



HARMONIZED SYSTEM  
REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE  
-  
21st Session  
-

NR0085E1  
(+Annex)  
O. Fr.  
  
H3-1

Brussels, 15 December 1999.

NEW SUBHEADING EXPLANATORY NOTE TO SUBHEADING 8524.34

REGARDING DIGITAL VIDEO DISCS

(Item II.A.12 on Agenda)

Reference documents :

NC0090E2, Annex F/1, paragraph 35 (HSC/23 - Report)  
NR0063B1, paragraph 4 (RSC/20)

I. BACKGROUND

1. At its 23rd Session (May 99) the Harmonized System Committee agreed to create a new subheading for digital video discs (subheading 8524.34) and instructed the Secretariat to draft a Subheading Explanatory Note defining the scope of this term, for examination at the Review Sub-Committee's 20<sup>th</sup> Session.
2. The Sub-Committee agreed to a proposal by the Secretariat that this item be postponed until its 21<sup>st</sup> Session, given that administrations had not made any proposals.

II. SECRETARIAT COMMENTS

3. At the time of writing , the Secretariat had still not received any suggestions from administrations. The appended draft has therefore been prepared on the basis of information extracted from technical documentation available in the Secretariat or on the Internet.
4. First of all, according to this documentation the acronym DVD (which originally stood for *Digital Video Disc* and later for *Digital Versatile Disc*, given that these discs were also used as computer media) refers to the new generation of high-capacity discs for use with a

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laser optical reading system. The acronym DVD covers three essential categories of disc, DVD-Audio, DVD-Video and DVD-ROM, all of which have the same physical format and capacity but differ in their logical format due to the differences in their content.

5. DVD-Video differs from DVD-ROM in that the former contain only digitalized video programmes (image and sound) and are read and converted by a DVD player connected to a television receiver or a projection system (e.g., a video projector), whereas the latter contain computer data and are read by a drive connected to an automatic data processing machine.
6. However, according to the documentation consulted most computers nowadays are equipped with a DVD-ROM drive and an additional card for decoding video and sound, so they can also read DVD-Video discs. The Secretariat therefore feels that the essential criterion for differentiating them is the content of these DVDs (video) and has prepared an Explanatory Note on this basis. In this proposal, the phrase "by a television receiver or a projection system" has been put in square brackets.

### III. CONCLUSION

7. The Sub-Committee is asked for its views as to the draft Subheading Explanatory Note annexed hereto.

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Annexe au  
Doc. NR0085B1  
Annex to  
(SCR/21/fév. 2000)  
(RSC/21/Feb. 2000)

ANNEXE

NOUVELLE NOTE EXPLICATIVE DE SOUS-POSITION CONCERNANT  
LES DISQUES VIDEO NUMERIQUES DU N° 8524.34  
(Point II.A.12 de l'ordre du jour)

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ANNEX

NEW SUBHEADING EXPLANATORY NOTE TO SUBHEADING 8524.34  
REGARDING DIGITAL VIDEO DISCS  
(Item II.A.12 on Agenda)

PROCEDURE DE L'ARTICLE 16  
MODIFICATIONS DES NOTES EXPLICATIVES

Page 1487. N° 85.24. Notes explicatives de sous-positions. Nouvelle Note explicative du n° 8524.34

Insérer la nouvelle Note explicative de sous-position suivante, avant "**N° 8524.39**" :

**"N° 8524.34**

Au sens de cette sous-position, on entend par *disques vidéo numériques*, les disques enregistrés numériquement pour systèmes de lecture optique par faisceau laser, destinés à la reproduction de programmes vidéophoniques (images et son) [sur un récepteur de télévision ou un système de projection], à l'aide d'un appareil de lecture approprié."

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ARTICLE 16 PROCEDURE  
AMENDMENTS TO THE EXPLANATORY NOTES

Page 1487. Heading 85.24. Subheading Explanatory Notes. New Explanatory Note to subheading 8524.34

Insert the following new Subheading Explanatory Note, before “**Subheading 8524.39**” :

**“Subheading 8524.34**

For the purposes of this subheading, “digital video discs” are discs recorded digitally for laser optical reading systems and intended for the reproduction of videophonic (image and sound) programmes [through a television receiver or projection system]”.

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