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HARMONIZED SYSTEM
COMMITTEE

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Brussels, 1 October 1999.

CLASSIFICATION OF THE "MEDIA COMPOSER 1000"

(Item VIII.18 on Agenda)

Reference documents :

40.179	41.000, Annex A/VIII (HSC/19 – Report)
40.260, Annex IJ/26 (HSC/17 – Report)	41.100, Annex F/8 (HSC/19)
40.600, Annex IJ/4 (HSC/18 – Report)	41.100, Annex K/16 (HSC/19)
40.892	NC0071E1

I. BACKGROUND

1. Subsequent to the publication of Doc. NC0071E1, containing the United States request to have the Committee re-examine the classification of the "Media Composer 1000" and its appended Note, the Secretariat, through the assistance of the International Chamber of Commerce, arranged for the manufacturer to demonstrate the operation of this product to its technical staff. The Committee is advised that such a demonstration will be made available to delegates on 12 October 1999, during the Committee's 24th Session. The information obtained during the demonstration is provided below.

II. SECRETARIAT COMMENTS

2. A description of the "Media Composer 1000" system classified by the Committee at its 18th Session is contained in Classification Opinion 8543.89/4, page 40aE. Following the manufacturer's demonstration, the Secretariat would describe the "Media Composer 1000" system as follows, with Secretariat emphasis to show where the description differs from that shown in the Classification Opinion:

"System, consisting of a combination of machines, and software which enables it to record digital video images, create video effects, or edit and finalize video programmes for broadcasting. The system is capable of sending and receiving video signals. Inside the system, video signals are converted into digital signals so that they can be processed by the central processing unit. The system consists of the following components :

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- (i) one central processing unit;
- (ii) two colour display units (monitors) (with a non-interlaced scanner for displaying data, and an interlaced scanner for video presentations); one of these units shows digital operations conducted by the central unit and the other shows the final result;
- (iii) input unit in the form of a keyboard;
- (iv) 4 and 9 Gb (gigabyte) magnetic hard disk storage;
- (v) AVID logging software;
- (vi) video coprocessor board;
- (vii) JANUS compression board;
- (viii) DVE real-time board;
- (ix) audiomeia II sound board;
- (x) SCSI-II accelerator board;
- (xi) two amplified speakers.
- (xii) “Media Composer” software on CD-ROM, which enables the “Media Composer 1000” system to record digital video images, create video effects, or edit and finalize video programmes for broadcasting.

3. The Secretariat understands that the term “Media Composer” by itself refers only to the software contained in the system.

4. In a meeting with the Secretariat, the manufacturer explained that they sell “turn-key” systems such as the “Media Composer 1000” or, alternatively, the customer can provide his/her own ADP machine. In such a case, the manufacturer will sell just its software and will recommend to the buyer those manufacturers of the various boards mentioned in the Classification Opinion who meet certain minimum standards of operation (for speed, etc.), in order to run the “Media Composer” software.

5. The manufacturer’s demonstration established to the satisfaction of the Secretariat that the function of the system is the processing of information based on whatever program is used with the machine. The demonstration showed the user being able to access WORD, the Internet, etc. The recommended boards are of the kind usually found in standard automatic data processing machines, but possessing a higher capacity.

6. Based on this demonstration, it is the Secretariat’s view that the system classified by the Committee at its 18th Session (see Classification Opinion 8543.89/4, page 40aE) concerned an ADP machine not dedicated for any particular use but freely programmable. This system was accompanied by specific software to enable it to record digital video images, create video effects, or edit and finalize video programmes for broadcasting. Consequently, the ADP machine would meet the terms of Notes 5 (A) and 5 (B) and, as a result, would be classifiable in heading 84.71 (subheading 8471.49 by application of

subheading Note 1 to Chapter 84). In accordance with Note 6 to Chapter 85, the "Media Composer" software would be classifiable in heading 85.24 (subheading 8524.39).

III. CONCLUSION

7. The Committee is invited to rule on the classification of the "Media Composer 1000", taking into account the comments of the United States Administration in Doc. NC0071E1 and the Secretariat's comments in paragraphs 2 to 6 above.
