



HARMONIZED SYSTEM
COMMITTEE

NC0659E1
(+ Annex)

-
31st Session
-

O. Fr.

Brussels, 31 March 2003.

POSITION REGARDING CONTRACTING PARTIES
TO THE HS CONVENTION AND RELATED MATTERS

(Item II.1 on Agenda)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The purpose of this document is to provide the Committee with information about the Contracting Parties to the HS Convention, as well as progress on the implementation of the 2002 version of the Harmonized System and the application of the HS-related Recommendations.

II. POSITION REGARDING ACCESSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:
APPLICATION OF THE HARMONIZED SYSTEM

2. The present position regarding the Contracting Parties to the HS Convention, acceptance of the various HS-related Recommendations, and the use of the Harmonized System by non-Contracting Party administrations is summarised below (for details, see the Annex to this document).

	<u>Number</u>	<u>New since previous session</u>
<u>Contracting Parties to the HS Convention</u>	112	Eritrea
<u>Implementation of 2002 amendments (as from January 2002)</u>	70 out of 112	(see Annex)
<u>Recommendations :</u>		
• Ozone Layer Depleting Substances (1995/1999)	38 (1995/31) (1999/7)	

• Use of Standard Units of Quantity (2001)	12	Sri Lanka
• Pre-entry Classification Information (1996)	41	Colombia
• Chemical Weapons Convention (1996/1999)	11	Australia
• Reporting Trade Data (1997)	35	EU and its 15 member states
• Good Classification Work Model (1998)	7	Turkey
• Hand-made Products (2000)	3	
• Application of HSC Decisions (2001)	22	Australia, Turkey, EU and its 15 member states
• Firearms (2002)	0	
<u>Use of the HS by Customs or Economic Unions and Non-Contracting Party Administrations</u>	78	LAIA, UEMOA

3. The Committee is invited to welcome Eritrea as the 112th Contracting Party to the HS Convention. This new Member has officially notified the Secretariat that the Convention entered into force for it on 1 January 2003.

III. STATUS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2002 VERSION OF THE HARMONIZED SYSTEM

4. The Committee is invited to note that the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) has officially notified the Secretariat that it has implemented the 2002 HS amendments with effect from 1 January 2003. The Secretariat wonders whether this means that all of the Member countries of the UEMOA have already implemented the HS 2002. If so, it should be reflected in the Annex to this document and the UEMOA Secretariat or its Member countries are invited to clarify this point.
5. As is shown in the Annex to this document, to date 70 Contracting Parties have informed the Secretariat that they have implemented HS 2002. Therefore, there are now 42 Contracting Parties which have yet to implement this version, or have not yet responded to the Secretariat's repeated requests for information in this connection.
6. All the administrations that have already implemented the HS 2002 Recommendation are requested to provide the Secretariat with a copy of the 2002 version of their HS-based statistical nomenclature or Customs tariff as soon as possible. Those which are not yet applying it should provide the Secretariat with their new Customs tariff or statistical nomenclature as soon as it becomes available.

7. Finally, the Secretariat again invites those administrations which have not yet implemented the 2002 version of the Harmonized System to do so as soon as possible, and to notify the Secretariat accordingly. Any administration requiring technical assistance in this respect is invited to inform the Secretariat of its actual needs.
8. The Secretariat takes this opportunity to point out that the Council has emphasised how important it is that all Contracting Parties formally accept the 2002 amendments to the Harmonized System. The Secretariat remains at the disposal of administrations for any technical assistance they may require. Several regional organisations have also been approached with offers of assistance for the amendment of their common tariffs. The Secretariat considers that administrations should take a more active stance with regard to the fulfilment of their obligations, in order to ensure the continued effectiveness of the Harmonized System as one of the pre-eminent instruments of international trade.
9. During the Committee session, the delegates of administrations which have not yet implemented the 2002 version of the Harmonized System will be invited to give a report on the situation with regard to implementation in their administrations.

IV. SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES

Customs Laboratory Guide

10. Following the work carried out at the 18th Session of the Scientific Sub-Committee in January 2003, the Secretariat is continuing with the task of updating and improving the Customs Laboratory Guide. The Secretariat expects to be able to publish a second amending supplement to the Guide later this year.

Alphabetical Index

11. The Secretariat is currently revising the Alphabetical Index to reflect the decisions taken by the Committee since the implementation of the 2002 version of the Harmonized System. The Secretariat expects to be able to publish an amending supplement to the Index later this year.

Classification Handbook

12. Amending Supplement No. 2 to the Classification Handbook has already been published.

Explanatory Notes

13. Amending Supplement No. 3, containing the amendments adopted by the Committee at its 30th Session (November 2002) under the Article 8.2 procedure, has already been published.

Compendium of Classification Opinions

Since 32 Amending Supplements to the Compendium have already been agreed by the Committee, the Secretariat has come to the conclusion that it is now time to issue a new edition. The first edition will incorporate the amendments adopted by HS Committee at its 30th Session (Amending Supplement No. 32 – see Doc. NG0064E1).

IV. CONCLUSION

14. The Committee is invited to take note of the information provided above and to discuss the implementation of the 2002 version of the Harmonized System.

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HS Position as of 26-03-2003
(Contracting Parties)

Annex to Doc. NC0659E1
(HSC/31/May 2003)

Country / Customs Union	HS Contracting Parties		HS 2002 Implementation	Acceptance of Recommendations (by date of receipt of the notifications)									HS-based Tariffs available in the Secretariat	
	Date of Accession	Date of entry into force		Date of Implementation	Pre-entry Classification 1996	UNSD Trade Data 1997	Good Classification Work Model 1998	Ozone 1995 / 1999*	Chemical Weapons 1996 (Amend. 99)	Hand-made Products 2000	Units of Quantity 2001	Application of HSC Decisions 2001	Firearms 2002	Language
Algeria	24-10-1991	01-01-1992	01-01-2002										French	1999
Argentina	11-01-1994	11-01-1994	03-05-2002	18-03-1997			17-09-1996	14-08-1998					Spanish	2002
Australia	22-09-1987	01-01-1988	01-01-2002	06-08-2002		06-08-2002		05-03-2003			27-02-2003		English	1996
Austria	22-09-1987	01-01-1988	01-01-2002	07-01-1997	04-03-2003		07-10-1996				11-03-2003		(EC German)	(2003)
Azerbaijan	07-07-2000	07-07-2000	01-01-2002							16-01-2002	16-01-2002		(CIS Russian)	(1996)
Bahrain	14-12-2001	01-01-2002	01-01-2002										Arabic / English (GCC)	2002
Bangladesh	22-09-1987	01-01-1988	07-06-2002										English	2002
Belarus	21-10-1998	01-01-2000	01-07-2002										Russian	1997
Belgium	22-09-1987	01-01-1988	01-01-2002	07-01-1997	04-03-2003		07-10-1996				11-03-2003		French / Dutch (BLEU)	2003
Botswana	13-02-1987	01-01-1988	01-04-2002											
Brazil	08-11-1988	01-01-1989	01-01-2002	12-07-1996			19-06-1996	24-04-1998					Portuguese (MERCOSUR)	2002
Bulgaria	30-10-1990	01-01-1992	01-01-2002				20-02-1996						Bulgarian English	2000 1996
Burkina Faso	25-09-1990	01-01-1992											French (ECOWAS)	1998
Cambodia	27-06-2002	01-01-2003												
Cameroon	16-05-1988	01-07-1989			25-03-1998								(CEMAC French)	(1998)
Canada	14-12-1987	01-01-1988	01-01-2002	18-09-1996	29-09-1998	05-05-1999	23-03-1998	23-03-1998	14-02-2001				English French	2002 2002
Central African Rep.	11-06-1998	18-05-1998											(CEMAC French)	(1998)
Chad	05-09-1990	01-01-1992											(CEMAC French)	(1998)
China	23-06-1992	01-01-1993	01-01-2002							27-06-2002	27-06-2002		Chinese / English	2002
Colombia	21-10-2002	21-10-2002		29-11-2002			29-11-2002*	29-11-2002		29-11-2002			Spanish	1996

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Congo (Dem. Rep. of the)	10-11-1987	01-01-1988											French	1997
Côte d'Ivoire	25-01-1990	01-01-1991											(ECOWAS)	(1998)
Croatia	29-09-1994	29-09-1994	01-01-2002										Croatian English	1996 1996
Cuba	03-11-1995	01-01-1997		09-02-1998			23-07-1996	09-02-1998					Spanish	1998
Cyprus	21-03-1994	21-03-1994	01-01-2002	22-01-2002			22-01-2002						English	2002
Czech Rep.	16-11-1993	16-11-1993	01-01-2002		07-08-2001								Czech	1999
Denmark	22-09-1987	01-01-1988	01-01-2002	07-01-1997	04-03-2003		07-10-1996				11-03-2003		(EC Danish)	(2003)
Egypt	27-05-1999	01-01-2001											Arabic	1994
Eritrea	17-01-2003	17-01-2003												
Estonia	26-05-1993	01-01-1995	01-01-2002		08-12-1997		13-11-1995						Estonian	1996
Ethiopia	01-03-1995	01-03-1995											Ethiopian / English	1998
Fiji	23-12-1997	01-01-1998											English	1997
Finland	22-09-1987	01-01-1988	01-01-2002	07-01-1997	04-03-2003		07-10-1996				11-03-2003		(EC Finnish)	(2003)
France	22-09-1987	01-01-1988	01-01-2002	07-01-1997	04-03-2003		07-10-1996				11-03-2003		(EC French)	(2003)
Gabon	07-07-2000	01-01-2002											French	2002
Germany	22-09-1987	01-01-1988	01-01-2002	07-01-1997	04-03-2003		07-10-1996				11-03-2003		(EC German)	(2003)
Greece	15-07-1988	01-01-1990	01-01-2002	07-01-1997	04-03-2003		07-10-1996				11-03-2003		(EC Greek)	(2003)
Guinea	23-09-1997	01-01-1998											French (ECOWAS)	1998
Haiti	17-01-2000	17-01-2000											French	1996
Hungary	27-08-1990	01-01-1991	01-01-2002	03-09-2002	13-01-1998		16-11-1999*	16-11-1999		18-03-2002			Hungarian	1996
Iceland	28-10-1987	01-01-1988	01-01-2002										Icelandic English	1994 1994
India	23-06-1986	01-01-1988	01-01-2002										English	2000
Indonesia	05-07-1993	01-01-1995					30-10-1998						Indonesian / English	1996

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Iran	28-02-1995	01-01-1997				10-03-1999				19-01-2002			Farsi	1998
Ireland	22-12-1987	01-01-1988	01-01-2002	07-01-1997	04-03-2003		07-10-1996				11-03-2003		(EC English)	(2003)
Israel	05-08-1987	01-01-1988	01-01-2002										English	1997
Italy	31-05-1989	01-01-1991	01-01-2002	07-01-1997	04-03-2003		07-10-1996				11-03-2003		(EC Italian)	(2003)
Japan	22-06-1987	01-01-1988	01-01-2002	24-03-1997									Japanese / English	2002
Jordan	10-06-1985	01-01-1988	01-03-2002										Arabic / English	2002
Kenya	29-07-1988	01-07-1989	13-06-2002										English	2002
Korea (Rep. of)	27-11-1987	01-01-1988	01-01-2002	07-08-1996	26-10-1998		26-10-1998	07-08-1996					Korean / English	1999
Latvia	04-01-1996	01-06-1996	01-01-2002	19-07-1999	25-01-1999		10-11-2000			31-07-2002			Latvian English	1997 2002
Lebanon	03-05-1996	03-05-1996	01-01-2002											
Lesotho	12-12-1985	01-01-1988	01-01-2002										English	1993
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	17-05-1993	01-01-1995											Arabic	1998
Lithuania	20-06-1994	01-01-1995	01-01-2002	25-08-1997	08-12-1997	09-11-1998	03-08-1998						Lithuanian	2002
Luxembourg	11-07-1988	11-07-1988	01-01-2002	07-01-1997	04-03-2003		07-10-1996				11-03-2003		(BLEU French)	(2003)
Macedonia (The Former Yugoslav Rep. of)	31-03-1995	31-03-1995	01-01-2002										Macedonian	2002
Madagascar	22-12-1987	01-01-1988											French	2000
Malawi	25-10-1988	01-04-1989	15-04-2002										English	1996
Malaysia	15-12-1987	01-01-1988	01-01-2002	10-06-1997									English	1996
Maldives	07-07-2000	01-01-2002			11-07-2002								English	2000
Mali	15-06-1994	01-01-1995											French	1997
Malta	20-12-1989	01-01-1990	01-04-2002		27-01-1998								English	1997

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Mauritania	03-04-2001	01-01-2003*											French	2000
Mauritius	10-06-1985	01-01-1988	01-01-2002		15-11-1999					11-11-2002			English	2002
Mexico	06-09-1991	06-03-1992	01-04-2002	20-08-1996									Spanish	1996
Mongolia	30-09-1991	01-01-1993											Mongolian / Russian / English	1998
Morocco	27-02-1992	01-07-1992	01-07-2002						24-04-2001	25-02-2002	25-02-2002		French	1997
Myanmar	05-12-1994	01-01-1995					20-09-1995						English	1996
Netherlands	22-09-1987	01-01-1988	01-01-2002	07-01-1997	04-03-2003		07-10-1996				11-03-2003		(EC Dutch)	(2003)
New Zealand	22-09-1987	01-01-1988	01-01-2002										English	2002
Niger	16-03-1990	01-01-1991											French (ECOWAS)	1998
Nigeria	15-03-1988	15-03-1988			12-02-1998								(ECOWAS)	(1998)
Norway	27-08-1987	01-01-1988	01-01-2002	18-09-1996	07-01-1998		8-12-1999*			19-12-2001			Norwegian	2003
Pakistan	22-09-1987	01-01-1988	15-06-2002	03-12-2001		03-12-2001							English	2002
Panama	24-08-1998	01-01-2000												
Peru	09-07-1998	01-01-2000	01-01-2002				13-02-2001	13-02-2001					Spanish (CAN)	1998
Philippines	28-06-2001	28-06-2001											English	2001
Poland	12-09-1995	01-01-1996	01-01-2002	03-07-2001									Polish English	2002 1996
Portugal	04-11-1987	01-01-1988	01-01-2002	07-01-1997	04-03-2003		07-10-1996				11-03-2003		(EC Portuguese)	(2003)
Romania	05-12-1996	01-01-1997	01-01-2002	23-06-1997									Romanian	1997
Russia	18-06-1996	01-01-1997	01-01-2002	15-07-2002			15-07-2002*			04-08-2002			Russian English	2002 1994
Rwanda	29-07-1992	01-01-1994												
Saudi Arabia	10-03-1988	01-01-1990	01-01-2002		30-08-2001		08-01-2001						Arabic	2002
Senegal	21-09-1989	01-01-1991					24-10-2002*	24-10-2002	24-10-2002				(ECOWAS)	(1998)

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Serbia and Montenegro	09-01-2002	09-01-2002												
Slovakia	07-06-1993	07-06-1993	01-01-2002	04-06-1997	08-11-2000								Slovak English	2002 2001
Slovenia	23-11-1992	23-11-1992	01-01-2002	02-06-1997									Slovene	1996
South Africa	25-11-1987	01-01-1988	01-01-2002		06-03-1998								English	1998
Spain	28-09-1987	01-01-1988	01-01-2002	07-01-1997	04-03-2003		07-10-1996				11-03-2003		(EC Spanish)	(2003)
Sri Lanka	03-05-1988	01-01-1989	23-03-2002				25-04-2002*			26-02-2003			English	2002
Sudan	10-12-1993	10-12-1993											Arabic	1992
Swaziland	26-11-1985	01-01-1988												
Sweden	22-09-1987	01-01-1988	01-01-2002	07-01-1997	04-03-2003		07-10-1996				11-03-2003		(EC Swedish)	(2003)
Switzerland	22-09-1987	01-01-1988	01-01-2002	06-02-1997	11-02-1998		18-09-2000*			13-09-2002	13-09-2002		French	2002
Thailand	16-12-1991	01-01-1993	01-01-2002										Thai / English	2002
Togo	12-02-1990	01-01-1991											(ECOWAS)	(1998)
Tunisia	28-10-1987	01-01-1989	01-04-2002	12-09-1997										
Turkey	15-12-1988	01-01-1989	01-01-2002	06-10-1997	24-07-1998	21-01-2003	06-10-1997	06-10-1997			21-01-2003		English	1997
Uganda	11-07-1989	01-01-1991											English	1997
Ukraine	26-08-2002	01-01-2004*											Ukrainian	1993
United Arab Emirates	27-06-2002	01-07-2002											Arabic (GCC)	1999
United Kingdom	22-09-1987	01-01-1988	01-01-2002	07-01-1997	04-03-2003		07-10-1996				11-03-2003		(EC English)	(2003)
United States	31-10-1988	01-01-1989	10-01-2002	27-02-1997	06-11-1998	06-11-1998							English	1999
Uzbekistan	17-11-1998	01-01-2000												
Venezuela	23-10-1998	02-11-1998											Spanish	1999
Viet Nam	26-03-1998	01-01-2000											Vietnamese / English	1996
Yemen	30-09-2002	01-01-2003											Arabic	2002
Zambia	22-12-1986	01-01-1988	01-03-2002										English	1997

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Zimbabwe	05-11-1986	01-01-1988	13-09-2002										English	1997
European Community (EC)	22-09-1987	01-01-1988	01-01-2002	07-01-1997	04-03-2003		07-10-1996				11-03-2003		Danish Dutch English Finnish French German Greek Italian Portuguese Spanish Swedish	2003 2003 2003 2003 2003 2003 2003 2003 2003 2003
TOTAL	112		70	41	35	7	38 (7*)	11	3	12	22	0		80
		* Unless an earlier date is specified					* 1999 Version							

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Albania												
Andorra												
Antigua and Barbuda											(CARICOM English)	(1993)
Armenia												
Bahamas											English	1996
Barbados											(CARICOM English)	(1993)
Belize											(CARICOM English)	(1993)
Benin											(ECOWAS)	(1998)
Bermuda											English	1997
Bhutan											English	2002
Bolivia	X		10-10-2000								Spanish (CAN)	1999
Brunei Darussalam											English	1991
Cape Verde											Portuguese (ECOWAS)	1998
Chile											Spanish	1989
Comoros											French	1993
Congo (Rep. of the)											(CEMAC French)	(1998)
Cook Islands											English	1989
Costa Rica	X										Spanish	1998
Djibouti												
Dominica											(CARICOM English)	(1993)
Dominican Rep.												
Ecuador												
El Salvador												

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Equatorial Guinea											(CEMAC French)	(1998)
Gambia											(ECOWAS)	(1998)
Georgia	X											
Ghana											(ECOWAS)	(1998)
Grenada											(CARICOM English)	(1993)
Guatemala												
Guinea Bissau											(ECOWAS)	(1998)
Guyana											(CARICOM English)	(1993)
Honduras												
Hong Kong, China	X										Chinese / English	2002
Jamaica											English	1993
Kazakhstan	X										English	1996
Kiribati											English	1989
Kuwait		21-05-1997									Arabic (GCC)	2001
Kyrgyzstan												
Liberia											(ECOWAS)	(1998)
Liechtenstein												
Macau, China	X										Chinese / Portuguese / English	2002
Mozambique											Portuguese	1991
Namibia												
Nepal											English	2001
New Caledonia (French Territory)												
Nicaragua												

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Niue											English	1989
Oman											Arabic	2002
Papua New Guinea												
Paraguay	X										(MERCOSUR Spanish)	(1996)
Polynesia (French Territory)												
Qatar											Arabic (GCC)	1999
Saint Kitts and Nevis											(CARICOM English)	(1993)
Saint Lucia											(CARICOM English)	(1993)
Saint Pierre and Miquelon (French Territory)												
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines											English	1998
Sierra Leone											English (ECOWAS)	1998
Singapore											English	1996
Solomon Islands											English	1998
Suriname											(CARICOM English)	(1993)
Syrian Arab Rep.											Arabic	2001
Tanzania											English	1996
Tonga											English	1995
Trinidad and Tobago											English	1993
Turkmenistan												
Tuvalu											English	1989
Uruguay	X										(MERCOSUR Spanish)	(1996)
Vanuatu												
Wallis and Futuna Islands (French Territory)												

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Andean Community (CAN)					(13-08-1999)	(13-08-1999)		(13-08-1999)			Spanish	2001
Caribbean Community (CARICOM)											English	1993
Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC)											French	1998
Commonwealth of the Independent States (CIS)											Russian	1996
Economic Community of Western African States (ECOWAS)											(English) (French) (Portuguese)	(1998) (1998) (1998)
Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)											(Arabic / English)	(2001)
Latin American Integration Association (ALADI)	(X)				(20-12-2002)*	(20-12-2002)					Spanish	1996
Southern Cone Common Market (MERCOSUR)	(X)										Spanish (Portuguese)	1996 (2002)
West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA)	(X)									(X)		
TOTAL : 69 Countries + 9 Unions	8	1	1									36
Contracting Parties : 112	70	41	35	7	38 (7*)	11	3	12	22	0		80
112 Contracting Parties + 78 Applications	78	42	36	7	38 (7*)	11	3	12	22	0		116
	(X) Not counted in the total				* 1999 Version							