



Shape the future
with confidence

Customs & Global Trade Alert

January 2026

Visit other Alerts [here](#).

Key changes to customs procedures effective from 1 February 2026

This alert aims to highlight the key updates to Vietnamese customs procedures introduced under the newly issued Circular No. 121/2025/TT-BTC. These changes will come into force on 1 February 2026.

On 18 December 2025, the Ministry of Finance (MoF) issued Circular No. 121/2025/TT-BTC (Circular 121), which amends and supplements certain provisions of Circular No. 38/2015/TT-BTC dated 25 March 2015 (Circular 38) and Circular No. 39/2018/TT-BTC dated 20 April 2018 (Circular 39). These circulars regulate customs procedures, customs inspection and supervision, export and import duties, and tax administration applicable to exported and imported goods.

Circular 121 introduces 68 amendments and supplements to various articles, clauses, and appendices of Circular 38 and Circular 39, and repeals certain legal normative documents. Circular 121 will take effect from 1 February 2026.

The sections below set out some of the notable new provisions of Circular 121.

1. Amendments to the quantities of goods declared in customs declarations

Circular 121 introduces new procedures and documentation requirements for importers to amend previously declared quantities in cases of excess delivery, incorrect delivery, or short delivery of goods, as well as where goods are subject to tolerance levels agreed between the importer and the exporter.

2. Repeal of customs procedures for change of usage purpose in form of re-exporting

Under previous regulations, importers were required to carry out customs procedures for changing the usage purpose and were not required to pay import duties before re-exporting materials previously declared for export processing, export manufacturing, or export processing enterprises (EPEs)'s use. Under the new regulations, this requirement has been abolished, and importers proceed directly with the re-export customs declaration.

3. Newly introduced method of customs value consultation

- While the face-to-face customs value consultation method remains applicable, allowing importers to justify their declared prices, Circular 121 introduces an indirect consultation method.
- Under this method, businesses may engage with the customs authority via the electronic system to clarify and provide explanations for the declared customs value. Importers with a high customs compliance profile are eligible to apply this indirect consultation method.

4. New requirements to the management of the re-imported goods

Importers are required to exercise due care over re-imported goods for repair or recycling under the export processing and export manufacturing schemes. This includes maintaining separate bills of materials (BOMs) and inventory records for materials used in or recovered from the repair or recycling process.

5. Detailed destruction processes

- Circular 121 expands the scope of goods subject to destruction procedures to include semi-finished goods and finished goods (FGs), in addition to the previously covered categories of materials, material scrap, defective products, and machinery and equipment (M&Es).
- The destruction of materials, semi-FGs, FGs, defective products, and M&Es must be conducted under the direct supervision of the customs authority, while the destruction of material scraps is subject to supervision based on risk management.

6. Narrowing the scope of EPEs not required to carry out customs procedures

Circular 121 no longer provides a detailed list of cases exempt from customs procedures, as was the case previously. Instead, it cross-refers to Decree No. 35/2022/ND-CP. This change narrows the scope of customs procedure exemptions applicable for EPEs. For example, transactions amongst EPEs, which were previously eligible for exemption from customs procedures, are now required to be carried out with customs declarations.

7. Refinement of customs procedures for on-the-spot import and export (OTS) and EPE-non-EPE transactions

- Under the previous regulations, transactions between EPE and non-EPEs were generally treated as OTS arrangements. Circular 121 revises this approach by requiring such transactions to be conducted in accordance with standard import and export procedures.
- In addition, the customs procedures applicable to OTS arrangements have been refined to align with the amended provisions of Law No. 90/2025/QH15 and Decree No. 167/2025/ND-CP.

8. Additional guidance on conversions between EPE and non-EPE

The customs procedures for converting an enterprise from EPE to non-EPE status, and vice versa, are explicitly set out in the new circular as compared with previous regulations.



Shape the future
with confidence

Contacts

Hanoi Office



Huong Vu | General Director

EY Consulting Vietnam Joint Stock Company

huong.vu@vn.ey.com



Hung Khanh Le | Director | Indirect Tax – Global Trade

EY Consulting Vietnam Joint Stock Company

hung.khanh.le@vn.ey.com

Ho Chi Minh City Office



Robert King | EY Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia Tax Leader

EY Consulting Vietnam Joint Stock Company

robert.m.king@vn.ey.com



Anh Tuan Thach | Partner | Indirect Tax

EY Consulting Vietnam Joint Stock Company

anh.tuan.thach@vn.ey.com

Japanese Business Services (JBS)



Takahisa Onose | Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia JBS Leader

Ernst & Young Vietnam Limited

takahisa.onose@vn.ey.com



Takaaki Nishikawa | Director

Ernst & Young Vietnam Limited

takaaki.nishikawa@vn.ey.com

Korean Business Services (KBS)



Binh Thanh Phan | EY Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia KBS Leader

EY Consulting Vietnam Joint Stock Company

binh.thanh.phan@vn.ey.com



Kyung Hoon Han | Director

Ernst & Young Vietnam Limited

kyung.hoon.han@vn.ey.com

Chinese Business Services (CBS)



Truong Duc Le | EY Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia CBS Leader

Ernst & Young Vietnam Limited

truong.duc.le@vn.ey.com



Owen Tsao | Director

Ernst & Young Vietnam Limited

owen.tsao@vn.ey.com



Trinh Kiet Luong | Assistant Director

Ernst & Young Vietnam Limited

trinh.kiet.luong@vn.ey.com

EY | Building a better working world

EY is building a better working world by creating new value for clients, people, society and the planet, while building trust in capital markets.

Enabled by data, AI and advanced technology, EY teams help clients shape the future with confidence and develop answers for the most pressing issues of today and tomorrow.

EY teams work across a full spectrum of services in assurance, consulting, tax, strategy and transactions. Fueled by sector insights, a globally connected, multi-disciplinary network and diverse ecosystem partners, EY teams can provide services in more than 150 countries and territories.

All in to shape the future with confidence.

EY refers to the global organization, and may refer to one or more, of the member firms of Ernst & Young Global Limited, each of which is a separate legal entity. Ernst & Young Global Limited, a UK company limited by guarantee, does not provide services to clients. Information about how EY collects and uses personal data and a description of the rights individuals have under data protection legislation are available via ey.com/privacy. EY member firms do not practice law where prohibited by local laws. For more information about our organization, please visit ey.com.

©2026 EY Consulting Vietnam Joint Stock Company. All Rights Reserved.

APAC No. 16130101

ED None

This material has been prepared for general informational purposes only and is not intended to be relied upon as accounting, tax, legal or other professional advice. Please refer to your advisors for specific advice.

ey.com/en_vn