



SCIENTIFIC SUB-COMMITTEE

41.674 E

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13th Session

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SC3

Brussels, 9 October 1997.

PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE NOMENCLATURE AND EXPLANATORY NOTES

CONCERNING POLYMERS

(Item II.13 on Agenda)

Reference documents :

41.480 (RSC/16)

41.580, Annex B/17 (RSC/16 - Report)

I. BACKGROUND

1. At its 16th Session (September 1997), the Harmonized System Review Sub-Committee quickly examined a proposal by the Canadian Administration concerning the terminology used to name polymers in the HS Nomenclature and Explanatory Notes. However, given the technical nature of this question, the Sub-Committee decided to submit it to the Scientific Sub-Committee.

II. SECRETARIAT COMMENTS

2. For the comments submitted by the Canadian Administration, the Scientific Sub-Committee is referred to the RSC/16 working document, 41.180. As can be seen in paragraph 7 of that document, Canada has proposed a two-stage approach for clarifying polymer names in the Harmonized System : (i) certain editorial revisions to the French version of the Nomenclature and Explanatory Notes for Chapter 39 and (ii) a systematic revision of polymer names (French and English) in other parts of the Harmonized System to the format suggested by the IUPAC/ISO. As noted by Canada in subparagraph 7 (b), if the Sub-Committee agrees to pursue the second stage, it would submit further proposals to the Secretariat in that regard.
3. Specific proposals concerning the first stage proposed by Canada are set forth in Annex B to Doc. 41.480. The Secretariat's comments concerning both stages of the proposal are given in paragraphs 8 to 15 of that document.

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III. CONCLUSIONS

4. The Sub-Committee is requested to examine the general two-stage approach proposed by Canada (paragraph 7 to Doc. 41.480) and to give its views on the following :
- (a) whether to take a limited or systematic approach to the Canadian proposal (see paragraphs 12 and 13 of Doc. 41.480);
  - (b) whether the first-stage amendments proposed by Canada in Annex B to Doc. 41.480 are acceptable; and
  - (c) if the Sub-Committee agrees to pursue the second stage, whether the products listed in paragraph 14 to Doc. 41.480 are within the scope of polymer names for possible amendment.
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