



HARMONIZED SYSTEM  
REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE

NR0036E1

-  
19th Session  
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O. Eng.

H11-3

Brussels, 8 March 1999.

POSSIBLE AMENDMENT TO SUBHEADING 8480.41

(Item II.A.21 on the Agenda)

Reference documents :

42.474  
Annex B/17 (RSC/18 – Report)  
NR0021

I. BACKGROUND

1. Subsequent to the preparation of Doc. NR0021, the Secretariat received, on 26 February 1999, the following Note from the Canadian Administration on amendments to subheading 8480.41.

II. NOTE FROM THE CANADIAN ADMINISTRATION

2. “At the 18<sup>th</sup> Session of the Harmonized System Review Sub-Committee meeting in September 1998, our administration expressed concerns with respect to the proposal to amend subheading 8480.41 to read “Moulds for metal or metal carbides: Compression types (die-casting)”. This subheading currently provides for “Moulds for metal or metal carbides: Injection or compression types”.
3. Our administration contacted a Canadian manufacturer of moulds for plastics and metals and was advised that injection type moulds are indeed used for casting plastics and metal. Our Customs Laboratory and Natural Resources Canada also provided technical information. We were advised that in North America the authoritative reference when dealing with metals is the American Society of Metals (ASM). The ASM considers injection moulding as a process in which metal dusts are mixed with a plastic carrier, forced into a mould and formed through a heating process. Die-casting is the technique in which molten metal is forced under pressure into a permanent mould. Compression moulding is not defined in the ASM and appears to refer exclusively to the plastics and rubber industry. The McGraw Hill Dictionary of Scientific and Technical Terms defines compression moulds as “A mould for plastics which is open when the material is introduced and which shapes the material by heat

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and by the pressure of closing.” Since die-casting uses molten metal, it is different from injection and compression moulding processes.

4. The proposal before the Review Sub-Committee employs the term “compression types” for moulds for metal or metal carbides. The definition of “compression mould” taken from the McGraw Hill Dictionary indicates that “compression moulds” are used to shape plastics rather than being used to cast metal and their operation is quite different from that of injection moulds which are closed when the material is injected into them.
5. Given the above information, our administration does not believe that it would be appropriate to amend the subheading breakout to refer to compression moulds for moulding metal and metal carbides as proposed by the International Special Tooling and Machining Association (ISTMA). Our administration is of the opinion, based on information provided to us that “compression moulding” should not be used to describe moulding of metal or metal carbides under this subheading. Our sources indicate that the terms “compaction” or “compact” are more commonly used in the metals industry. Compaction is a process that is defined as the compression of a metal powder, generally while confined in a die, with or without the inclusion of non-metallic constituents, to produce an object. Because die-casting uses molten metal, it is different from injection and compression moulding processes.
6. Based on the information from our contacts and reference materials consulted, our administration would like to recommend the following text for this subheading:

- **Moulds for Metal or metal carbides :**

8480.41 - - **Compaction types, including injection**

7. The Explanatory Notes to heading 84.80 on Page 1428, (D) Moulds for metal (other than ingot moulds) or for metal carbides (1) Chill-moulds (die-casts) should be amended to indicate that this operation applies to molten metal. As well, a description similar to die cast moulds could be created in the Explanatory Notes for compaction moulds.”

### III. CONCLUSION

8. The Sub-Committee is invited to take account of the Note from the Canadian Administration when examining possible amendments to the Nomenclature to subheading 8480.41.
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