



HARMONIZED SYSTEM
COMMITTEE

-
29th Session
-

NC0521E1
(+ Annex)

O. Eng.

Brussels, 5 April 2002.

NEW INFORMATION PROVIDED ON THE WCO WEBSITE

(Item II.8 on Agenda)

Reference documents :

NC0312E1 (HSC/26)
NC0340E2, par. 48 and 49 (HSC/26 – report)
NC0353E1 (HSC/27)

NC0430E2, par. 44 to 46 (HSC/27 – Report)
NC0444E1 (HSC/28)
NC0510E2, par. 41 and 42 (HSC/28 – Report)

I. BACKGROUND

1. At its 28th Session, the Committee was informed about the Harmonized System related publications on the WCO Web sites for the public and for Members, respectively.

II. SECRETARIAT COMMENTS

Public Web site

2. 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 28th Session of the Committee (Classification Rulings and amendments to the Explanatory Notes and 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 on the use of standard units of quantity to facilitate the collection, comparison and analysis of international statistics based on the Harmonized System (publication; replacing the HS 1996 based Council Recommendation);

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- (v) Deleting the Council Recommendation on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (revoked by the Council);
 - (vi) "Amending the Harmonized System" (an information paper prepared by the Secretariat to explain the reasons for the complexity of the HS review process);
 - (vii) "HS dispute settlement" (an information paper prepared by the Secretariat elucidating the background of potential disputes and stressing the tremendously important role of the HS Committee in the facilitation of international trade, since it acts as a kind of "international court for HS classification disputes"); and
 - (viii) "The HS – a multipurpose tool" (an information paper prepared by the Secretariat highlighting the crucial role of the HS as an outstanding classification system to monitor and control the trade in goods, particularly those relating to environmental and social concerns. The new partnerships with international organizations such as the UN Environmental Protection Agency are indispensable in this respect and this trend will continue as new issues require solutions).
3. With respect to the list of e-mail addresses of Harmonized System officials in Customs administrations (see paragraph 2 (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.
4. During the 28th Session, the Committee was informed about the unforeseen technical problems which had led to the postponement of the actual Internet publication of the HS Explanatory Notes and the HS Commodity Data Base. These publications, which can be consulted against payment, are now available on our public Web site.

Members Web site

5. The Secretariat would like to inform the Committee first, that a Russian version of the "Nomenclature & Classification" area has been introduced on the Members Web site. The Russian version of HS related documents is published on that page of the site.
6. In addition, the list with the names of contact points for the Scientific Sub-Committee and their e-mail addresses has been updated on the Members Web site ("Nomenclature & Classification").
7. Finally, the presentations made during the Scientific Sub-Committee's last session (SSC/17 – January 2002) (i.e., (i) on how to support Customs laboratories in developing countries and (ii) on the role of Customs laboratories in the context of social and environmental concerns) will be made available on the Members Web site soon.

III. CONCLUSION

8. 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 2 to 7 above, and (ii) to inform the Secretariat about any lacking 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 advise 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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