



HARMONIZED SYSTEM  
COMMITTEE

-  
27<sup>th</sup> Session  
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NC0352E1

O. Eng.

Brussels, April 2001.

## CO-OPERATION WITH THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON RULES OF ORIGIN

(Item II.6 on Agenda)

### Reference documents :

42.009 (HSC/21)	NC0090E2, Annex C/1 (HSC/23 – Report)
42.100, Annex C/3 (HSC/21 – Report)	OC0030E2 (TCRO/17 – Report)
42.262 (TCRO/12 – Report)	NC0098E1 (HSC/24)
42.263 (TCRO/12/13 – Report to the Committee on Rules of Origin)	NC0160E2, Annex C/1 (HSC/24 – Report)
42.557 (TCRO/13 – Report)	OC0046E2 (TCRO/18 – Report)
42.711 (TCRO/14 – Report)	NC0171E1 (HSC/25)
42.397 (HSC/22)	NC0250E2, par. 32 (HSC/25 – Report)
42.750, Annex C/1 (HSC/22 – Report)	NC0264E1 (HSC/26)
42.820 (TCRO/15 – Report)	NC0340E2, par. 43 (HSC/26 – Report)
OC0010E3 (TCRO/16 – Report)	OC0055E1 (TCRO/19 – Report)
NC0008E1 (HSC/23)	

### I. INTERSESSIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. The Technical Committee on Rules of Origin (Technical Committee or TCRO) held its 19<sup>th</sup> Session from Monday 26 to Thursday 29 March 2001. It took note of the progress made by the WTO Committee on Rules of Origin with regard to the Harmonization Work Programme, and examined proposals by the Secretariat with respect to the methodology for the preparation of the periodic report and annual review.
2. The implications of the amendments to the Harmonized System on Rules of Origin were, however, not discussed by the TCRO, but during an informal working session. This approach was taken following the opposition of one of the TCRO delegations, which argued that the Technical Committee should not undertake any work of this nature without a clear mandate from the Committee on Rules of Origin. During the informal working session, participants were informed about potential problems and possible solutions were discussed, recognizing that the HS 2002 structure would allow for a less complex structure of the rules of origin in certain Chapters, but mandated a far more complex structure in some other Chapters.
3. During the year 2000, the WTO Committee on Rules of Origin has taken a number of decisions vis-à-vis the overall structure and certain product specific rules of origin. At the same time, the WTO General Council has set a deadline for completion of the Harmonization

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Work Programme by the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference to be held from 9 to 13 November 2001.

4. The date for the next meeting of the Technical Committee will be fixed in accordance with the TCRO Rules of Procedure by the Secretary General in consultation with the Chairman.

## II. SECRETARIAT COMMENTS

5. The Secretariat would like to draw the Committee's attention to the fact that some of the technical implications of the HS 2002 amendments on the rules of origin have been discussed informally only (see paragraph 2 above). It is hoped, however, that, when the non-preferential rules of origin will come into force, they will reflect the actual situation vis-à-vis the nomenclature in use (i.e., HS 2002). In this context, the Secretariat would like to invite delegations to the HS Committee to assist the origin experts in their administrations when considering the amendments to the HS in the context of the development of Rules of Origin.

## III. CONCLUSION

6. The Committee is invited to take note of the developments in the Technical Committee of Rules of Origin, and to assist their origin experts when considering the HS 2002 amendments in the context of the development of Rules of Origin.
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