



HS REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE
WORKING GROUP

-
2nd Session
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NR0473E1
(+ Annex)

O. Eng.

Brussels, 8 October 2003.

POSSIBLE NEW HEADING FOR PRINTING MACHINERY (INCLUDING COPYING,
FAX AND COMBINATION MACHINES)
(PROPOSALS BY JAPAN AND THE EC)
(Item II.5 on Agenda)

Reference documents :

NR0320E1 (RSC/26)
NR0323E1 (RSC/26)
NR0332E2, Annexes C/18 and F/11
(RSC/26 – Report)
NR0334E1 (RSC/WG/1)

NR0335E1 (RSC/WG/1)
NR0387E1 (RSC/WG/1)
NR0389E1 (RSC/WG/1)
NR0400B3, Annex G, paragraphs 5 to 7
(RSC/27 – Report)

I. BACKGROUND

1. At its 26th Session (September 2002), the Review Sub-Committee held a preliminary discussion on possible amendments to Chapters 84, 85, 90 and 95 concerning information technology products (Doc. NR0323E1 – EC proposal), including the possibility of regrouping certain machines and apparatus with the printing machines of current heading 84.43.
2. At its 1st Session, the Working Group of the Review Sub-Committee concluded that there was some agreement among delegates to regroup printers, facsimile machines and multifunction machines in a single heading, including copiers of present heading 90.09, although Japan was not in favour of the latter transfer. Given the EC and US proposals to this end (i.e., proposed heading 85.65 and heading 84.43, respectively), the Director indicated that the Secretariat would withdraw its proposal to amend heading 84.72 and related headings with a view to regrouping multifunction machines, facsimile machines and teleprinters. In this context, it was noted that, if the regrouping were accepted, Note 5 to Chapter 84 also needed to be updated.

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3. Some delegates were of the view that the machines of current heading 90.09 would no longer be produced by 2007 and that, therefore, that heading would be empty. Others noted that this assumption very much depended on the question of whether multifunction machines would be classified in heading 90.09 or elsewhere.
4. The Chairperson concluded that there was consensus to regroup printers, multifunction machines, facsimile machines and teleprinters. Delegates agreed that the foregoing machines might have, *inter alia*, an ADP function. In this connection, Japan reiterated that the machines concerned must have a digital data processing function.
5. In a subsequent informal meeting concerning the restructuring of headings in Chapters 84, 85 and 90, it was agreed that the EC and Japan would work out a proposal for a separate heading covering printers, copiers, plotters, multifunction machines having two or more of the following functions : printing, scanning and faxing, and facsimile apparatus.
6. Prior to the 28th Session of the Review Sub-Committee, an informal group of participants from Canada, Japan, the United States and the EC met together with officials of the Secretariat. During this meeting, two alternative proposals were worked out, which are reproduced in the Annex to this document.

II. SECRETARIAT COMMENTS

7. The Secretariat has prepared a set of draft amendments to the Nomenclature with a view to creating a heading covering printers, copiers, plotters, multifunction machines having two or more of the following functions : printing, scanning and faxing, and facsimile apparatus. Given the reference to heading 84.42 for certain types of the machinery to be covered by this heading, the Secretariat considers that it could be numbered as heading 84.43. This implies that, if the new scope of that heading is accepted, the codes of the subheadings have to be reviewed in the context of the practice not to re-use code numbers.
8. With respect to the two alternative proposals, the Secretariat would like to note the following. First, the heading text and the structured nomenclature in the Japanese proposal are similar to those suggested by the United States in Doc. NR0320E1 (RSC/26). However, the Secretariat has placed the references to "printing type, blocks" in the heading text and in the corresponding text at subheading level, in square brackets, following the Committee's decision to delete them from the heading text (HSC/30).
9. Second, the Secretariat has prepared consequential amendments elsewhere in the Nomenclature, in particular to the headings which are affected by the revised text of heading 84.43. This applies to both alternative proposals.

III. CONCLUSION

10. The Working Group is invited to examine the revised text of heading 84.43 and the consequential amendments, as set out in the Annex to this document, taking into account the comments of the Secretariat in paragraphs 7 to 9 above.

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