



HARMONIZED SYSTEM  
COMMITTEE

-  
25<sup>th</sup> Session  
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NC0171E1

O. Eng.

Brussels, 14 March 2000.

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

(Item II.7 on Agenda)

### Reference documents :

42.009 (HSC/21)	42.820 (TCRO/15 – Report)
42.100, Annex C/3 (HSC/21 – Report)	OC0010E3 (TCRO/16 – Report)
42.262 (TCRO/12 – Report)	NC0008E1 (HSC/23)
42.263 (TCRO/12/13 – Report to the Committee on Rules of Origin)	NC0090E2, Annex C/1 (HSC/23 – Report)
42.557 (TCRO/13 – Report)	OC0030E2 (TCRO/17 – Report)
42.711 (TCRO/14 – Report)	NC0098E1 (HSC/24)
42.397 (HSC/22)	NC0160E2, Annex C/1 (HSC/24 – Report)
42.750, Annex C/1 (HSC/22 – Report)	

### I. BACKGROUND

1. The Technical Committee on Rules of Origin (Technical Committee or TCRO) held its 18<sup>th</sup> Session from 21 to 25 February 2000. Members of the Nomenclature and Classification Sub-Directorate attended the session.
2. The following is a summary of the discussions and conclusions of the Technical Committee concerning agenda items of a technical nature, which may have a bearing on the HS.

### II. SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSIONS AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

3. At its 18<sup>th</sup> Session, the Technical Committee discussed mainly the following issues :
  - (a) Intersessional development;
  - (b) Annual review and periodic reports; and
  - (c) Implications of the HS amendments.

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4. The TCRO noted the WCO Council Decision that the Secretariat should assist TCRO and WTO Members in preparing the implementation of the Harmonized Rules of Non-Preferential Origin. It took note of the developments in Geneva, where the WTO Committee on Rules of Origin (CRO) had held 5 meetings after the TCRO had presented the final results of its deliberations (May 1999). During these 5 meetings, the CRO had discussed the overall architecture.
5. The TCRO discussed extensively a number of issues concerning the procedures to be followed for the preparation and the circulation of periodic reports to the CRO/WTO, as well as those to be followed for the preparation of the annual review.
6. Finally, the TCRO held a preliminary discussion on the Secretariat's document addressing the various approaches to be followed in order to insert the HS 2002 amendments into the Rules of Origin. It was once more noted that amendment to the HS should not affect the rules of origin. Consequently, a technical rectification of the rules of origin (once adopted) to reflect the HS amendments, should not have any implications on the rules as adopted.
7. The next session of the TCRO is provisionally scheduled for October 2000.

### III. CONCLUSION

8. The Committee is requested to take note of the above developments in the Technical Committee on Rules of Origin.
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