



HARMONIZED SYSTEM  
COMMITTEE

-  
29<sup>th</sup> Session

NC0548E1  
(+ Annexes I to III)  
O. Eng.

Brussels, 8 April 2002.

POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS TO THE EXPLANATORY NOTES  
WITH A VIEW TO CLARIFYING THE CLASSIFICATION OF LAUNDRY TYPE  
AND INDUSTRIAL WASHING MACHINES

(Item VIII.12 on Agenda)

Reference documents :

NC0486E1 (HSC/28)  
NC0510E2, Annexes H/6 and H/11 (HSC/28 – Report)

I. BACKGROUND

1. At its 28<sup>th</sup> Session, the Harmonized System Committee unanimously agreed to the Secretariat's proposal for amendment of the Explanatory Note to heading 84.51, Item (A) (1), as presented in the Annex to Doc. NCO486E1.
2. The Committee also instructed the Secretariat to draft a working document for its next session with a view to clarifying the classification of laundry type and industrial washing machines in the Explanatory Notes, taking into account the Secretariat's comments in paragraph 3 of Doc. NC0486E1. In this regard, one delegate indicated that it would be useful to provide information in the working document for the next session on specific examples of industrial washing machines that were included in heading 84.51.
3. The text of paragraph 3 to Doc. NC0486E1 is reproduced for the convenience of the delegates :

"The Committee may also wish to insert, in the Explanatory Note to heading 84.51, a further clarification regarding industrial washing machines as being, for example, machines used during the manufacturing process of fabrics and textiles, in which the equipment is used in finishing or to remove sizing or to dye or bleach the manufactured goods. Finally, the Secretariat believes that an Explanatory Note amendment to heading 84.50 defining the term "laundry-type"

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washing machines would provide the type of guidance requested by the Egyptian Administration.”

4. Another delegate stated that in drafting the Explanatory Note, the Secretariat should indicate that the washing machines of heading 84.51 were used in the manufacturing and finishing of textile yarns, fabrics or made-up textile articles, as distinguished from those in heading 84.50, which were used in laundry situations, to clean soiled linens, etc.

## II. SECRETARIAT COMMENTS

5. At the Committee’s instruction, the Secretariat has drafted proposals to amend the Explanatory Notes with a view to clarifying the classification of laundry type and industrial washing machines in the Explanatory Notes, taking into account the Secretariat’s comments in paragraph 3 of Doc. NC0486E1. These are found in Annex III to this document.
6. In drafting its proposals, the Secretariat took note of the comments made by delegates with regard to the usefulness of providing information in the working document on specific examples of industrial washing machines that were included in heading 84.51, as well as having the proposed amendments to the Explanatory Notes to headings 84.50 and 84.51 reflect the situations in which the washing machines were used.
7. The Secretariat contacted a number of manufacturers of washing machines but encountered difficulties in finding manufacturers of industrial washing machines. The Secretariat also contacted the Egyptian Administration, which had made the original request that the Explanatory Notes to headings 84.50 and 84.51 be amended to clarify the classification of laundry type and industrial washing machines. The Secretariat requested that technical information relating to the specific products, which had caused classification problems, be forwarded to the Secretariat in order that they could be used as examples in its document. At the time of the drafting of this document, the Secretariat had not received a response. Should such information be received, the Secretariat would make it available to the delegates to the HSC.
8. The Secretariat, through a search of the Internet, was able to find the following examples of washing machines which, in the view of the Secretariat, are classifiable in heading 84.51 and which, it hopes, will facilitate the discussion of this agenda item.

### **High Temperature Pressure Dyeing Machine GR201A-50 and GR201-100**

9. A picture of the product can be found in Annex I to this document. As the product name suggests, this machine is a dyeing machine but it is also used for soaping and washing cotton, wool, chemical fibres and their blends in the form of slivers, hanks, cones and loose-stocks. It is comprised of a dye liquor circulating pump, a vertical cylindrical vessel, a pneumatic system for opening and closing the vessel lid, together with a safety lock device and a backward/forward motor. The dye liquor circulating pump is driven by a backward/forward motor through a V-belt to reverse circulation.

### **SLMAO12 High Efficiency Open-width Washing Range**

10. A picture of the product can be found in Annex II to this document. The range is comprised of a number of sections, whereby the fabric is sent through a system of newly-designed squeezing washers which are used both as mangles and washers. A section by

section counterflow design is employed for the washers to reduce water consumption. It contains a multi-unit D.C. synchro drive. This washing range is used after printing for washing, whitening and dyeing fabrics made of 100 % cotton, polyester/cotton or other cotton blends.

11. In examining the aforementioned goods, one can see that these machines function in the way that the Secretariat described in its view of industrial washing machines (see Doc. NC0486E1), that is to say, they are examples of machines used during the manufacturing process of fabrics and textiles, in which the equipment is used in finishing or to remove sizing or to dye or bleach the manufactured goods.
12. On this basis, the Secretariat presents its proposals for amendments to the Explanatory Notes to headings 84.50 and 84.51. The Secretariat wonders whether the Committee would consider inserting the two pictures of industrial washing machines found in this document in the Explanatory Notes as examples of such machines. The Committee will recall that it has done the same for belts or belting of trapezoidal cross-section, synchronous belts and different types of tyres of subheadings 4011.61 to 4011.69. If such is the case, the Secretariat would search for appropriate pictures which would typify laundry type washing machines of heading 84.50, including those found in laundromats, hospitals and the home.

### III. CONCLUSION

13. The Committee is invited to express its view on the Explanatory Notes amendment proposed by the Secretariat in the Annex III to this document, as well as to indicate what other action should be taken, if any.

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