

The Government's review 2007 of Norway's Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) led to the following decisions:

1. The OECD's DAC list of ODA recipients shall be used as the basis for establishing the land list of Norway's GSP.
2. Based on the DAC list, eleven new countries are included in Norway's GSP from 1 January 2008.
3. Countries and territories not included in the DAC list are taken out of Norway's GSP.
4. A country entering into a free trade agreement (FTA) with Norway in accordance with GATT art.XXIV is normally taken out of Norway's GSP when the FTA is entering into force.
5. DQF-MA for all goods is extended by including 14 low income countries in addition to the 50 LDCs, based on the DAC list.
6. The preference margin for ordinary GSP countries is increased by 20 percentage points within the WTO minimum access quotas for agricultural products.
7. Norway's tariff duties are zero on an MFN basis for almost all industrial goods. However, tariffs remain (in the range of 5-15 percent) for a few textile products, and there is a particular exception list for these products in Norway's GSP (for the ordinary GSP countries). It was decided, at this stage, not to reduce further the MFN tariffs or the GSP exception list for textiles. However, the exception list has no longer effect for the 14 low income countries that are given DQF-MA from 1 January 2008.
8. There is made one change in the rules of origin in Norway's GSP in order to simplify import procedures.
9. Further simplifications in the rules of origin will be considered in the future within the close cooperation with the European Union and Switzerland in this field.
10. The two safeguard provisions of Norway's GSP as of 2007, which have never been used, are merged into one provision in order to simplify the system. In the future a Government decision will be necessary in order to use the safeguard provision.
11. At this stage no changes are made in the GSP quotas (for some agricultural products).
12. Efforts will be made to assist the GSP countries, and in particular those countries that are given DQF-MA, in meeting the requirements so that Norway's GSP is in force at any time.
13. With the aim of increasing the use of the trade possibilities created by Norway's GSP there will be made information efforts, by improved and more accessible internet pages, printed material, and meetings/seminars in the LDCs and other low income countries.
14. There will be made efforts, as part of Norway's Action Plan on Aid for Trade, to stimulate the use of the possibilities created by DQF-MA.
15. The Government's review will be followed up by a study, by an independent consultant, on possibilities and limitations for developing countries' exports to Norway.