

TH Logistics Brief: Freight Forwarding, Customs & Tariff Watch — September 2025

Key cross-border changes affecting Thai shippers and forwarders

- U.S. ends the \$800 de minimis exemption on August 29, 2025, exposing all low-value parcels to duties and new data requirements.
- Thailand-U.S. reciprocal tariffs adjusted effective August 1, 2025; average duty on Thai goods reportedly reduced from 36% to ~19%.
- Forwarders should prepare for more formal entries and landed-cost disclosure on U.S.-bound e-commerce flows.

The United States has revoked its long-standing de minimis exemption for imports under USD 800. From August 29, 2025, all parcels require duty assessment and compliance steps coordinated with carriers or CBP-approved intermediaries. Within days of implementation, international postal traffic to the U.S. fell sharply as operators recalibrated systems. Thai e-commerce exporters using postal or courier channels should expect longer transit times, additional data capture, and possible carrier handling fees.

In parallel, Thailand announced a reciprocal tariff arrangement with the U.S. effective August 1, 2025. Government statements indicate average import duties on Thai goods were trimmed significantly (from roughly 36% to around 19%), improving price competitiveness. However, shippers must still ensure correct Certificates of Origin and commodity classification to benefit from preferential rates.

Operational checklist for forwarders and brokers: (1) review HS classification and COO issuance procedures for U.S. lanes; (2) update quotations to reflect duty/fee pass-through on low-value e-commerce; (3) work with postal/courier partners on new landed-cost calculation; and (4) keep customers informed of possible delays during the switchover.

Sources

Associated Press (Sept 7, 2025): UPU reports >80% drop in global postal traffic to the U.S. after de minimis repeal.

The Washington Post (Sept 8, 2025): De minimis removal details, initial carrier surcharges and postal suspensions.

KPMG Thailand Tax News Flash (Aug 2025): Thailand-U.S. reciprocal tariff update following July 31 executive order.

The Nation Thailand (Aug 1, 2025): Gov't announces reduction of average tariff on Thai goods to 19%.