



HARMONIZED SYSTEM
COMMITTEE

-
28th Session
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(+ Annex)
O. Eng.

Brussels, 28 September 2001.

POSSIBLE AMENDMENT OF THE EXPLANATORY NOTES TO HEADINGS 84.50 AND 84.51
TO CLARIFY THE CLASSIFICATION OF LAUNDRY TYPE AND
INDUSTRIAL WASHING MACHINES
(PROPOSAL BY THE EGYPTIAN ADMINISTRATION)
(Item VIII.6 on Agenda)

I. BACKGROUND

1. During the HS seminar held in Egypt in April 2001, the Egyptian Administration requested that the Explanatory Notes to headings 84.50 and 84.51 be amended to clarify the classification of laundry type and industrial washing machines.

II. SECRETARIAT COMMENTS

2. Following this request, the Secretariat examined the Explanatory Notes with a view to determining possible areas of confusion and proposals for amendments. The Secretariat is in agreement with the Egyptian Administration that there may be some doubt concerning the interpretation of the Explanatory Note to heading 84.51 Part (A) (1), as it is currently written. The intention of the text in brackets is to provide examples of the types of industrial machines covered by heading 84.51. However, in the English text, one could arrive at the conclusion that it is providing examples of the types of products that are excluded and are to be classified in heading 84.50. This apparent confusion applies only to the English text. The Secretariat's proposal is presented in the Annex to this document. The Secretariat would draw the Committee's attention to the fact that it has placed the Explanatory Notes page reference in square brackets, pending the publication of the 2002 amendments.
3. The Committee may also wish to insert, in the Explanatory Note to heading 84.51, a further clarification regarding industrial washing machines as being, for example, machines used during the manufacturing process of fabrics and textiles, in which the equipment is used in finishing or to remove sizing or to dye or bleach the manufactured goods. Finally, the Secretariat believes that an Explanatory Note amendment to heading 84.50 defining the term

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“laundry-type” washing machines would provide the type of guidance requested by the Egyptian Administration.

4. Should the Committee agree with the Secretariat’s comments in paragraph 3 above, the Secretariat would be prepared to draft a working document for examination by the Committee at its next session.

III. CONCLUSION

5. The Committee is invited to express its view on the Explanatory Notes amendment proposed by the Secretariat in the Annex to this document and the possible amendments raised in paragraph 3 above, as well as to indicate what other action should be taken, if any.

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