



HARMONIZED SYSTEM
REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE

-
24th Session
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NR0173E1
(+ Annex)
O. Eng.

Brussels, 25 July 2001.

POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS TO THE NOMENCLATURE
REGARDING THE CLASSIFICATION OF CAMERAS

(Item III.A.5 on Agenda)

Reference documents :

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| NC0055E1 (HSC/23) | NR0101E2, Annex E/15 (RSC/21 – Report) |
| NR0072E2, Annex C, paragraph 94 (RSC/20 – Report) | NR0118E1 (RSC/22) |
| NR0086E1 (RSC/21) | NR0133E2, Annex D/8 (RSC/22 – Report) |
| NR0093E1 (RSC/21) | NR0141E1 (RSC/23) |
| NR0095E1 (RSC/21) | NR0152E1 (RSC/23) |
| NR0101E2, Annex B/12 (RSC/21 – Report) | NR0165E2, Annex D/8 (RSC/22 – Report) |

I. BACKGROUND

1. At its 22nd Session in September 2000, the Review Sub-Committee examined the Canadian and Secretariat proposals for the future classification of cameras. It was pointed out that these proposals concerned two questions, the possible transfer of certain cameras from heading 85.25 to heading 90.06 and the wording of the texts. Further, the proposals for the subheading text were applicable to the structures being considered under both headings.
2. One delegate indicated his initial support for the Secretariat proposal because it would remove some of the problems that his administration envisaged arising from the text of heading 85.25 under the 2002 version of the HS. The Canadian proposal to group all cameras in one heading (90.06) would, in his administration's view, not take into account the convergence of technology taking place with regard to devices in this area. For example, still image cameras can now take short videos and video cameras can now take still images. In his opinion, it was not advisable to separate digital cameras from other video camera recorders with a semicolon. In this connection, one delegate pointed out that the cameras of present heading 85.25 should be retained in Chapter 85 as electrical machinery, because the

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technique used in these cameras was completely different from the photographic cameras of heading 90.06.

3. The Sub-Committee finally decided to combine the Canadian and Secretariat proposals into one proposal. The Secretariat was asked to draft such a combined proposal for the RSC's next session. Any administration wishing to make a proposal in this connection was invited to do so in writing. At the time of drafting of this document, the Secretariat had received no such submissions from administrations.

II. SECRETARIAT COMMENTS

4. Following the Sub-Committee's instructions, the Secretariat has combined the Canadian proposal and the Secretariat text by deleting subheadings 8525.30 and 8525.40 and transferring those subheadings to newly proposed subheadings 9006.70 and 9006.80. In addition, the Secretariat has maintained its proposal for heading text changes (for cameras) and transferred it to heading 90.06. The Secretariat would draw the Sub-Committee's attention to paragraph 5 of the Annex to Doc. NR0152E1. The Secretariat has added to its proposal the word "camcorder" in parenthesis after the term "other video cameras", as suggested by the Canadian Administration in paragraph 5 (ii) of that Annex. In addition, the Secretariat has made the consequential amendments to subheadings 9006.10 to 9006.59 as suggested by the Canadian Administration in paragraph 9. The Secretariat would finally point out that the word "photographic" was added to the English text only, as the French text already specifically referred to "photographic cameras".

III. CONCLUSION

5. The Sub-Committee is invited to take account of the Secretariat's comments above and the attached Annex when it examines this Agenda item.

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