

PwC Vietnam NewsBrief

Circular guiding the priority enterprise scheme

On 12 May 2015, the Ministry of Finance (MoF) issued Circular 72/2015/TT-BTC (Circular 72) guiding the priority enterprise scheme and related customs administration procedures.

Circular 72 expands the scope of application to customs agents whose handle at least 20,000 customs declarations per year. The annual import-export turnover threshold of the two consecutive years prior to the date of lodgment of the application for priority enterprise status has been reduced as follow:

- For exporters of Vietnam-made products – the threshold has been reduced from USD50 million/year to USD40 million/year;
- For exporters of agricultural and aquatic products – the threshold has been reduced from USD50 million/year to USD30 million/year;
- For others – The threshold has been reduced from USD200 million/year to USD100 million/year;

Generally, businesses that are granted priority enterprise status are entitled to various privileges, waivers or exceptions of customs administrative requirements, including a waiver of certain document requirements during customs inspection, customs clearance, exemption from specific inspection reports etc. In addition, a priority enterprise is exempt from the requirement of customs audit at customs office and the customs authority may conduct post-clearance audit at the enterprise's head office only once every three years.

Once accredited with priority enterprise status, the status is valid for three years (which was previously valid for 2 years). Applicants are no longer required to submit statistical reports of their import-export activities as part the application for accreditation.

Circular 72 also details the procedures for assessment, accreditation and suspension of priority enterprise status. The time limit for customs authorities to approve a successful application has been reduced from 15 working days following assessment to 10 working days.

Circular 72 will take effect on 26 June 2015 and replace Circular 86/2013/TT-BTC and Circular 133/2013/TT-BTC.

