



HARMONIZED SYSTEM
REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE

NC0578E1

-
29th Session
-

O. Eng.

Brussels, 23 April 2002.

POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS TO THE NOMENCLATURE
REGARDING THE CLASSIFICATION OF CAMERAS

(Item IX.16 on Agenda)

Reference documents :

NC0055E1 (HSC/23)	NR0141E1 (RSC/23)
NR0072E2, Annex C, paragraph 94 (RSC/20 – Report)	NR0152E1 (RSC/23)
NR0086E1 (RSC/21)	NR0165E2, Annex D/8 (RSC/23 – Report)
NR0093E1 (RSC/21)	NR0173E1 (RSC/24)
NR0095E1 (RSC/21)	NR0199E1 (RSC/24)
NR0101E2, Annex B/12 (RSC/21 – Report)	NR0205E2, Annex C/5 (RSC/24 – Report)
NR0101E2, Annex E/15 (RSC/21 – Report)	NR0214E1 (RSC/25)
NR0118E1 (RSC/22)	NR0259E1 (RSC/25)
NR0133E2, Annex D/8 (RSC/22 – Report)	NR0265E1, Annex C/4 (RSC/25 – Report)

I. BACKGROUND

1. At the 22nd Session of the Review Sub-Committee, there was a preliminary discussion of a Secretariat proposal to amend heading 85.25 in 2007. At the 23rd Session of the Review Sub-Committee, Canada submitted a proposal to transfer the cameras covered by heading 85.25 to heading 90.06. At its 24th Session, the Review Sub-Committee continued its examination of the future classification of cameras based on a combined Canadian/Secretariat proposal, which the Sub-Committee had requested the Secretariat to draft.
2. At its 25th Session, the Review Sub-Committee continued its discussion on the future classification of cameras. There was a general interest in the Sub-Committee to regroup all cameras in one heading. The Canadian preference was for heading 90.06, on the basis of function. Since digital cameras performed the same function as photographic cameras (i.e., taking pictures), they should be classified in the same heading. However, as digital cameras often had some ability to receive video images, Canada felt that video cameras should also

Note : Shaded parts will be removed when documents are placed on the WCO documentation database available to the public.

File No. 2690

be included in the heading. Having included video cameras, Canada felt it logical to include television cameras as well.

3. The US Delegate indicated his administration's preference to maintain the distinction in the HS between electronic and photographic equipment. Electronic plants produced digital cameras and the parts manufacturers considered themselves to be in the electronics industry and not in the photographic industry. The industry considered these parts to be electronics parts and they were, for the most part, connectable to automatic data processing machines. In addition, the output of digital cameras was often manipulated as data by users. As a consequence, his administration felt that such cameras should be grouped in Chapters 84 and 85 with the products with which they were used.
4. The Delegate of **Japan** stated that when the Sub-Committee examined amendments to the Harmonized System, it should take the basic nature of the HS into consideration. In this connection, he explained that Chapter 85 covered electrical machines, whereas Chapter 90 covered instruments, inter alia, optical instruments, e.g., photographic apparatus. Therefore, as far as the technical characteristics were concerned, there was a great difference between goods classified in Chapter 85 and those classified in Chapter 90. He urged the Sub-Committee to take this basic nature of the structure of the Harmonized System into account when considering amendments to the HS. Bearing in mind the basic nature of the Harmonized System, i.e., that Chapter 85 was the Chapter for electrical machines and cameras of heading 85.25 were electronic machines, digital cameras should, in his administration's view, remain classified in heading 85.25.
5. After further discussion, and in an effort to advance the discussion with regard to this issue, the Sub-Committee decided that the Harmonized System Committee should be asked at its May meeting to rule on whether or not to regroup all cameras in one heading and, if so, in which heading.

II. SECRETARIAT COMMENTS

6. Based on the Sub-Committee's conclusion, the Secretariat puts forward the following questions for the Committee's decision :
 1. Does the Committee agree that it is advisable to regroup all cameras in one heading ?
 2. If such a regrouping is advisable, in which heading of Chapter 84, 85 or 90 should such a regrouping take place ?

III. CONCLUSION

7. The Harmonized System Committee is asked to take a decision on the two questions set out in the previous paragraph based on the discussion of this question at previous sessions of the Committee and the Review Sub-Committee and on the information contained in the Background section to this document.
