on imports.

3. The list of goods referred to in (1) and (2) above shall be established by an instrument of the Minister in charge of finance, in consultation with the ministries in charge of industry and public works, where applicable.

SECTION 10

Excise duty on imports of certain goods.

1. The provisions of Section 5 of the Finance Law for the 2019 financial year and Section 6 (2)(d) of the Finance Law for the 2020 financial year are amended and supplemented as follows regarding the importation of vehicles :

Description	Age	Excise duty rates
Passenger vehicles with an engine capacity of 2500cm^3 or less	0 to 12 years	0%
	More than 12 to 20 years	12,5%
	More than 20 years	25%
Passengers vehicles with an engine capacity of more than 2500 cm^3	0 to 15 years	12.5% (unchanged)
	More than 15 years	25% (unchanged)
Other Utility Vehicles, public transport vehicles, trailers, tractors (excluding agricultural tractors), regardless of engine capacity	0 to 15 years	0% (unchanged)
	More than 15 to 20 years	12,5%
	More than 20 years	25%
Vehicles powered by compressed or liquefied natural gas(CNG/LNG)	Not age-restricted	0%

2. Imported empty domestic gas cylinders shall be subject to ad valorem excise duty at the reduced rate of 12.5%.

SECTION 11

Export Taxation.

1. The provisions of Section 9 (a) of the Finance Law for the 2020 finance year and Section 10 (1) of the Finance Law for the 2023 financial year relating to export taxation are amended and supplemented as follows :

a)- The export duty rate applicable to the export of iron ore, alumina and tin shall be 5% of the free on board (FOB) value ;

b)- The export duty rate applicable to the export of aluminium, silver, copper and sapphire, as well as non-alloy iron and steel ingots falling under tariff headings 7206 to 7207 shall be set 2% of the FOB value.

2. Marble, non-pulverized cement known as “clinker”, and all other mineral substances benefitting from tax and customs incentives for local production shall be subject to a special levy at the rate of 10% of the ex-factory value when leaving the national territory.

SECTION 12

Computer fees.

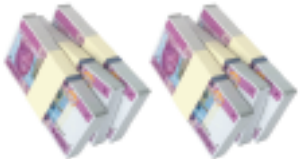
The provisions of Section 9 of the Finance Law for the 2023 Financial year are amended and supplemented as follows :

a)- (unchanged) ;

b)- Proceed from computer fees shall be allocated as follows :

• 75% as customs revenue accruing to the State budget and the remuneration of the body mandated within the framework of the implementation of the customs information system modernization project, in accordance with the terms and conditions laid down by an instrument of the Minister in charge of finance ;

• 25% for the development of information and communication technologies, as well as modernization projects, and monitoring of customs activities.



SECTION 13

Prohibition of the Covert Financing of Imports.

1. The purchase of goods from foreign suppliers through compensation or various informal channels known as « hawala » not backed by the transfer of funds ensuing from an import declaration duly filed with the competent authorities or not domiciled with approved intermediaries, as applicable, is and remains prohibited.

2. Any violation of the prohibition referred to in (1) above shall expose the offender to a fine equivalent to 25% of the compensation paid, without prejudice to any other penalties provided for by the regulations in force, particularly those relating to baking proscriptions, anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing.

SECTION 14

Penalties for violating the Import Verification Programme.

1. Imports subject to the Import Verification Programme that are not covered by import declarations, valuation and tariff classification reports, where applicable, shall incur a fine of 25% of the assessed taxable value, payable directly on the accounting declaration, subject to the regularization of said procedures before the release of the goods.

2. In the event of a repeat violation of the requirements of import Verification Programme referred to in (1) above , the said fine shall be set at 50% of the taxable value, without prejudice to the suspension of all Customs activities and the other penalties provided for by the regulation in force.

3. The splitting of import declaration amounts in order to circumvent the thresholds provided for by the Import Verification Programme or foreign exchange legislation, is and remains prohibited. Violation of the said prohibition shall be punishable by the fine specified in (1) above, without prejudice to any other penalties provided for by the regulation in force.

SECTION 15

Penalty for Failure to Clear Domiciled Import Declarations.

Economic operators shall be required to clear import declarations filed by them with approved intermediaries, within the time limits and in the forms provided for by the regulations in force. Failure to comply with these requirements shall expose the offender to a fine equivalent to 10% of the value of the goods covered by the declaration, without prejudice to the suspension of all customs activities.

SECTION 16

Provision of Customs Guarantees.

1. Without prejudice to the provisions of Section 27 of the Finance Law for the 2019 financial year regarding the enforcement of outstanding guarantees by guarantee-issuing institutions for customs operations after three years, guarantors shall be required to pay customs debts upon first demand after two formal notices to the principal debtor by the Customs Administration have remained unanswered and recorded in an official report.

2. Failure to provide the guarantee within eight days shall render the domiciliary institution liable and subject to investigation and penalties by the Customs Administration in accordance with the provisions of Section 453 of the Customs Code relating to persons involved in fraud.

SECTION 17

Withholding of Customs Duties and Taxes when Certain Importers are Paying their Foreign Suppliers.

1. Approved intermediaries responsible for domiciling import declarations shall, when paying foreign suppliers, be required to withhold the amount corresponding to the applicable customs duties and taxes covering the goods to be imported when the transaction and/or the importer are considered « at risk ».

2. The criteria for defining transactions and taxpayers « considered to be at risk » shall, within the meaning of the provisions of (1) above, be based on the general duty of prudence and diligence incumbent on bankers and, where necessary, on the risk profiling prepared by the Customs Administration.

3. Where the import declarations referred to in (1) above, which have been subject to customs duties and taxes, are not cleared within the prescribed deadlines without valid justification satisfactory to the Customs Service, the authorized domiciliary intermediaries shall inform the Customs Administration within thirty days, allowing for an ex officio declaration to be generated for the assessment and recovery of the said duties and taxes.

SECTION18

Handling of Seized Goods.

1. Without prejudice to the provisions of Sections 363 to 368 of the Customs Code, the Customs Service shall automatically act as custodian of any goods seized in cases of customs-related fraud where there is sufficient evidence of a crime.

2. Once the goods have been taken into custody and customs duties and taxes have been recovered, where applicable, as well as any fines imposed by the Customs Administration, the seized goods shall be :

(a)- Returned to the offender ;

(i)- Where the goods are not subject to any specific import or export authorization, or where they are covered by the required technical and administrative authorizations ;

(ii)- where goods not initially covered by the required technical and administrative authorizations have been regularised after the seizure ;

(b)- Placed at the disposal of the competent line ministries on the basis of a transmission report signed by both parties, where the said goods are not covered by the required technical and administrative authorizations, or have not been regularized by the offender within 72 (seventy-two) hours;

(c)- Sold at public auction following a confiscation order issued by the competent judge :

(i)- Where retention by the Customs Service would pose a risk of deterioration of the seized goods ;

(ii)- Where the goods were seized from unidentified fugitives ;

(iii)- Where the seized goods are abandoned or are not claimed after an unheeded formal notice.

3. Goods that are absolutely prohibited from import or export and seized by customs shall, depending on their nature, either be transferred to the relevant sector ministries for specific public-interest purposes or destroyed at the offender's expense, following a confiscation order issued by the court with territorial jurisdiction and in the presence of the competent technical ministries.

4. By way of derogation from (1) to (3) above, where the seized product is a precious or semi-precious substance, it shall be appraised, sealed and held by the competent public entity. In all cases, the transfer of the corpus delicti to the competent public entity for safekeeping shall take place without prejudice to the prior settlement of the customs dispute arising from the seizure.

SECTION 19

Detention of Natural Persons by Customs Authorities.

1. Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 109 and 369 of the Customs Code, customs officers may, during inspections within their remit, arrest and detain natural persons where a customs offence punishable by imprisonment has been committed. For this purpose, the Customs Service shall be authorized, where necessary, to use appropriate means of restraint, including handcuffs. The decision to detain a natural person shall be taken by a Category A customs officer.

2. The State Counsel with jurisdiction shall be informed immediately of any detention ordered by the Customs service, without prejudice to the detainee's right of defence.

3. The person shall be held under conditions similar to those applicable in criminal proceedings and, where necessary, in premises made available by the police or the gendarmerie.

4.Customs detention may not exceed 24 hours. However, this period may be extended to 48 hours with the authorization of the State Counsel where required by the customs investigation.

SECTION 20

Use of Disruptive Technologies and the Beneficial Owner Register.

1. The Customs Administration shall be authorized to use disruptive technologies, including artificial intelligence, to gather information, cross-check external trade data, and analyse taxpayer records under the conditions provided for by the regulations in force, for the purposes of determining tax bases and conducting customs controls and investigations.

2. As part of customs investigations, the Customs Administration shall be authorized to access the beneficial ownership register under the conditions laid down by the regulations in force.

SECTION 21

Implementation of the Harmonized ECCAS-CEMAC Customs Code.

The Harmonized ECCAS-CEMAC Customs Code, adopted pursuant to Decision No. 5/ CEEAC/ CCEG/ XXV/24 of 18 October 2024 on the adoption of the Harmonized ECCAS-CEMAC Customs Code applicable within the Economic Community of Central African States, shall have legal effect in Cameroon with effect from 1 January 2026.

SECTION 22

Implementation of the Harmonized ECCAS-CEMAC Common External Tariff.

The Harmonized ECCAS Common External Tariff, adopted pursuant to Decision No.14 / CEEAC/ CCEG/ XXV/24 of 18 October 2024 on the approval of the Harmonized ECCAS-CEMAC Common External Tariff applicable in the Member States of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), shall be implemented in Cameroon with effect from 1 January 2026.