



HARMONIZED SYSTEM
REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE

-
23rd Session
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(+ Annex)
O. Fr.

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POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS TO THE NOMENCLATURE TO UPDATE
THE TERMINOLOGY FOR CERTAIN PRODUCTS AND TO DELETE OBSOLETE ITEMS

(Item III.B.1 on Agenda)

I. SECRETARIAT PROPOSALS

1. In the context of the 3rd Review Cycle and in order to update the nomenclature of the Harmonized System to conform with the terminology currently used in international trade, the Secretariat proposes the amendment of the text of certain HS headings and subheadings.
2. Present heading 84.69 reads as follows :

"84.69 Typewriters other than printers of heading 84.71; word-processing machines.

- Automatic typewriters and word-processing machines :

8469.11 -- Word-processing machines

8469.12 -- Automatic typewriters

8469.20 - Other typewriters, electric

8469.30 - Other typewriters, non-electric"
3. The Secretariat's inquiries among the principal manufacturers, together with statistics provided by the UNSD for the years 1996 to 1998 (see Annex to this document), indicate that there is now very little trade in "typewriters" and "word-processing machines", although in some countries they are still being used. Accordingly, the complexity of the present subheading structure of heading 84.69 is no longer justified.
4. Accordingly, the Secretariat proposes to delete subheadings 8469.1 to 8469.30, given the lack of any significant trade in the products concerned. Heading 84.69 could, then, be worded as follows :

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“84.69 Typewriters other than printers of heading 84.71; word-processing machines.”

5. The present texts of headings 85.19 and 85.20 are worded as follows :

“85.19 Turntables (record-decks), record-players, cassette players and other sound reproducing apparatus, not incorporating a sound recording device.

8519.10 - Coin- or disc-operated record-players

- Other record-players :

8519.21 -- Without loudspeaker

8519.29 -- Other

- Turntables (record-decks) :

8519.31 -- With automatic record changing mechanism

8519.39 -- Other

8519.40 - Transcribing machines

- Other sound reproducing apparatus :

8519.92 -- Pocket-size cassette-players

8519.93 -- Other, cassette-type

8519.99 -- Other”

“85.20 Magnetic tape recorders and other sound recording apparatus, whether or not incorporating a sound reproducing device.

8520.10 - Dictating machines not capable of operating without an external source of power

8520.20 - Telephone answering machines

8520.3 - Other magnetic tape recorders incorporating sound reproducing apparatus :

8520.32 -- Digital audio type

8520.33 -- Other, cassette-type

8520.39 -- Other

8520.90 - Other”

6. World statistics supplied by the UNSD (see the Annex to this document) show that trade in record-players and turntables is in decline. These products have of course been replaced by CD-players and similar equipment. For those reasons, the Secretariat does not consider it necessary to continue to mention them in the 4-digit heading text or in the subheadings of heading 85.19.
7. In addition, each year there is less and less trade in the “transcribing/dictating machines” of this heading (subheading 8519.40) and heading 85.20 (subheading 8520.10) as well as in the “coin- or disc- operated record-players” (subheading 8519.10) and there is no longer any justification for mentioning those machines in separate subheadings.
8. The Secretariat would therefore propose a more generic description for heading 85.19 and the creation of a new subheading for compact disc players (8519.50), in view of their commercial importance.
9. In the Secretariat’s proposal, the references to various sound reproducing apparatus have been deleted from the text of heading 85.19 and cassette-players have been transferred from subheadings 8519.92 and 8519.93 to the new subheadings 8519.61 and 8519.69, as we believe there is still an important trade in those products. The new texts of headings 85.19 and 85.20 would, therefore, read as follows :

“85.19 Sound reproducing apparatus, not incorporating a sound recording device.

8519.50 - With a laser reading optical system

- Cassette-players :

8519.61 -- Pocket-size

8519.69 -- Other

8519.90 - Other”

“85.20 Magnetic tape recorders and other sound recording apparatus, whether or not incorporating a sound reproducing device.

8520.20 - Telephone answering machines

- Other magnetic tape recorders incorporating sound reproducing apparatus :

8520.32 -- Digital audio type

8520.33 -- Other, cassette-type

8520.39 -- Other

8520.90 - Other”

10. The current text of heading 85.24 is reproduced below :

“85.24 Records, tapes and other recorded media for sound or other similarly recorded phenomena, including matrices and masters for the production of records, but excluding products of chapter 37.

8524.10 - Gramophone records

- Discs for laser reading systems :

8524.31 -- For reproducing phenomena other than sound or image

8524.32 -- For reproducing sound only

8524.39 -- Other

8524.40 - Magnetic tapes for reproducing phenomena other than sound or image

- Other magnetic tapes :

8524.51 -- Of a width not exceeding 4 mm

8524.52 -- Of a width exceeding 4 mm but not exceeding 6.5 mm

8524.53 -- Of a width exceeding 6.5 mm

8524.60 - Cards incorporating a magnetic stripe

- Other :

8524.91 -- For reproducing phenomena other than sound or image

8524.99 -- Other”

11. Following the deletion of the reference to “Record-players” (“Electrophones”) from heading 85.19, the Secretariat proposes to delete the word “records” (twice) from the English version of this heading and replace it by “discs”. The French version would be unaffected. In the light of the statistics at its disposal (see the Annex to this document) and the replacement in the trade of records by discs and other media, the Secretariat also proposes the deletion of subheading 8524.10 :

“85.24 Discs, tapes and other recorded media for sound or other similarly recorded phenomena, including matrices and masters for the production of discs, but excluding products of chapter 37.

- Discs for laser reading systems :

8524.31 -- For reproducing phenomena other than sound or image

8524.32 -- For reproducing sound only

8524.39 -- Other

8524.40 - Magnetic tapes for reproducing phenomena other than sound or image

- Other magnetic tapes :

8524.51 -- Of a width not exceeding 4 mm

8524.52 -- Of a width exceeding 4 mm but not exceeding 6.5 mm

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8524.60 - Cards incorporating a magnetic stripe

- Other :

8524.91 -- For reproducing phenomena other than sound or image

8524.99 -- Other”

II. CONCLUSION

12. The Sub-Committee is invited to examine the above draft amendments to the Nomenclature. Conforming changes to the Explanatory Notes could be drafted by the Secretariat if the Sub-Committee agrees to the proposed amendments.

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