



SCIENTIFIC SUB-COMMITTEE

42.191 E

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14th Session

O. Eng.

SC-3

Brussels, 21 January 1999.

POSSIBLE CREATION OF A NEW HEADING FOR BIODEGRADABLE PLASTICS
AND ARTICLES THEREOF

(Item II.1 on Agenda)

Reference documents :

39.982 (RSC/13)
40.180, Annex C/9 (RSC/13 – Report)
40.206 (SSC/11)
40.372 (SSC/11)
40.460, Annex A/4 (SSC/11 – Report)
40.755 (SSC/12)
40.771 (SSC/12)
41.662 (SSC/13)
41.690, Annex A/2 (SSC/13/Report)

I. BACKGROUND

1. At its 13th Session (December 1997), the Scientific Sub-Committee continued its examination of a proposal by Japan for the creation of a new heading for biodegradable plastics and articles thereof.
2. The Japanese Delegate took the view that separate identification of biodegradable plastics in the HS was important because of environmental concerns and the potential growth in the trade of these products. However, some delegates had doubts as to the need for separate identification of these products, in the light of increasing tendencies towards plastics recycling. There were also differing views as to how and where to locate any new categories for these products in the HS structure.
3. Following the discussion, the Sub-Committee decided to re-examine this matter at its next session. The Japanese Administration was asked to provide further information in this regard, in particular, the basis for selecting biodegradable plastics for separate

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identification, criteria for distinguishing them from other plastics and the uses of these products. Other administrations were also invited to submit comments in this regard.

II. SUBMISSION FROM THE JAPANESE ADMINISTRATION

4. On 21 December 1998, the Secretariat received a note from the Japanese Administration, including a table of information concerning the biodegradability, uses and suggested HS classifications of some of the biodegradable products in question. This table is reproduced in the Annex to this document.

III. CONCLUSION

5. The Sub-Committee is invited to examine the information appearing in the annex and to give its views concerning whether and how to identify these products separately in the Harmonized System.

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Trade name	Biopol	Biopol	Mater-Bi	Bionolle 1000	Bionolle 3000	Lunare SE	-
Synthesis	Biochemical	Biochemical	natural	chemical	chemical	chemical	ch
Company	Monsanto Japan Ltd.	Monsanto Japan Ltd.	The Nippon Synthetic Chemical Industry Co., Ltd.	Showa High Polymer Co., Ltd.	Showa High Polymer Co., Ltd.	Nippon Shokubai Co., Ltd.	Mi Gz Cf Cc
Chemical name	3-hydroxybutyrate 3-hydroxyvalerate copolymer	Poly(3-hydroxybutyrate)	Thermoplastic substances consisting of starch blended with poly(vinyl alcohol) or poly(caprolactone)	Polybutylene succinate	Polybutylene succinate adipate	Polyethylene succinate	Ali pc ca
Reference testing method	JIS K6950 (ISO DIS 14851)	Spec. ref. material of ISO DIS 14851 and 14852	JIS K6950 (ISO DIS 14851)	JIS K6950 (ISO DIS 14851)	ISO DIS 14855	ISO DIS 14855	JIS (IS 14
Biodegradability	28 days ➤ 90%		28 days 75% 46 days 85%	30 days 30% 90 days 60%	20 days 70% 45 days 87%	53 days 90%	91 60
Laboratory	Chemicals & Inspection Institute, Japan		(Self)	(Self)	O.W.S. Belgium	O.W.S. Belgium	(S

Annex to Doc. 42.191 E

HS classification	3907.99	3907.99	3911.90 or 3905.30	3907.99	3907.99	3907.99	3939
Wrapping uses	Plastic bags for electronic goods, clothes, etc.; food wrappers	Food wrappers	Compost bags, wrapping films	Compost bags, shopping bags, foamed bags, air-cap	Compost bags, shopping bags, wrapping film	-	Cc ba sh ba wr filr
Container uses	Bottles, vessels, coatings for disposable cups	Bottles, vessels, coatings for disposable cups	Containers moulded at vacuum pressure	Bottles, vessels, caps for cosmetics bottles	Bottles, vessels	-	Bc ve
Stuffing uses	-	-	Loose fillers	Cellular sheet, stuffing	Cellular sheet	-	Ce sh
Medical and sanitation uses	Surgery patch, drug release	-	Sanitary items, diaper liners	Nonwovens for diapers	Nonwovens for diapers	-	Nc foi
Agriculture/marine/construction uses	Cages, flowerpots, agricultural film and netting	Cages, flowerpots, agricultural film and netting	Flowerpots, film, netting, sheets	Flowerpots, netting, mats, mulch film, runner clips for agricultural sheets, fishing line, pile, netting, traffic cones, sheets, ropes	Flowerpots, netting,, mats, mulch film, runner clips for agricultural sheets	-	Fk ne m: filr clij ag sh
Other uses	Grips for	Grips for	Stationery,	Golf-tees,	Golf-tees	-	Gc

	razors, cases, cards, golf- tees	razors, cases	golf-tees, models	stationery, cards			
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