



HARMONIZED SYSTEM  
COMMITTEE

-  
29<sup>th</sup> Session  
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NC0515E1

O. Fr.

Brussels, 9 April 2002.

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE 2002 EDITION OF THE HARMONIZED SYSTEM

(Item II.2 on Agenda)

Reference documents :

NC0360E1  
NC0430E2, Annex C/5 (HSC/27 - Report)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The third edition of the Harmonized System entered into force on 1 January 2002. The purpose of this document is twofold : to acquaint Contracting Parties with the information that has reached the Secretariat concerning the implementation of the 2002 edition by Contracting Parties, and to gather from administrations (especially those that have not yet provided any) information about developments with regard to this question in their respective countries.
2. In this connection, the Secretariat would remind administrations that acceptance of past HS amendments was a difficult process. Only 45 % of Members were able to implement the first set of HS amendments in January 1992, while for the second set in January 1996 the percentage crept up to 58 %. By the end of March 2002, 54 Contracting Parties, or 51 % of Members, have notified the Secretariat that they have implemented the 2002 version in January 2002 (see Item II.1 on the Agenda). So far, 25 Contracting Parties have not yet responded to the Secretariat's requests for information.

II. SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES

3. The Secretariat has been working hard to support the implementation of the 2002 version of the Harmonized System. Since the Committee's 27<sup>th</sup> Session, at which time the Secretariat made a progress report concerning this subject, it has published the HS 2002 Amendments booklet, the 2002 edition of the HS Nomenclature (in English, French, Spanish and Russian) and the 2002 editions of the HS Explanatory Notes and the Compendium of Classification Opinions (in English and French). The Explanatory Notes have been published in hard copy and via the Internet (WCO Web site).

File No. 2151

NC0515E1

4. Moreover, later this Spring, it is intended to publish, on the basis of the 2002 edition of the HS, amending supplements to the HS Classification Handbook and the HS Commodity Data Base.
5. As for the 2002 version of the Alphabetical Index, the Customs Laboratory Guide and the Harmonizer, they should be published late this Spring or early this Summer.

### III. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY MEMBERS

6. Delegates from administrations that have not yet implemented the 2002 edition of the Harmonized System are invited to present a progress report on the implementation of the HS 2002 in their countries. To the extent that there are any implementation problems identified during the meeting, the Secretariat will be able to take measures in support of administrations in need of assistance.

### IV. CONCLUSION

7. The Committee is invited to take note of the information relating to the implementation of the 2002 edition of the Harmonized System and administrations are invited to present a progress report on the implementation of the 2002 edition of the HS in their countries.
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