



HARMONIZED SYSTEM
REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE
-
26th Session
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NR0287E1
(+ Annex)

O. Eng.

Brussels, 11 July 2002.

POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS TO THE NOMENCLATURE
REGARDING THE CLASSIFICATION OF CAMERAS

(Item III.A.17 on Agenda)

Reference documents :

NC0055E1 (HSC/23)	NR0152E1 (RSC/23)
NR0072E2, Annex C, paragraph 94 (RSC/20 – Report)	NR0165E2, Annex D/8 (RSC/23 – Report)
NR0086E1 (RSC/21)	NR0173E1 (RSC/24)
NR0093E1 (RSC/21)	NR0199E1 (RSC/24)
NR0095E1 (RSC/21)	NR0205E2, Annex C/5 (RSC/24 – Report)
NR0101E2, Annex B/12 (RSC/21 – Report)	NR0214E1 (RSC/25)
NR0101E2, Annex E/15 (RSC/21 – Report)	NR0259E1 (RSC/25)
NR0118E1 (RSC/22)	NR0265E3, Annex C/4 (RSC/25 – Report)
NR0133E2, Annex D/8 (RSC/22 – Report)	NC0578E1 (HSC/29)
NR0141E1 (RSC/23)	NC0590E2, Annex IJ/16 (HSC/29 – Report)

I. BACKGROUND

1. At its 25th Session, the Review 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.
2. Based on the Sub-Committee's decision, the Secretariat put forward the following questions for the Committee's consideration :
 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 ?

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

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3. At its 29th Session, in May 2002, the Harmonized System Committee considered this issue under Agenda Item IX.16. Several delegates expressed support for maintaining the status quo, in other words, the distinction between digital cameras of Chapter 85 and film-based cameras of Chapter 90. At the same time, one of those delegates was of the opinion that the RSC should look at restructuring the text of heading 85.25 in order to more clearly delineate the distinction between digital and analogue, non-film-based cameras.
4. On the other hand, a number of delegates expressed support for the regrouping of all cameras in a single heading for the 2007 version of the Harmonized System.
5. After discussion, the Committee took an indicative vote and a large majority of delegates favoured the RSC continuing to study a possible regrouping of all cameras in a single heading.

II. SECRETARIAT COMMENTS

6. Based on the discussions in the HS Committee, the Secretariat understands that it was of the opinion that the RSC should continue to study the regrouping of all cameras in one heading. The Committee, while agreeing that such a regrouping was advisable, did not offer its opinion on which Chapter was appropriate but left it to the RSC to explore the various options and then present its conclusions to the Committee.
7. For the convenience of the delegates, the Secretariat has reproduced, in the Annex to this document, the combined Secretariat/**Canadian** proposal, as set out in the Annex to Doc. NR0173E1.
8. In addition, the Secretariat has also provided the following draft text presented by the **US** Delegate from the floor at the Sub-Committee's 24th Session, for subheading 9006.80 or 8525.40, depending on which heading the Sub-Committee chose for a regrouping of digital cameras :

“Digital cameras, whether or not recording, and digital camcorders; other video cameras, whether or not recording, including camcorders”.

III. CONCLUSION

9. The Review Sub-Committee is asked to take account of the decision of the Harmonized System Committee in respect of the regrouping of cameras, during the Sub-Committee's examination of this agenda item.

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