



HARMONIZED SYSTEM
COMMITTEE

-
28th Session
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NC0485E1
(+ Annex)
O. Eng.

Brussels, 10 September 2001.

POSSIBLE AMENDMENT OF THE EXPLANATORY NOTES TO CLARIFY
THE CLASSIFICATION OF PISCO AND SINGANI IN THE HARMONIZED SYSTEM

(Item VIII.5 on Agenda)

I. BACKGROUND

1. During the HS regional seminar held in Peru in February 2001, several administrations proposed that pisco and singani should be specifically mentioned as examples of “spirits obtained by distilling grape wine” in the Explanatory Note to heading 22.08. The Secretariat has therefore prepared a proposal in this regard.

II. SECRETARIAT COMMENTS

2. According to the information obtained by the Secretariat from technical literature and on the Internet pisco and singani can be described as follows :

Pisco

“White brandy made in Peru from muscat grapes” (The Concise Oxford Dictionary – Tenth Edition)

“Pisco is distilled from grapes, usually with high sugar content, grown in the warm and sunny regions of Chile and Peru, and is technically a brandy. The Pisco is then aged for several years in oak or clay containers.” (www.webtender.com).

Singani

Singani is a clear spirit made exclusively from Muscatel of Alexandria grapes. Once the singani reaches an alcohol content of 71 %, it is aged for 2-3 months in stainless tanks before bottling. After ageing, pure spring water from slopes of the Andes Mountains is added to the distilled singani to bring it down to 40 % alcohol content. (www.casa-real.com).

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3. Based on this information, it is quite clear that pisco and singani are obtained by distilling grape wine or grape marc. Accordingly, they are classifiable in subheading 2208.20. The Secretariat has therefore proposed an amendment to the part (item (1) of the Explanatory Note to heading 22.08) which corresponds to this subheading. The proposed amendment is set out in the Annex to this document.

III. CONCLUSION

4. The Committee is invited to examine the proposed amendments to the Explanatory Note to heading 22.08, as set out in the Annex to this document, taking into account the observations of the Secretariat in paragraphs 2 and 3 above.

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