

#### W O RLD CUS TO MS O RG ANIZATIO N O RG ANISATIO N MO NDIALE DES DO UANES

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## HARMONIZED SYSTEM COMMITTEE

27<sup>th</sup> Session

NC0353E1 (+ Annex) O. Eng.

Brussels, 23 April 2001.

#### NEW INFORMATION PROVIDED ON THE WCO WEB SITE

(Item II.7 on Agenda)

#### Reference documents:

NC0312E1 (HSC/26) NC0340E2, par. 48 and 49 (HSC/26 – Report)

#### I. BACKGROUND

- 1. At its 26<sup>th</sup> Session, the Committee was informed about the Harmonized System related publications on the WCO Web sites for the public and for Members, respectively.
- 2. One delegate suggested including the invitation to attend the HS Committee's Session on the Members Web site, while another delegate indicated that the "webmaster" address should be better indicated.

#### II. SECRETARIAT COMMENTS

#### **Public Web site**

- 3. During the intersession, the following items were published or updated on the public Web site:
  - (i) Publication of the decisions of the 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee (Classification Rulings, and amendments to the Explanatory Notes and to the Compendium of Classification Opinions);
  - (ii) Updating the list of e-mail addresses of Harmonized System officials in Customs administrations;
  - (iii) Publication of the correlation tables between HS 1996 and HS 2002, with an introduction; and
  - (iv) Publication of frequently asked questions.

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- 4. With respect to the list of e-mail addresses of Harmonized System officials in Customs Administrations (see paragraph 3 (ii) above), the Secretariat would like to invite administrations to verify the data contained in the list (which is reproduced in the Annex to this document), and, if necessary, to inform the Secretariat about any information that needs to be updated. In addition, officers of Customs administrations having e-mail connections but not listed, are invited to inform the Secretariat whether they wish to be included in this listing.
- 5. At the moment of the preparation of this document, the Secretariat is finalizing the publication of the HS Explanatory Notes and the HS Commodity Data Base via the Internet. These electronic publications, which can be consulted against payment, are expected to be operational beginning in early May.

#### **Members Web site**

- 6. On the Members Web site ("Nomenclature & Classification"), the following items have been inserted or updated:
  - (i) Opening of two open informal discussion forums for exchanging views, opinions and information between Members, and in some cases with the Secretariat: one forum on topics related to the use of laboratories in the Customs field ("On-line Customs Laboratory Discussion Forum"), the other forum on Harmonized System related topics ("On-line Harmonized System Discussion Forum");
  - (ii) Insertion of the presentations made by delegations at the Scientific Sub-Committee's 16<sup>th</sup> Session (January 2001) ("Customs laboratories solving difficult classification issues");
  - (iii) Updating the list of contact points for the Scientific Sub-Committee, their e-mail addresses and (where appropriate) related Web site hyperlinks ("SSC Contacts");
  - (iv) Updating the list of the officers in charge of nomenclature; and
  - (v) Updating the information on the Secretariat's technical assistance programme.
- 7. At the moment of the preparation of this document, the Secretariat is also finalizing the publication of classification advice provided by the Secretariat to Member administrations via the Internet. This publication is also expected to be operational beginning in early May.
- 8. With respect to the suggestion to include the invitation for attending the HS Committee's Sessions on the Members Web site, the Secretariat would like to inform the Committee that attendance forms are available on the main page of the Members Web site. These forms can be completed and submitted electronically.
- 9. Finally, on the question of indicating the Webmaster's address, the Secretariat would like to clarify that users can find this address by opening the button "Contact Info" on the Members Web site, or by opening the button "Contact Us" on the Web site for the public.

### III. CONCLUSION

10. The Committee is invited (i) to take note of the developments vis-à-vis WCO's publications on the Internet, as referred to in paragraphs 3 to 9 above, and (ii) to inform the Secretariat of any missing or incorrect information in the above-referenced publications.

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# E-mail addresses of officials responsible for Harmonized System matters in national administrations

This list contains e-mail addresses of officials responsible for Harmonized System (HS) matters in national administrations, who may advise you on matters related to HS classification, decisions taken by the HS Committee and matters of general policy. In some cases office e-mail addresses are indicated, in addition to or in lieu of the officer's e-mail address.

The list also contains the e-mail address of the Tariff and Trade Affairs Directorate of WCO.

COUNTRY	NAME	E-MAIL ADDRESS
AUSTRALIA	Mr. B. THOMAS	brian.thomas@customs.gov.au
AUSTRIA	Mr. R. TIEFENBACHER Mr. G. MAYR	rudolf.tiefenbacher@bmf.gv.at gunter.mayr@bmf.gv.at
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Annex to Doc. NC0353E1 (HSC/27/May 01)

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