

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20436

**MEMORANDUM ON PROPOSED TARIFF LEGISLATION  
of the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress<sup>1</sup>**

[Date approved: September 12, 2005]<sup>2</sup>

**Bill No. and sponsor:** H.R. 2016 (Rep. Shaw)

**Proponent name, location:** Tyco Fire & Security (subsidiary of Tyco International)  
Boca Raton, FL.

**Other bills on product (109<sup>th</sup> Congress only):** None.

**Nature of bill:** Temporary duty suspension through December 31 2008.

**Retroactive effect:** None.

**Suggested article description(s) for enactment (including appropriate HTS subheading(s)):**

Liquid-filled glass bulbs designed for sprinkler systems and other release devices (provided for in subheading 7020.00.60).

**Check one:**  Same as that in bill as introduced  
 Different from that in bill as introduced (explain differences in Technical comments section)

**Product information, including uses/applications and source(s) of imports:**

The subject goods are thermally-activated glass bulbs for use in building sprinkler systems. These bulbs are designed to break due to the expansion of the liquid inside when a certain temperature is reached, thereby releasing a flow of water through the sprinkler system. The proponent, Tyco Fire & Security, provides fire protection and suppression products and services to commercial and residential markets. U.S. competitors include Viking Sprinkler, Reliable Sprinkler, and Globe Sprinkler. Primary sources of imports are Germany, England, and China. According to The American Fire Sprinkler Association and U.S. fire sprinkler producers, there are no known domestic producers of the subject glass bulbs.

<sup>1</sup> Industry analyst preparing report: Vincent DeSapio (202-205-3435); Tariff Affairs contact: Jan Summers (202-205-2605).

<sup>2</sup> An electronic copy of this memorandum is available at [http://usitc.gov/tata/hts/other/rel\\_doc/bill\\_reports/index.htm](http://usitc.gov/tata/hts/other/rel_doc/bill_reports/index.htm).

**Estimated effect on customs revenue:**

| <b>HTS subheading: 7020.00.60</b>           |             |             |             |             |             |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <del> </del>                                | 2005        | 2006        | 2007        | 2008        | 2009        |
| Col. 1-General rate of duty (AVE) <u>1/</u> | 5.0%        | 5.0%        | 5.0%        | 5.0%        | 5.0%        |
| Estimated value <i>dutiable</i> imports     | \$7,000,000 | \$7,000,000 | \$7,000,000 | \$7,000,000 | \$7,000,000 |
| Customs revenue loss                        | \$350,000   | \$350,000   | \$350,000   | \$350,000   | \$350,000   |

1/ The AVE is the ad valorem equivalent of a specific or compound duty rate expressed as a percent, using the most recent import data available.

Source of estimated dutiable import data: Industry estimates.

**Contacts with domestic firms/organizations (including the proponent):**

| Name of firm/organization                               | Date contacted | US production of same or competitive product claimed? | Submission attached? | Opposition noted? |
|---|----------------|---|----------------------|-------------------|
|   |                | (Yes/No)  |                      |                   |
| Tyco Fire & Security (subsidiary of Tyco International) | 7/11/2005      | No  | No                   | No                |
| Viking Corporation                                      | 7/12/2005      | No  | No                   | No                |
| Globe Fire Sprinkler Corp.                              | 7/12/2005      | No  | No                   | No                |
| Reliable Automatic Fire Sprinkler Corp.                 | 7/14/2005      | No  | No                   | No                |
| The American Fire Sprinkler Association                 | 7/12/2005      | No  | No                   | No                |

**Technical comments:<sup>3</sup>**

It is suggested that the article description be amended as shown on page 1 of this report, to be slightly clearer and to avoid criteria (the expansion and breakage of the bulb) that do not apply at the time of importation. The “designed for” criterion coupled with existing Customs practice for these goods should be sufficient to indicate and limit the scope of this bill.

<sup>3</sup> The Commission may express an opinion on the HTS classification of a product to facilitate consideration of the bill. However, by law, only the U.S. Customs Service is authorized to issue a binding ruling on this matter. The Commission believes that the U.S. Customs Service should be consulted prior to enactment of the bill.

109<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 2016

To suspend temporarily the duty on glass bulbs, designed for sprinkler systems and other release devices, filled with liquid that expands and breaks the bulb at a release temperature predetermined by the manufacturer.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 28, 2005

Mr. SHAW introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

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## A BILL

To suspend temporarily the duty on glass bulbs, designed for sprinkler systems and other release devices, filled with liquid that expands and breaks the bulb at a release temperature predetermined by the manufacturer.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. CERTAIN GLASS THERMO BULBS.**

4       (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 99 of  
5       the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States is  
6       amended by inserting in numerical sequence the following:

|   |            |   |      |           |           |                         |    |
|---|------------|---|------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------|----|
| “ | 9902.70.07 | Glass bulbs designed for sprinkler systems and other release devices, filled with liquid that expands and breaks (provided for in sub-heading 7020.00.60) ..... | Free | No change | No change | On or before 12/31/2008 | ”. |
|---|------------|---|------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------|----|

1           (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by  
 2 subsection (a) applies to goods entered, or withdrawn from  
 3 warehouse for consumption, on or after the 15th day after  
 4 the date of the enactment of this Act.

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