

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20436

**MEMORANDUM ON PROPOSED TARIFF LEGISLATION
of the 110th Congress¹**

[Date approved: May 14, 2008]²

Bill No. and sponsor: H.R. 4886 (Mr. Bob Filner of California).

Proponent name³, location: Hitachi America, Ltd., Brisbane, CA.

Other bills on product (110th Congress only): None.

Nature of bill: Extension of temporary duty suspension through December 31, 2011.

Retroactive effect: None.

Suggested article description(s) for enactment (including appropriate HTS subheading(s)):

Camcorders each capable of recording and reproducing video images on mini-DVD media in all the following formats: DVD-R, DVD-RW, DVD-RAM, or DVD+RW, the foregoing each with an internal 20 gigabyte (20G) hard disk drive and a USB 2.0 port (provided for in subheading 8525.80.50).

Check one: Same as that in bill as introduced.
 Different from that in bill as introduced (see Technical comments section).

Product information, including uses/applications and source(s) of imports:

A camcorder is an electronic device combining a video camera and video recorder in one device. These camcorders record video images onto a media known as mini-DVD, an optical recording disc of 80cm in diameter. There are four separate recording formats for mini-DVD media: DVD-R, DVD-RW, DVD-RAM, or DVD+RW. The subject camcorder can record and reproduce images using all of these formats. The camcorder can also record video on an internal 20G hard disk drive. Such a camcorder also incorporates a USB 2.0 port to permit video images to be uploaded to and downloaded from a computer.

Dutiable U.S. imports of all goods under HTS subheading 8525.80.50 exceeded \$1.6 billion in 2007. Japan is the principal source of such camcorders, with nearly \$992 million in imports. The subheading covers other goods in addition to the subject camcorders.

¹ Industry analyst preparing report: John Kitzmiller (202-205-3387); Tariff Affairs contact: Jan Summers (202-205-2605).

² Access to an electronic copy of this memorandum is available at http://usitc.gov/tata/hts/other/rel_doc/bill_reports/index.htm.

³ The sponsor/proponent did not identify any additional beneficiaries of this bill.

Estimated effect on customs revenue:

HTS subheading: 8525.80.50					
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Col. 1-General rate of duty	2.1%	2.1%	2.1%	2.1%	2.1%
Estimated value <i>dutiable</i> imports	\$23,000,000	\$23,500,000	\$24,000,000	\$24,000,000	\$24,000,000
Customs revenue loss <u>1/</u>	\$0	\$493,500	\$504,000	\$504,000	\$504,000

1/ There is an existing duty suspension under HTS heading 9902.23.36 that expires on December 31, 2009. Therefore, there will be no customs revenue loss related to this bill for 2009.

Source of estimated dutiable import data: U.S. industry and Commission estimates.

Contacts with domestic firms/organizations (including the proponent):

Name of firm/organization	Date contacted	Claim US makes same or competing product(s)?	Submission attached?	Opposition noted?
		(Yes/No)		
Hitachi America, Ltd. (Proponent) Andrew Durant, 202-223-7683	03/21/2008	No	No	No
Canon USA Susan Turner, 516-328-4824	03/24/2008	No	No	No
JVC Co. Tom St. Maxens, 202-966-9000	03/24/2008	No	No	No
Panasonic Co. Madeline Kuflik, 201-348-7000	0324/2008	No	No	No
Samsung America John Godfrey, 202-887-5667	03/24/2008	No	No	No
Sony Co. Christina Mulvihill, 202-429-3653	03/24/2008	No	No	No

Technical comments:⁴

The title of this bill and the parenthetical reference to the coverage of the HTS heading describe these goods as DVD readers and writers. However, the goods in question are camcorders that contain a DVD reader/writer, and using that language would help make the intent of the bill clearer.

⁴ The Commission may express an opinion on the HTS classification of a product to facilitate consideration of the bill. However, by law, only the U.S. Customs Service is authorized to issue a binding ruling on this matter. The Commission believes that the U.S. Customs Service should be consulted prior to enactment of the bill.

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4886

To extend the temporary suspension of duty on certain DVD readers and writers.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 19, 2007

Mr. FILNER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To extend the temporary suspension of duty on certain DVD readers and writers.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. CERTAIN DVD READERS AND WRITERS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Heading 9902.23.36 of the Har-
5 monized Tariff Schedule of the United States (relating to
6 certain DVD readers and writers) is amended by striking
7 the date in the effective period column and inserting “12/
8 31/2011”.

9 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
10 subsection (a) applies to goods entered, or withdrawn from

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- 1 warehouse for consumption, on or after the 15th day after
- 2 the date of the enactment of this Act.

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