



HARMONIZED SYSTEM  
REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE

NR0353E1

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27<sup>th</sup> Session  
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O. Eng.

Brussels, 24 February 2003.

POSSIBLE AMENDMENT OF THE EXPLANATORY NOTES TO  
CLARIFY THE CLASSIFICATION OF SHEET-FED PRESSES  
(PROPOSAL BY THE JAPANESE ADMINISTRATION)

(Item III.B.2 on Agenda)

I. BACKGROUND

1. At the Review Sub-Committee's 26<sup>th</sup> Session, the Delegate of **Japan** presented his administration's proposal concerning the inclusion in the Explanatory Notes of an explanation of sheet-fed presses. The Sub-Committee invited the **Japanese** Administration to submit a formal proposal to the Secretariat for examination by the RSC.
2. On 7 October 2002, the Secretariat received the following Note from the **Japanese** Administration.

II. NOTE FROM THE JAPANESE ADMINISTRATION

3. "As **Japan** informed the Review Sub-Committee, it would like to propose to modify the Explanatory Note to heading 84.43 according to the following proposal.
4. According to the second sentence of new item (A) of Part (I) to the Explanatory Note to heading 84.43, the presses can be used for both sheet by sheet printing and continuous printing. However, the last sentence of this item only explains the rotary presses which are a kind of continuous printing. Therefore, a new explanation of sheet by sheet printing should also be inserted in this item as contained in the following proposal :

(A) **Rotary pPresses.**

In their simplest form, these presses usually consist of a cylinder with ~~two semi-cylindrical~~ plates (~~typographical~~ letter press), or of cylinders which may be either engraved (~~photogravure or rotogravure~~ gravure printing) or impressed (offset printing); ~~rotary~~ presses for colour-printing are equipped with several printing cylinders, their

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File No. 2962

inking rollers being placed side by side. Since all the printing, pressing and inking mechanisms are rotary, these presses can be used for ~~both sheet by sheet printing and~~ continuous printing, in black or in colour, on single sides or on both sides of the paper fed by reels.

- (1) **Rotary presses in which** some large rotary presses ~~which~~ combine several printing units on a single frame, enable all the pages of a newspaper or periodical to be printed in one sequence of operations, so that, in the final result, all the pages are delivered, cut, folded, assembled, stapled and stacked by various ancillary machines working in conjunction with the printing machine.
- (2) **Sheet-fed presses** in which the sheets are transported through all the printing units by grippers. Sheet-fed presses have a feeder, one or more printing units, and a delivery. In the feeder the sheets are taken from a pile, aligned, and forwarded to the first printing unit. The sheets are transported through all the printing units by grippers. In the delivery the printed sheets are collected in a pile.”

### III. SECRETARIAT COMMENTS

5. The Secretariat understands that the reference to “rotary presses” in the Explanatory Notes refers to a process of putting ink onto paper, textile fabric, etc., while the **Japanese** Administration’s insertion of “sheet-fed presses” refers to a method of delivering the sheets. Consequently, the Secretariat wonders whether the **Japanese** proposal may add some confusion to the interpretation of the text. It would appear that this proposal does not have any legal text implications. Consequently, if the RSC agrees with the proposal, it may wish to forward the proposal to the HS Committee for implementation by the Corrigendum procedure.

### IV. CONCLUSION

6. The Sub-Committee is invited to take account of the **Japanese** proposal and the Secretariat’s comments when it examines this agenda item.

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