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Es tablished in 1952 as the Customs Co-operation Council Créée en 1952 sous le nom de Conseil de coopération douanière

HARMONIZED SYSTEM COMMITTEE

28th Session

NC0444E1 (+ Annex) O. Eng.

Brussels, 5 October 2001.

NEW INFORMATION PROVIDED ON THE WCO WEB SITE

(Item II.6 on Agenda)

Reference documents:

NC0312E1 (HSC/26)

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NC0353E1 (HSC/27)

NC0340E2, paras. 48 and 49 (HSC/26 – report)

NC0430E2, paras. 44 to 46 (HSC/27 - Report)

I. BACKGROUND

- 1. At its 27th Session, the Committee was informed about the Harmonized System related publications on the WCO Web sites for the public and Members.
- 2. The Committee agreed that the publication on the Internet of classification advice given by the Secretariat to Members by correspondence needed approval of the administrations concerned, and the Secretariat was requested to take the necessary steps to that effect before publishing the advice.

II. SECRETARIAT COMMENTS

Public Web site

- 3. During the intersession, the following items were published or updated on the public Web site:
 - (i) List of Contracting Parties and countries applying the Harmonized System (updating);
 - (ii) Decisions of the 27th Session of the Committee (Classification Rulings and amendments to the Compendium of Classification Opinions) (publication);
 - (iii) List with e-mail addresses of Harmonized System officials in Customs Administrations (updating);
 - (iv) Council Recommendation of 30 June 2001 concerning the application of Harmonized System Committee decisions (publication); and

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- (v) Calendar of forthcoming sessions of the Harmonized System Committee, the Harmonized System Review Sub-Committee and the Scientific Sub-Committee in 2001/2002 (publication).
- 4. With respect to the list with e-mail addresses of Harmonized System officials in Customs Administrations (see paragraph 3 (iii), 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 data 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 publication.
- 5. In Doc. NC0353E1 (HSC/27) the Secretariat indicated that the finishing touches were being put to the publication via the Internet of the HS Explanatory Notes and the HS Commodity Data Base. These publications, which can be consulted against payment, were expected to be operational as from early May. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen technical problems, actual publication had to be postponed. The Secretariat now hopes to have them operational at some point during the meeting.

Members Web site

- 6. On the Members Web site ("Nomenclature & Classification"), the following items have been inserted or updated:
 - (i) Classification advice provided by the Secretariat (new publication);
 - (ii) List with the names of Contact Points for the Scientific Sub-Committee and their e-mail addresses (updating);
 - (iii) List with the names of the Secretariat officers in charge of nomenclature (updating); and
 - (iv) Secretariat's technical assistance programme 2000/2001 (updating).
- 7. Following the discussion during the 27th Session (see paragraph 2 above) on the possible publication of classification advice (see paragraph 6 (i) above), the Secretariat informed the HS Contracting Parties and other WCO Members about this initiative, and requested their approval for publication. In response, a number of administrations indicated that the advice for certain commodities given by the Secretariat to them should not be published. The Secretariat has taken the appropriate steps in this respect. In addition, the Secretariat has included a standard paragraph in its letters when providing its advice to administrations, indicating that the Secretariat will publish an extract of the classification advice on the WCO Members Web site, one month after the date of that letter, unless the administration concerned has notified the Secretariat that this correspondence should not be included in that publication.

III. CONCLUSION

8. The Committee is invited (i) to take note of the developments vis-à-vis the WCO's publications on the Internet, as referred to in paragraphs 3 to 7 above, and (ii) to inform the Secretariat about 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, which may advice you in matters related to HS classifications, rulings taken by the HS Committee and matters of a 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.

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Annex to Doc. NC0444E1

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Tariff and Trade

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