

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20436

**MEMORANDUM ON PROPOSED TARIFF LEGISLATION
of the 110th Congress¹**

[Date approved: August 8, 2008]²

Bill No. and sponsor: HR 4996 (Mr. Jim McDermott of Washington).

Proponent name,³ location: Mitsui & Co. (USA), Inc., Seattle, Washington.

Other bills on product (110th Congress only): None.

Nature of bill: Temporary duty suspension through December 31, 2011.

Retroactive effect: None.

Suggested article description(s) for enactment (including appropriate HTS subheading(s)):

Leaf spring leaves of alloy steel, each leaf measuring 137 cm or more but not over 163 cm in length and approximately 10.2 cm in width and weighing 41.7 kg or more but not over 89.4 kg, the foregoing designed for multi-leaf or taper-leaf construction units for Class 7 and 8 trucks only, certified by the importer as of Japan JIS grade⁴ SUP 10H (SAE6150) steel produced using a patented modified aus-forming process (provided for in subheading 7320.10.60).⁵

Check one: Same as that in bill as introduced.
 Different from that in bill as introduced (see Technical comments section).

Product information, including uses/applications and source(s) of imports:

The subject leaf springs are composed of several flat steel strips, which are bundled together to form a shock-absorbing suspension component for use in heavy trucks. These goods are custom-produced in Japan by a single company for a specific U.S. customer. Mitsui & Co., Ltd. sends them to its U.S. distributor, Mitsui & Co. USA, which sells them to the ultimate purchaser for inclusion in such trucks.

¹ Industry analyst preparing report: Karen Taylor (202-205-4101); Tariff Affairs contact: Jan Summers (202-205-2605).

² Access to an electronic copy of this memorandum is available at http://www.usitc.gov/tata/hts/other/rel_doc/bill_reports/.

³ The sponsor/proponent did not identify any additional beneficiaries of this bill.

⁴ The Japanese Industrial Standards Committee sets forth Japan's grading standards for steel.

⁵ Class 7 trucks weigh from 26,001 to 33,000 lbs (11,794 to 14,969 kg) and Class 8 trucks weigh 33,001 lbs or more (14,970 kg or more). *The World's Truck Manufacturers: A Strategic Review of Finance and Operations*. London: Automotive World Publications, 10th edn. (2007). 156.

Estimated effect on customs revenue:

HTS subheading: 7320.10.60					
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Col. 1-General rate of duty	3.2%	3.2%	3.2%	3.2%	3.2%
Estimated value <i>dutiable</i> imports	\$8,175,000	\$8,175,000	\$8,175,000	\$8,175,000	\$8,175,000
Customs revenue loss	\$261,600	\$261,600	\$261,600	\$261,600	\$261,600

Source of estimated dutiable import data: Industry estimates.

Contacts with domestic firms/organizations (including the proponent):

Name of firm/organization	Date contacted	Claim US makes same or competing product(s)?	Submission attached?	Opposition noted?
		(Yes/No)		
Mitsui & Co. (USA), Inc. (Proponent) John Gilliland (counsel to Mitsui & Co. USA), 202-626-1466	05/21/2008	No	No	No
Motor Equipment Manufacturers Association Ann Wilson, 202-312-9246	05/28/2008	Yes	No	No

Technical comments:⁶

The article description should be amended as shown on page 1, in order to be more consistent with other tariff provisions. Because Customs officials could only verify the composition of any imported product through laboratory testing, an importer certification requirement is suggested to simplify administration of the duty suspension.

⁶ The Commission may express an opinion on the HTS classification of a product to facilitate consideration of the bill. However, by law, only the U.S. Customs Service is authorized to issue a binding ruling on this matter. The Commission believes that the U.S. Customs Service should be consulted prior to enactment of the bill.

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4996

To suspend temporarily the duty on modified steel leaf spring leaves.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 16, 2008

Mr. McDERMOTT introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To suspend temporarily the duty on modified steel leaf spring
leaves.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. MODIFIED STEEL LEAF SPRING LEAVES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 99 of
5 the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States is
6 amended by inserting in numerical sequence the following
7 new heading:

“	9902.01.00	Leaf spring leaves of alloy steel of Japan JIS grade SUP 10H (SAE6150), each measuring from 137 cm to 163 cm in length and approximately 10.2 cm in width, the foregoing designed for multi-leaf or taper-leaf construction units, each leaf weighing approximately from 41.7 kg to 89.4 kg, produced using a patented modified aus-forming process and designed for use in Class 7 and 8 trucks only (provided for in subheading 7320.10.60)	Free	No change	No change	On or before 12/31/2011	”.
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1 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by
2 subsection (a) applies to goods entered, or withdrawn from
3 warehouse for consumption, on or after the 15th day after
4 the date of the enactment of this Act.

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