



HARMONIZED SYSTEM
COMMITTEE

-
26th Session

NC0277E1

O. Fr.

H3-1

Brussels, 6 September 2000.

AMENDMENTS TO THE EXPLANATORY NOTES ARISING FROM THE
CLASSIFICATION OF GRAPHIC TABLETS AND DIGITIZERS IN SUBHEADING 8471.60

(Item VI.6 on Agenda)

Reference documents :

42.448 (HSC/22)
42.508 (HSC/22)
NC0160E2, Annex G/17, paragraph 7.2^o) (HSC/24 – Report)
NC0220E1 (HSC/25)
NC0250E2, Annex IJ/10 (HSC/25 – Report)

I. BACKGROUND

1. In the context of the examination of possible amendments to heading 84.71 (see Doc. 42.448 – HSC/24), the Harmonized System Committee was called upon to rule on the classification of graphic tablets/digitizers.
2. At its 25th Session in March 2000, the Committee unanimously agreed to classify graphic tablets/digitizers in subheading 8471.60 and to incorporate a reference to these products in the Explanatory Note to heading 84.71.
3. To reflect this decision the Secretariat was charged with preparing amendments to the Explanatory Notes concerned.

II. SECRETARIAT COMMENTS

4. Firstly, the Secretariat points out that based on its study (see Doc. NC0220E1 – HSC/25), graphic tablets and digitizers are two different types of products.
5. In this respect, the Secretariat observes that graphic tablets are defined as input peripherals making it possible to draw and create using an automatic data processing

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machine. They permit the user to capture the co-ordinates of a curve or any other geometric form without using a mouse. The user utilizes a rectangular board corresponding to a computer screen and a pointer or pen to draw, and a zoom linked to a cross-piece, making it possible to input data. There are sensors under the tablet analysing the pointer or pen's movements.

6. "Digitizers" have similar functions to graphic tablets. However, digitizer pointing devices may assume any shape, but must be small enough to be hand-held and moved around the (active) sensing region of the digitizer. Cross-hair cursors are the most common shape, as they provide the placement precision necessary for accurately capturing co-ordinates and tracing curved and irregular lines. Pointing devices usually include one or more buttons, and may include sliders, wheels, knobs or other valuating controls.
7. In view of the foregoing, these two types of devices differ in that while tablets are used for creating original art and drawings, as well as application menu selection and on-screen object control, digitizers are used almost exclusively for the capture of existing drawings that exist only in hard-copy form.
8. The Secretariat feels that graphic tablets and digitizers can be regarded both as additional input units mentioned as example (1) in Part (I)(D). of the Explanatory Note to heading 84.71, and as X-Y co-ordinate input devices mentioned as example (6) in the same text.
9. If the Committee shares this opinion, the Secretariat suggests that graphic tablets and digitizers be mentioned as machines classifiable in heading 84.71, without reference to various units used as examples in the Explanatory Note mentioned above.
10. The proposed texts are set out in the Annex hereto.

III. CONCLUSION

11. The Committee is invited to rule on the drafts annexed hereto once these have been finalized by the presessional Working Party.

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Annexe au
Doc. NC0277B1
Annex to

(CSH/26/nov. 2000)
(HSC/26/Nov. 2000)

MODIFICATION DES NOTES EXPLICATIVES DECOULANT DU CLASSEMENT DES
TABLETTES GRAPHIQUES ET DES NUMERISATEURS DANS LE N° 8471.60

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

AMENDMENTS TO EXPLANATORY NOTES ARISING FROM THE CLASSIFICATION OF
GRAPHIC TABLETS AND DIGITIZERS IN SUBHEADING 8471.60

(Item VI.6 on Agenda)

MODIFICATIONS DES NOTES EXPLICATIVES
A EFFECTUER PAR VOIE DE CORRIGENDUM

Page 1406. N° 84.71. Partie I. D. Nouveaux derniers paragraphes.

Après le dernier paragraphe actuel, ajouter les deux nouveaux paragraphes ci-après :

"Sont également classées dans la présente position les tablettes graphiques qui sont des unités d'entrée permettant à la fois de saisir des coordonnées et de tracer des courbes ou de toute autre forme géométrique. Ces appareils sont constitués d'une part, d'une planche rectangulaire correspondant à l'écran d'un ordinateur et d'un pointeur ou d'un stylet, pour dessiner des modèles, et d'autre part, d'une loupe associée à un croisillon, qui permet d'entrer des données.

Ce groupe couvre aussi les numériseurs qui ont des fonctions similaires à celles des tablettes graphiques. Ces appareils se distinguent toutefois des tablettes graphiques par le fait qu'ils sont utilisés presque exclusivement pour saisir des dessins n'existant que sur papier tandis que ces dernières sont utilisées pour créer des œuvres d'art et des dessins originaux, ainsi que pour la sélection sur menu au sein d'applications et la commande d'objets sur écran. Les dispositifs de pointage des numériseurs peuvent se présenter sous de multiples formes, mais doivent être suffisamment petits pour être tenus à la main et déplacés sur la région sensible (active) du numériseur. Les curseurs pointeurs sont les outils les plus couramment utilisés."

AMENDMENTS TO THE EXPLANATORY NOTES
TO BE MADE BY CORRIGENDUM

Page 1406. Heading 84.71. Part (I)(D). New last paragraphs.

After the present last paragraph, insert the following two new paragraphs :

“This heading also covers graphic tablets which are input devices making it possible to capture and trace the co-ordinates of a curve or any other geometrical form. This apparatus is composed of a rectangular board corresponding to a computer screen and a pointer or pen to draw models, and a zoom linked to a cross-piece, making it possible to input data.

This category also covers digitizers, which have similar functions to graphic tablets. However, while graphic tablets are used for creating original art and drawings, as well as application menu selection and on-screen object control, digitizers are used almost exclusively for the capture of existing drawings that exist only in hard-copy form. Digitizer pointing devices may assume any shape, but must be small enough to be hand-held and moved around the (active) sensing region of the digitizer. Cross-hair cursors are the most common shape.”
