

**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE BAHAMAS**  
**FISCAL MEASURES**  
**2016/2017**

Item No.	Description	Existing Rate	Proposed Rate	Enabling Legislation	Agency Responsible	Comments
1	Reduce the duty on costume jewellery.	20%	Free	Tariff Act	Customs Department	Amendment seeks to align the duty rate with other "Tourist" items
2	Remove the duty on perfumes.	5%	Free	Tariff Act	Customs Department	Amendment seeks to align the duty rate with other "Tourist" items
3	Remove the duty on baby clothes.	20%	Free	Tariff Act	Customs Department	This is a Tariff adjustment to align the duty rate on all baby clothes (children of a height of 86cm (3ft) or less
4	Adjust the duty rate on freezers.	35%	5%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	This is a Tariff adjustment so that all tariff headings for freezers attracts a same rate of duty
5	Reduce the duty on other detergents.	7%	5%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	This amendment seek to correct those few remaining Tariff headings that attract a 7% duty rate
6	Reduce the duty on other builders joinery and carpentry of wood.	7%	5%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	This amendment seek to correct those few remaining Tariff headings that attract a 7% duty rate
7	Reduce the duty of other leather goods.	45%	free	Tariff Act	Customs Department	This amendment seeks to align the duty rate of other leather goods with the duty rate of "tourist" leather goods.
8	Remove the duty on life jackets.	45%	free	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
9	Reduce the duty on used clothing.	25%	20%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	New clothing attracts a duty rate of 20%
10	Reduce the duty rate on biodegradable laundry plastic bags.	45%	5%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	All other biodegradable plastic bags attract a duty rate of 5%
11	Reduce the duty on Tariff Heading 8517.0000 (Computers peripherals, Routers etc.).	45%	10%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
12	Reduce the duty on items of Chapter 61 and 62 ( hosiery, socks etc.).	25% - 45%	20%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
13	Adjust the process for the granting of concessions for light manufacturing.	Items not on the approved list can qualify for a 10% duty rate	Items not on the list can be granted full duty exemption once approved by the Minister	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
14	Amend the Tariff Act to remove the provisions that grant concessions to the Public Hospitals Authority and the National Insurance Board under Tariff code 9816.00.			Tariff Act	Customs Department	This is a clean up exercise.

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15	Adjust the duty rate on boat propellers.	45%	10%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	The duty rate on boats is 10%
16	Allow churches to import air conditions duty free.	Duty Paid	No duty paid	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
17	Require that non profit entities and charities must be designated as a non profit by the Registrar General or the Attorney General before they can qualify for duty free concessions.	No proof of non profit status required	Proof of non profit status required	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
18	Remove the duty on live shrimp used for bait	10%	Free	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
19	Remove the duty on dead fish and animals not fit for human consumption	35%	Free	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
20	Remove the duty on flour made from other than wheat, meslin and the like	35%	Free	Tariff Act	Customs Department	This amendment seeks to align the duty of all types of flour
21	Reduce the duty on maple sugar	30%	Free	Tariff Act	Customs Department	This amendment seeks to align the duty of all types of sugars
22	Reduction of duty on natural honey	35%	free	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
23	Reduction of duty on prepared turkey, ham beef chicken meat	40%	20%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
24	Reduction of duty on Macaroni, Spaghetti with meat and the like	30%	20%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
25	Reduction of duty on biscuits, waffles, cake and pastries	40%	30%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
26	Reduction of duty on prepared and preserved fruits and nuts	40%	30%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
27	Reduction of duty on prepared frozen dinners	30%	20%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
28	Reduction of duty on ice cream	40%	30%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
29	Reduction of duty on packaged prunes	35%	20%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
30	Reduction of duty on packaged raisins	25%	20%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	

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31	Reduce the excise tax on knitted or crocheted cardigans and pullovers	7%	5%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	This amendment seek to align the Tourist Items.
32	Reduce the excise tax on porcelain and china table and kitchenware	7%	5%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	This amendment seek to align the Tourist Items.
33	Reduce the excise tax on crystal glassware.	7%	5%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	This amendment seek to align the Tourist Items.
34	Reduction of duty on sanitary ware - shower heads, sinks, basins	35%	25%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
35	Reduction of duty on crown moulding	35%	25%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
36	Reduction of duty of Parquet flooring	45%	35%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
37	Reduction of duty on pad locks	45%	20%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
38	Reduction of duty on door locks	35%	20%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
39	Reduction of duty on door lock parts	45%	20%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
40	Reduction of duty on keys	45%	20%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
41	Reduction of duty on hinges	25%	20%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
42	Reduction of duty on panel indicators for alarms systems and alarm systems parts	45%	duty free	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
43	Reduction of duty on marble, travertine, granite and other stones	45%	35%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
44	Reduction of duty on hair dryers	45%	35%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
45	Reduction of duty on coffee makers			Tariff Act	Customs Department	
46	Reduction of duty of microwaves	45%	35%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
47	Reduction of duty on irons	45%	35%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
48	Reduction of duty on toasters	45%	35%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	

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Item No.	Description	Existing Rate	Proposed Rate	Enabling Legislation	Agency Responsible	Comments
49	Reduction of duty on other household kitchen appliances	45%	35%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
50	Reduction of duty on heating resistors( heat coils)	45%	35%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
51	Reduction of duty on medical, surgical or lab sterilizers	45%	25%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
52	Reduction of duty on parts for dryers	45%	5%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
53	Reduction of duty on plywood	5%	duty free	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
54	Reduction of duty on cement	5%	duty free	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
55	Reduction of duty on lime	5%	duty free	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
56	Reduction of duty tiles	45%	35%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
57	Reduction of duty on sheet rock	5%	duty free	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
58	Reduction of duty on doors	5%	duty free	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
59	Reduction of duty on hardiplank/ board	5%	duty free	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
60	Reduction of duty on joint compound	35%	25%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
61	Reduction of duty on rebar	35%	25%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
62	Reduction of duty bar joist	45%	35%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
63	Reduction of duty on nails	5%	duty free	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
64	Reduction of duty on roofing tiles	45%	35%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
65	Reduction of duty on ice and water shield	25%	5%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
66	Reduction of duty on roofing in rolls	5%	duty free	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
67	Reduction of duty on asphalt shingles	5%	duty free	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
68	Reduction of duty on electrical wiring	35%	25%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	

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Item No.	Description	Existing Rate	Proposed Rate	Enabling Legislation	Agency Responsible	Comments
69	Reduction of duty on low flush toilets	35%	25%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
70	Reduction of duty on other toilets	35%	25%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
71	Reduction of duty on low flow shower head	10%	5%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
72	Reduction of duty on plastic toilets	45%	25%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
73	Reduction of duty on cast iron tubs	35%	25%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
74	Reduction of duty on plastic flooring	35%	25%	Tariff Act	Customs Department	
75	Extend the Family Island Development Encouragement Act for one year.	Family Island Development Encouragement Act expires June 30th 2016	Family Island Development Encouragement Act extended for one year to June 30th, 2017	Family Island Development Encouragement Act	Ministry of Finance	Amendment can be made by Order by the Minister
76	Extend the City of Nassau Revitalization Act for one year.	City of Nassau Revitalization Act expires June 30th 2016	City of Nassau Revitalization Act extended for one year to June 30th 2017	City of Nassau Revitalization Act	Ministry of Finance	Amendment can be made by Order by the Minister
77	Reduce the environment levy on used tires.	\$5.00 per tire	\$3.00 per tire	Customs Management Act /Regulations	Customs Department	In many cases the tires are purchased by the importer for less than \$5.00 each
78	Increase the customs storage charges at Customs for vehicles.	\$30.00 per week	\$50.00 per week	Port Authority Act	Customs Department	
79	Increase for the Customs 10 form (An amendment to the manifest).	No fee	25% of the value of the good	Customs Management Act /Regulations	Customs Department	
80	Introduce a fee for the Parcel List used by cargo ships.	No fee	A fee of 25% of the value of the good	Customs Management Act /Regulations	Customs Department	This is to be paid by the shipping companies. This amendment seeks to limit the use of the parcel list.
81	Allow for a processing fee to be levied on the shipper if prohibited or restricted goods are found on-board their vessel.	No fee	\$5,000 for each prohibited or restricted good	Customs Management Act /Regulations	Customs Department	This is not considered a revenue measure, but done for security

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Item No.	Description	Existing Rate	Proposed Rate	Enabling Legislation	Agency Responsible	Comments
82	Charge a higher processing fee for the late submission of the manifest and the loading list.	\$75.00 for the manifest	\$75.00 if the manifest is submitted to Customs at least 12 hours prior to the arrival of the ship or 2 hours prior to the arrival of cargo aircraft. If delivered less than 12 hours prior to the arrival of the ship or 2 hours prior to the arrival of a cargo aircraft a fee of \$2,500	Customs Management Act /Regulations	Customs Department	This should encourage the early submission of the manifest which would allow for better scrutiny of the manifest and therefore reduce errors and fraud
83	Adjustments to the Customs Management Act			Customs Management Act /Regulations	Customs Department	
84	Make Electronic Submission of Customs Entries mandatory by 1st July 2016	90% of all entries are now electronic	100% after 1st July 2016	Customs Management Act /Regulations	Customs Department	
85	Adjust the requirement of the Tax Compliance Certificate to cover major shareholders with over 20% of the shares as well as companies with similar shareholders.			Financial Administration and Audit Act	Department of Inland Revenue	
86	Allow for Real Property Tax concessions granted to residential properties last Budget to be extended to commercial properties with the exception of properties which are now subject to collection.			Real Property Tax Act	Department of Inland Revenue	
87	Allow the Treasurer to accept property in exchange of outstanding Real Property Taxes on application.			Real Property Tax Act	Department of Inland Revenue	

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Item No.	Description	Existing Rate	Proposed Rate	Enabling Legislation	Agency Responsible	Comments
88	Increase the enforcement provisions under the Excise Stamp (Tobacco Products) Control Act to allow for compounding and for Customs Officers to better monitor tobacco manufacturing.			Excise Stamp (Tobacco Products) Control Act	Department of Inland Revenue	
89	Amend Stamp Tax Act so that "Transaction Values" are taken into account. The transaction value being defined as the value the property would fetch on the open market in a sale. In the event of the dispute then the Treasurer should be able to use the transaction value of an adjoining property, which has been sold in the last year. In the case of force sale (foreclosure or court ordered sales), the value derived from the sale would be accepted. For a transaction between related parties the transaction would be determined by an independent assessment of value by a licenced appraiser. These rules must also be placed in the VAT rules for Real Estate.			Stamp Tax and VAT Acts	Department of Inland Revenue	
90	Adjust the date for the submission of VAT payments.	28 days after the end of the month	21 days after the end of month with effect from 1 January 2017		Department of Inland Revenue	
91	Allow for the wavier of Stamp Tax and VAT on Deed of Exchange because of an error in property description.			Stamp Tax and VAT Acts	Department of Inland Revenue	
92	Amend Item 12 on the First Schedule of the Stamp Tax Act as it pertains to marina slips.	10%	2.5%	Stamp Tax Act	Department of Inland Revenue	To make this consistent with the other stamp tax on conveyance
93	Amend the Stamp Tax Act to eliminate and adjust fees			Stamp Tax Act	Ministry of Finance	

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Item No.	Description	Existing Rate	Proposed Rate	Enabling Legislation	Agency Responsible	Comments
94	Allow for a 90 day amnesty for the penalty for late stamping of documents. The amnesty will end on 1st September, 2016 and thereafter the penalty will be 10%.			Stamp Tax Act	Ministry of Finance	
95	Put in place a framework to allow the Minister of Finance to take steps through the Tariff Act to protect Bahamian agriculture and manufactured products			Customs Management Act /Regulations	Ministry of Finance	See strategy attached at Annex III
96	Put in place a framework for the licensing of couriers.				Customs Department	
97	Allow concessions to be granted to First Time Home Owners for an amnesty for persons who have missed for any reason one of the many versions of the legislation providing exemption.			Stamp Tax Act	Ministry of Finance	
98	Waiver of real property arrears for owner occupied residential property with an assessed value of less \$250,000	Properties with an assess value of less than \$250,000 do not have bills but currently over 41,000 of these properties have arrears		Real Property Tax Act	Ministry of Finance	
99	Allow the Minister of Finance to provide duty and real property tax concessions to owners of dilapidated buildings in New Providence who intend to demolish and/or renovate these buildings for commercial, educational and social purposes	No concessions provided for the demolishing or renovating of dilapidated commercial buildings.	Customs duty and Real Property Tax exemption provided for the demolishing or renovating of dilapidated commercial buildings.	Tariff Act, Real Property Tax Act	Ministry of Finance	



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Item No.	Description	Existing Rate	Proposed Rate	Enabling Legislation	Agency Responsible	Comments
100	Exempting from VAT ancillary fees paid along with tuition fees.	No VAT exemption granted on ancillary fees paid along with tuition fees	VAT exemption granted on ancillary fees paid along with tuition fees	VAT Act	Ministry of Finance	