



SCIENTIFIC SUB-COMMITTEE

NS0007E1
(+ Annex)

-
15th Session
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O. Eng.

Brussels, 7 December 1999.

AMENDMENT OF THE EXPLANATORY NOTE TO HEADING 29.15

(Item II.6 on Agenda)

Reference documents :

42.240 (RSC/18)	NC0016E1 (HSC/23)
42.500, Annex B/8 (RSC/18 - Report)	NC0017E1 (HSC/23)
42.762 (SSC/14)	NC0090E2, Annexes E/1, F/1, N/9, O/5 and Q (HSC/23 – Report)
42.850, Annex A/9 (SSC/14 - Report)	NR0072E2, Annexes C/5 and D/6 (RSC/20 – Report)
NR0015E1 (RSC/19)	
NR0045E2, Annex A/15 (RSC/19 - Report)	

1. BACKGROUND

1. The Harmonized System Committee at its 23rd Session adopted an amendment to subheading 2915.60 under the Article 16 procedure (Annex Q to Doc. NC0090E2). The text adopted reads “Butanoic acids, pentanoic acids, their salts and esters”.
2. The Review Sub-Committee at its 20th Session examined corresponding amendments to the Explanatory Note to heading 29.15, Items (V) and (VI). However, the Review Sub-Committee felt it desirable to seek the views of the Scientific Sub-Committee and agreed to place the proposed texts in square brackets pending the outcome of discussions in the Scientific Sub-Committee (see Annex D/6/6 to Doc.NR0072B2). The Explanatory Note texts originally proposed by the Secretariat are reproduced in Part A of the Annex to this document.

II. SECRETARIAT COMMENTS

3. The Secretariat proposed the above-mentioned texts in order to bring them into conformity with the amendment made to subheading 2915.60. However, on further reflection, the Secretariat has noticed that certain modifications are required.

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Item (V)

4. The Secretariat understands that the term "Butanoic acids" in new subheading 2915.60 is synonymous with the term "Butyric acids" of present subheading 2915.60 and the scopes of the two subheadings are identical, given the discussions held regarding the above mentioned amendments and the fact that both terms are written in the plural. Based on this understanding the term "Butyric acids" in item (V) should be amended to read "Butanoic acids".
5. Consequently, the Secretariat considers that it would be appropriate to amend the relevant parts of Item (V) (a) and (V) (b) to read "n-butanoic acid" and "isobutanoic acid". However, the Secretariat would point out that these terms are not widely used, particularly "isobutanoic acid". Neither "n-butanoic acid" nor "isobutanoic acid" appear in Hawley's Chemical Dictionary (Twelfth Edition). However as regards the former, a reference appears in Doc. 42.240. The latter is mentioned in the Encyclopedia of Food and Colour Additives, Burdock, G.A. (ed.) (1995), which indicates that "isobutanoic acid" is synonymous with "isobutyric acid".
6. Under the circumstances, the Secretariat would propose that the current references to these products, which are common names, should remain in the relevant Explanatory Note in order to avoid confusion and misunderstanding. Moreover, with regard to Item (V) (b), the Secretariat would also suggest to insert "2-methylpropanoic acid" in parentheses. The revised texts are set out in Part B of the Annex to this document.

Item (VI)

7. For the reasons mentioned in paragraphs 4 to 6 above, the Secretariat considers that the term "valeric acids" of Item (VI) should be amended to read "pentanoic acids". The term "n-valeric acid" of Item (VI)(a) should also be amended to read "n-pentanoic acid" and the former should remain in the relevant part of the Explanatory Note.
8. As regards Item (VI) (b), by analogy with the above, the term "isopentanoic acid" should be introduced. However, according to the technical literature available to the Secretariat, the scope of the term "isopentanoic acid" is different depending on the books consulted. Moreover, the scope of the currently used term "isovaleric acid" is also not clearly defined. Under the circumstances, the Secretariat has listed possible isomers and placed them in square brackets for consideration by the Scientific Sub-Committee. The revised texts are set out in Part B of the Annex to this document.

III. CONCLUSION

9. Taking into account of the Secretariat's comments above, the Sub-Committee is invited to examine the draft amendments to the Explanatory Notes as set out in the Annex.

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Annexe au Doc. NS0007B1
Annex to

(SCS/15/janv. 99)
(SSC/15/Jan 99)

ANNEXE

MODIFICATION A APPORTER EVENTUELLEMENT

AUX NOTES EXPLICATIVES DU N° 29.15

(Point II.6 de l'ordre du jour)

ANNEX

POSSIBLE AMENDMENT OF THE EXPLANATORY NOTE

TO HEADING 29.15

(Item II.6 on Agenda)

PROCEDURE DE L'ARTICLE 16
MODIFICATION DES NOTES EXPLICATIVES

Partie A : Proposition initiale

Page 384. N° 29.15. Alinéas V) et VI).

Nouvelle rédaction :

V) **Acides butanoïques, leurs sels et leurs esters**

- a) **L'acide butanoïque (acide *n*-butyrique)** est un liquide dense, d'une odeur rance et désagréable, incolore, huileux que l'on emploie notamment pour le déchaulage des peaux.
- b) **L'acide isobutyrique (acide 2-méthylpropanoïque).**

VI) **Acides pentanoïques, leurs sels et leurs esters**

- a) **L'acide pentanoïque (acide *n*-valérique)** est un liquide huileux, incolore, transparent, d'odeur rance très désagréable.
- b) **L'acide isovalérique (acide isopropylacétique)**

Partie B : Proposition remaniée

Page 384. N° 29.15. Alinéas V) et VI).

Nouvelle rédaction :

V) **Acides butanoïques, leurs sels et leurs esters**

- a) **L'acide *n*-butanoïque (acide *n*-butyrique)** est un liquide dense, d'une odeur rance et désagréable, incolore, huileux que l'on emploie notamment pour le déchaulage des peaux.
- b) **Les acides isobutanoïques (acide isobutyrique ou acide 2-méthylpropanoïque).**

VI) **Acides pentanoïques, leurs sels et leurs esters**

- a) **L'acide *n*-pentanoïque (acide *n*-valérique)** est un liquide huileux, incolore, transparent, d'odeur rance très désagréable.
 - b) **L'acide isopentanoïque [acide 2-méthylbutyrique], [acide 3-méthylbutyrique]**
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ARTICLE 16 PROCEDURE
AMENDMENTS TO THE EXPLANATORY NOTES

Part A : Original Proposal.

Page 384. Heading 29.15. Items (V) and (VI).

Delete and substitute :

(V) **Butanoic acids and their salts and esters.**

- (a) **Butanoic acid (*n*-butyric acid)** is a dense, oily liquid with a disagreeable rancid odour; colourless. Used for delimiting hides.
- (b) **Isobutyric acid (2-methylpropanoic acid).**

(VI) **Pentanoic acids and their salts and esters.**

- (a) **Pentanoic acid (*n*-valeric acid)** is a colourless, transparent oily liquid with a very disagreeable rancid odour.
- (b) **Isovaleric acid (isopropylacetic acid)**

Part B : Revised Proposal.

Page 384. Heading 29.15. Items (V) and (VI).

Delete and substitute :

(V) **Butanoic acids and their salts and esters.**

- (a) ***n*-Butanoic acid (*n*-butyric acid)** is a dense, oily liquid with a disagreeable rancid odour; colourless. Used for delimiting hides.
- (b) **Isobutanoic acids (Isobutyric acid or 2-methylpropanoic acid).**

(VI) **Pentanoic acids and their salts and esters.**

- (a) ***n*-Pentanoic acid (*n*-valeric acid)** is a colourless, transparent oily liquid with a very disagreeable rancid odour.
 - (b) **Isopentanoic acid, [2-methylbutyric acid], [3-methylbutyric acid].**
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