



HARMONIZED SYSTEM  
COMMITTEE

-  
26<sup>th</sup> Session  
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NC0312E1  
(+ Annex)  
O. Eng.

Brussels, 3 November 2000.

## NEW INFORMATION PROVIDED ON THE WCO WEB SITE

(Item II.9 on Agenda)

### I. BACKGROUND

1. Since 1998, the Secretariat has used the Internet to inform WCO Members and the public about developments with regard to the Harmonized System. This information can be found on the WCO public Web site [wcoomd.org], under the title "Harmonized System News", whereas administrations can find additional information at the members site, under the title "Nomenclature and Classification".
2. To keep the Committee informed regularly about developments in this area, the Secretariat intends to produce a summary document for each Committee session, pointing out the items prepared and published during the intersession.

### II. SECRETARIAT COMMENTS

#### **Public Web site**

3. During the intersession, the following items were published or updated on the public Web site :
  - (i) Introducing a disclaimer, to inform enquirers that WCO does not provide information with respect to rates of duty. This disclaimer contains hyperlinks to two Web sites which may have this kind of information, i.e., "leman.com/~kuwahara/ services" (produced by UNCTAD) and "bitd.org" (produced by the International Customs Tariff Bureau in Brussels);
  - (ii) Updating the information concerning Contracting Parties to the Harmonized System Convention (Azerbaijan, Gabon and the Maldives have been added as new Contracting Parties);
  - (iii) Publication of the amendments to the Harmonized System coming into force on 1 January 2002, with a brief introduction;

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- (iv) Publication of the decisions of the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee (classification rulings, and amendments to the Explanatory Notes and to the Compendium of Classification Opinions);
  - (v) Updating the list with e-mail addresses of Harmonized System officials in Customs administrations;
  - (vi) Publication of the dates of the forthcoming sessions of the Harmonized System Committee, the Harmonized System Review Sub-Committee and the Scientific Sub-Committee;
  - (vii) Publication of the Council Recommendation of 7 July 2000 on the insertion in national statistical nomenclatures of subheadings to facilitate
  - (viii) the collection and comparison of trade data on hand-made products; and
  - (ix) Publication of a demo version of the "Harmonizer", the training CD-ROM on the Harmonized System.
4. With respect to the list of e-mail addresses of Harmonized System officials in Customs Administrations (see paragraph 3, Item (v) above), the Secretariat would like to invite administrations to verify the data contained in the list (which is reproduced in the Annex to this document), and, if necessary, to inform the Secretariat about any data that needs to be updated. In addition, officers of Customs administrations having e-mail connections but not listed, are invited to inform the Secretariat whether they wish to be included in this publication.

#### **Members Web site**

5. On the Members Web site ("Nomenclature & Classification"), the following items have been inserted or updated :
- (i) Introducing a list with the names of contact points for the Scientific Sub-Committee, their e-mail addresses and (where appropriate) the related Web site hyperlinks ("SSC Contacts");
  - (ii) Introducing a new item "General" under the title "Documents". Under this item the documents coded "NG", which are not directly related to a particular session of the Committee or one of the Sub-Committees, have been grouped together. These kinds of documents contain the results of Council meetings vis-à-vis the Harmonized System (e.g., a Council Recommendation), or a notification of the Secretary General (e.g., the approved texts of the HS amendments);
  - (iii) Publication of Council Decision No. 298 concerning the procedure for re-examination of certain matters by the Harmonized System Committee;
  - (iv) Updating the Rules of Procedure of the Harmonized System Committee in accordance with the Council decision (Article 20); and
  - (v) Publication of the Secretariat's technical assistance programme. This list, which contains the names of the countries which have agreed to host a seminar, the tentative dates and the nature of the seminars, will be updated regularly.

### III. CONCLUSION

6. The Committee is invited (i) to take note of the developments vis-à-vis WCO's publications on the Internet, as referred to in paragraphs 3 to 5 above, and (ii) to inform the Secretariat about any lacking or incorrect information in the above-referenced publications.

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**E-mail addresses of officials responsible for Harmonized System matters  
in national administrations**

This list contains e-mail addresses of officials responsible for Harmonized System (HS) matters in national administrations, which may advise you in matters related to HS classifications, rulings taken by the HS Committee and matters of a general policy. In some cases office e-mail addresses are indicated, in addition to or in lieu of the officer's e-mail address.

The list also contains the e-mail address of the Tariff and Trade Affairs Directorate of WCO.

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