



HARMONIZED SYSTEM  
COMMITTEE

-  
31<sup>st</sup> Session  
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NC0710E1

O. Eng.

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CLASSIFICATION OF NEWSPRINT OBTAINED FROM DE-INKED PULP:

DEFINITION OF NEWSPRINT

(Item IX.5 on Agenda)

I. BACKGROUND

1. By its letter of 8 January, the **Indian** Customs Administration presented a note concerning the definition of “newsprint” in the Harmonized System. The note is reproduced below. It is to be noted, however, that the reference to Note 3 to Chapter 48 should read : “Note 4 to Chapter 48”.

II. NOTE FROM THE **INDIAN** CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION

2. “The **Indian** Customs Administration has received a representation from the **Indian** Newspaper Society (**INS**) stating that due to environmental concerns, worldwide, stress is on production of newsprint, from recycled paper. Old newspapers, corrugated cartons, etc. are processed to yield “deinked pulp” which is then used for making newsprint. According to the **INS**, the definition of newsprint, as given in Note 3 [4] to Chapter 48 of the HS, does not take into account newsprint obtained from “de-inked pulp”.
3. The HS defines “newsprint” as uncoated paper of a kind used for the printing of newspapers, of which not less than 65 % by weight of the total fibre content consists of wood fibres obtained by a mechanical or chemi-mechanical process, unsized or very lightly sized, having a surface roughness Parker Print Surf (IMPa) on each side exceeding 2.5 micrometres (microns), weighing not less than 40 g/m<sup>2</sup>, and not more than 65 g/m<sup>2</sup>. The **INS** wants it to be amended, so as to include “newsprint” whose wood fibres have been obtained by a mechanical and/or chemi-mechanical process and/or by deinking and/or any other process, unsized or very lightly size, having surface roughness Parker Print Surf on each side exceeding 2.5 micrometres (microns), weighing not less than 40 g/m<sup>2</sup> and not more than 65 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

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

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4. It is requested that the matter may kindly be examined to ascertain the correct position and the prevailing international practice.”

### III. SECRETARIAT COMMENTS

5. The Secretariat understands the request from **India** as being two-fold, i.e., (i) the classification in the Harmonized System of newsprint obtained from recycled paper and (ii) a possible amendment of Note 4 to Chapter 48 with respect to the processes allowed.
6. With respect to the nature of the fibres of newsprint, Note 4 to Chapter 48 stipulates that not less than 65 % by weight of the total fibre content should consist of wood fibres obtained by a mechanical or chemi-mechanical process. The second paragraph of the Explanatory Note to heading 48.01, on page 873, further explains this expression as follows : “In this definition the expression “ wood fibres obtained by a mechanical or chemi-mechanical process ” means fibres obtained by various pulp manufacturing techniques in which defibration is solely or principally achieved by the application of mechanical forces upon the raw material.”
7. From the second paragraph of the same Explanatory Note, on page 874, it can be concluded that the pulp obtaining processes involved are restricted to those mentioned in headings 47.01 and 47.05. Since pulp derived from recovered paper and paperboard is classified in heading 47.06, paper made of such pulp would be excluded from heading 48.01, if the weight of the fibre content consisting of wood fibres obtained by a mechanical or chemi-mechanical process is less than 65 %.
8. Since the **Indian** Administration has not provided a full description of the product(s) to be classified, the Secretariat is not in a position to give a firm answer to the question where to classify paper (newsprint) consisting of pulp derived from recovered paper and paperboard. Having said this classification in heading 48.02 could be considered if it meets the criteria set out in Note 5 to Chapter 48. If not, heading 48.05 would seem to be appropriate.
9. Concerning the proposal to amend Note 4 to Chapter 48, the Secretariat suggests sending this question to the Review Sub-Committee for consideration.

### IV. CONCLUSIONS

10. The Committee is invited to express its view on the classification of newsprint made from pulp derived from recovered paper and paperboard, taking into account the observations of the **Indian** Administration in paragraphs 2 to 4 above, and those of the Secretariat in paragraphs 5 to 8 above.
  11. The Committee is also invited to request the Review Sub-Committee to consider the proposal to amend the definition of newsprint, as set out in Note 4 to Chapter 48.
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