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HARMONIZED SYSTEM
COMMITTEE
-
26th Session
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(+ Annex)
O. Fr.

Brussels, 25 September 2000.

AMENDMENT OF THE EXPLANATORY NOTE TO HEADING 56.06 WITH A VIEW TO DEFINING THE SCOPE OF THE EXPRESSIONS "CHENILLE YARN" AND "LOOP WALE-YARN"

(Item VII.12 on Agenda)

Reference documents :

NC0148E1 (HSC/24)
NC0250E2, Annex IJ/3 (HSC/25 – Report)
NC0273E1 (HSC/26)

I. BACKGROUND

1. At its 25th Session, the Harmonized System Committee examined the classification of certain special textile yarns and unanimously decided to classify the yarns at issue as chenille yarn of heading 56.06, by application of GIR 1.

2. Following this decision, the Secretariat was instructed to prepare two Classification Opinions and to undertake a study with a view to updating the Explanatory Note to heading 56.06 so as to define more clearly the scope of the expressions “chenille yarn” and “loop wale-yarn” within the meaning of that heading.

II. SECRETARIAT COMMENTS

3. The proposed amendments to the Compendium of Classification Opinions are covered under Agenda Item VI.2 (Doc. NC0273E1).

4. Regarding the modernization of the Explanatory Notes, in accordance with the Committee’s instructions, the Secretariat has undertaken a study to identify the current manufacturing methods for chenille yarn and loop wale-yarn.

5. The Secretariat would first point out that despite numerous enquiries made both to administrations and to the textile industry (federations and private companies), at the time of

File No. 2783

preparing this document it had not received any information enabling these special textile yarns to be clearly identified.

6. However, the Secretariat's searches in encyclopaedias and on the Internet (see the Annex hereto) have provided some information on these yarns. Nevertheless, the Secretariat feels that this information is too fragmented and insufficiently precise to fully rework the relevant parts of the Explanatory Note at issue. For example, the information obtained leads the Secretariat to believe that there are several methods of manufacturing chenille yarn, but that information does not enable it to check whether the processes described in the Explanatory Note are still up to date (especially manufacture from leno fabric). The Secretariat's research into "loop wale-yarn" has not so far yielded any results.

7. The Secretariat therefore felt that it would be premature to make a specific proposal and suggests continuing its enquiries. In this connection, it stresses the need for co-operation from Contracting Parties, given the Secretariat's limited resources and the difficulties it has encountered in obtaining information from trade circles.

8. To enable the Secretariat to prepare a new document for a future session, it feels that it would be useful for the Committee to take note of the comments below and to give initial guidance on the issues raised therein.

Chenille yarn

Nature of the yarn

9. It should first be noted that the expression "chenille yarn", yarn with a hairy appearance along its entire length, applies more to a characteristic of the yarn enabling it to be compared to a hairy caterpillar ("chenille") than to a given production method.

10. According to the information obtained, this yarn consists of strands of textile yarn twisted together and gripping, in each twist, short ends of textiles. The short ends are called "tufts", whereas the twisted strands of yarn constitute the '"core".

11. The Secretariat points out that this information more or less corresponds to the description in the Explanatory Note to heading 56.06, page 856, Part (B), first paragraph, first sentence, and that this sentence could therefore be maintained. However, in this sentence the Secretariat is inclined to think that the expression "which stand out practically perpendicularly" could be dispensed with, as this characteristic does not always appear to be characteristic of chenille yarn.

12. The Committee should also determine whether this description covers all chenille yarn, particularly the samples submitted by Japan and examined by the Committee, in which the tufts are held in loops formed on a knitting machine and not by twisting the yarn forming the core.

Manufacturing methods

13. According to the information currently available to the Secretariat, the following manufacturing methods appear to exist:

- Production on a ring twisting loom (see the manufacturing process described in the Annex hereto);

- Production on a Raschel loom or other knitting and crocheting machine (samples submitted by Japan);

- Production from leno fabric (process described in the current Explanatory Note).

14. The question arises as to whether the Explanatory Note should mention the manufacturing processes. If so, it should be determined (1) if the above-mentioned methods are those generally used to manufacture these yarns and if there are other known manufacturing methods; and (2) if the process described in the Explanatory Note is still applicable.

15. Moreover, by virtue of the current second paragraph of Part (B) of the Explanatory Note to heading 56.06, yarn obtained by flocking is also classified as chenille yarn. However, the textile industry does not appear to consider this type of yarn as real chenille yarn. Without querying the classification of this yarn, the Secretariat proposes deleting the word “chenille” in the first line of this paragraph.

Use

16. The Secretariat’s study has shown that chenille yarn can be used for both weaving and knitting and may be used in the manufacture of many articles (furnishing and bedding articles, carpets, various trimmings, clothing, etc.). It is therefore clear that the present text (third paragraph) of the Explanatory Note is too restrictive and no longer reflects the real situation.

17. The Secretariat leaves it for the Committee to decide whether this paragraph should be supplemented by other examples of use or other information. An alternative would be to delete this paragraph, which provides no assistance in classifying the yarn.

"Loop wale-yarn"

18. According to the French Larousse Encyclopaedia (ten volumes), the term “chainette" denotes “needle or crochet stitches comprising a series of loops linked to each other like the links of a chain” [translation].

19. To date, the Secretariat has been unable to find any information on this yarn, including on how it is manufactured. It should be noted that, in its letter of 3 February 1999, the Japanese Administration also indicated that all its research in this domain had been in vain.

III. CONCLUSION

20. The Committee is invited to take note of the above information as well as the information in the Annex hereto, and to rule on the issues raised by the Secretariat in paragraphs 11 and 12 (nature of chenille yarn), 14 (reference to manufacturing methods), 15 (yarn obtained by flocking) and 17 (use) of this document.

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DATA OBTAINED ON INTERNET

(Brochure prepared by the CIMA (Chenille International Manufacturer's Association)

The Nature of Chenille

Chenille yarn consists of short lengths of spun yarn or filament that are held together by two ends of highly twisted fine strong yarn. The short lengths are called the pile and the highly twisted yarns are called the core. Chenille yarn can be made from many different types of fibres and yarns. Most common are cotton, viscose (rayon), acrylic and polypropylene (olefin). Chenille yarn can be made in many different sizes, ranging from as heavy as Nm 0.2 to as fine as Nm 12.0.

The Manufacturing Process

Chenille yarn is manufactured on a machine that is designed to bring the pile yarns and core yarns together. During manufacture, the pile yarns are wrapped around a short stem of polished metal, called a caliper, through which a blade passes to cut the pile yarns into short lengths. The core yarns are pressed onto the short lengths with a rotating metal wheel.

The resulting yarn is then fed onto a traditional ring twisting take up mechanism. In the twisting process, the two ends of core yarn twist and trap the short ends of pile between the core yarns. The size of the caliper determines the diameter of the resulting yarn. The size and number of the pile yarns and how much of them are fed onto the core determines the count of the yarn.

Chenille Quality Tolerances

The nature of the chenille process results in a wider range of yield and twist variation compared to other yarn manufacturing processes. The yield and twist tolerances are as follows: International Specification for Chenille Count and Twist Tolerances :

Sample Size	**1**	**5**	**10**	**25**	**100**
Count/Yield (± %)	20.0	10.0	6.0	4.0	2.0
Twist (±%)	20.0	10.0	6.0	4.0	2.0

This is a new standard. For count/yield testing, these tolerances are based on a 25-metre sample length measured using standard practices for tension control in regulated temperature and humidity conditions. For twist, the tolerances are based on a standard twist tester in regulated temperature and humidity conditions.