



HARMONIZED SYSTEM
COMMITTEE

-
29th Session

NC0520E1

O. Eng.

Brussels, 20 March 2002.

COOPERATION WITH THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON RULES OF ORIGIN

(Item II.7 on Agenda)

Reference documents :

42.009 (HSC/21)	OC0030E2 (TCRO/17 – Report)
42.100, Annex C/3 (HSC/21 – Report)	NC0098E1 (HSC/24)
42.262 (TCRO/12 – Report)	NC0160E2, Annex C/1 (HSC/24 – Report)
42.263 (TCRO/12/13 – Report to the Committee on Rules of Origin)	OC0046E2 (TCRO/18 – Report)
42.557 (TCRO/13 – Report)	NC0171E1 (HSC/25)
42.711 (TCRO/14 – Report)	NC0250E2, par. 32 (HSC/25 – Report)
42.397 (HSC/22)	NC0264E1 (HSC/26)
42.750, Annex C/1 (HSC/22 – Report)	NC0340E2, par. 43 (HSC/26 – Report)
42.820 (TCRO/15 – Report)	OC0055E1 (TCRO/19 – Report)
OC0010E3 (TCRO/16 – Report)	NC0352E1 (HSC/27)
NC0008E1 (HSC/23)	NC0430E2, par. 43 (HSC/27 – Report)
NC0090E2, Annex C/1 (HSC/23 – Report)	OC0071E1 (TCRO/20 – Report)

I. INTERSESSIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. From Monday 18 to Wednesday 20 February 2002, the Technical Committee on Rules of Origin (Technical Committee or TCRO) held its 20th Session, and welcomed two new Members : China and Chinese Taipei. It took note of the progress made by the WTO Committee on Rules of Origin with regard to the Harmonization Work Programme, and of the comparative study on systems of certification and verification as well as documentation for Customs clearance with respect to non-preferential rules of origin. It also held an exchange of views concerning the proposal by the Secretariat with respect to the practical guidance on the implementation of the WTO Agreement on Rules of Origin.
2. The implications of the amendments to the Harmonized System were discussed in an informal session, during which the Secretariat informed participants about potential problems and possible solutions with a view to reducing a potential complex structure for the rules of origin in certain Chapters.

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3. During the year 2001, the WTO Committee on Rules of Origin has taken several hundred decisions vis-à-vis the overall structure and certain product specific rules of origin. At the same time, the deadline set by the WTO General Council has been extended to the end of the year 2002.
4. The date for the next meeting of the Technical Committee will be fixed in accordance with the Committee's Rules of Procedure by the Secretary General in consultation with the Chairman.

II. SECRETARIAT COMMENTS

5. The Secretariat would like to draw the Committee's attention to the fact that some of the technical implications of the HS 2002 amendments on the rules of origin have been discussed informally only (see paragraph 2 above). It is hoped, however, that, when the non-preferential rules of origin will come into force, they will reflect the actual situation vis-à-vis the nomenclature in use (i.e., HS 2002). In this context, the Secretariat would like to repeat its invitation to delegations to the HS Committee to assist the origin experts in their administrations when considering the amendments to the Harmonized System in the context of the Rules of Origin.

III. CONCLUSION

6. The Committee is invited to take note of the developments in the Technical Committee of Rules of Origin, and to assist their origin experts when considering the HS 2002 amendments in the context of the rules of origin.
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