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O. Fr.

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CLASSIFICATION OF SLIDING DOORS FOR LIFTS (ELEVATORS)

(Item IX.9 on Agenda)

I. BACKGROUND

1. On 14 July 2001, the Customs Administration of Morocco sought the Secretariat's opinion on the classification of a sliding door (and its mechanism) for lifts (elevators). According to the documentation provided by the importer, the articles concerned – which are to be fitted at the entrance to the lift shaft, on each floor of a building - are connected to the general control panel of the lift. The sliding door latches on to the door of the lift's passenger cage (cabin), when the cage stops at the floor concerned. The importer adds that this sliding door includes a mechanism (see the Annex to this document) which, when it latches on to the door of the lift cage, becomes an essential operating element of the lift. In effect, it causes the sliding door to become the door to the lift cage. On the basis of this description, the importer maintains that the sliding door (and its mechanism) falls to be classified in HS subheading 8431.31.
2. The Moroccan Administration, on the other hand, considers that the sliding door (and its mechanism) concerned is not an integral part of the lift, because it is designed to be fitted into the walls of the building, at the entrance to the lift shaft on each floor, and do not travel up and down with the lift cage. For these reasons, the Moroccan Administration considers that the sliding door (and its mechanism) should be classified in subheading 7308.30.
3. In October 2001, the Secretariat replied to Morocco that in its view, and judging by the information supplied, the sliding door (and its mechanism) should be classified in subheading 8431.31 as part of a lift, even if imported separately.
4. On 12 November 2001, the Moroccan Administration sent the Secretariat the following Note, requesting that the question of the HS classification of a sliding door (and its mechanism) for lifts be placed before the Harmonized System Committee.

Note : Text highlighted in grey will be deleted when documents are placed on the WCO's public-access document data base.

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II. NOTE BY THE MOROCCAN ADMINISTRATION

5. "The second paragraph of the Explanatory Note (page 1297) refers to static structural elements fitted or designed to be fitted with the mechanical features essential for the operation of the moving parts of the complete installation.
6. However, the sliding door at issue is designed to be fitted into the walls on each floor of the building; the lift cage travels up and down the building, operating without the intervention of the sliding door.
7. In our opinion, the sliding door does not play a role in the operation of the moving parts of the lift, and should therefore be excluded from subheading 8431.31 and classified in heading 73.08, by application of the provisions contained in the relevant Explanatory Note (second paragraph on page 1297), and also on page 1108.
8. In order to remove any risk of misinterpretation of the above-mentioned Explanatory Notes, and on the basis of a careful study of the file, this administration would be grateful if you would submit the matter to the Harmonized System Committee at its next session."

III. SECRETARIAT COMMENTS

9. The description of the articles at issue, as presented by the Moroccan Administration, is reproduced below :

Automatic, sliding metal (steel) door (and its mechanism) for lifts (elevators), presented separately, intended to be fitted into the walls at the entrance to the lift shaft on each floor of a building; the door (and its mechanism) does not travel up and down the building with the lift cage.

10. At the outset, the Secretariat considers that the headings which could be taken into consideration for the classification of the articles at issue would appear to be heading 73.08, which covers, inter alia, "Structures and parts of structures (for example, bridges doors ... and their frames ...), of iron or steel..." and heading 84.31, which covers "Parts suitable for use solely or principally with the machinery of headings 84.25 to 84.30".
11. The Explanatory Note to heading 84.28, page 1461, final paragraph and page 1462, first and second paragraphs, states that :

" The heading covers lifting or handling machines usually based on pulley, winch or jacking systems, and often including large proportions of static structural steelwork, etc. These static structural elements (e.g., pylons specialised for teleferics, etc.) are classified in this heading when they are presented as parts of a more or less complete handling machine. When presented separately, they are classified in heading **84.31** provided they are fitted or designed to be fitted with the mechanical features essential for the operation of the moving parts of the complete installation (wheels, rollers, pulleys, running or guide rails, etc.). Otherwise these structural elements are classified in heading **73.08**."
12. The Explanatory Note to heading 84.31 (page 1473, first paragraph, item (2)), lists cabins, cages and platforms for lifts as being parts classifiable in that heading. The fact that

the sliding door remains on the floor concerned, and does not travel up and down with the lift, could be an argument in favour of classifying it in heading 73.08.

13. However, the sliding door incorporates a mechanism which, as soon as it comes into contact with the door of the lift cage, makes the sliding door a mechanical feature essential for the operation of the lift; the two elements are then joined together to form a whole which then becomes the door of the lift cage. Moreover, the leaflet submitted with Morocco's request indicates that it is the mechanism in the lift cage door which locks and unlocks the mechanism in the sliding doors on each floor, causing them to open as required (see the Annex to this document).
14. As the sliding door (and its mechanism) is essential for the operation of the lift, the Secretariat continues to hold the view that it should be classified in subheading 8431.31 as a lift part, even if imported separately.

IV. CONCLUSION

15. The Harmonized System Committee is invited to examine the classification of a sliding door (and its mechanism) for lifts in the light of the arguments put forward by the Moroccan Administration, which are reproduced in paragraphs 5 to 8 of this document, and the Secretariat comments in paragraphs 9 to 14. The Committee is also invited to indicate what further actions, if any, should be taken in respect of this question.

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Sliding door mechanism

