

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20436

**MEMORANDUM ON PROPOSED TARIFF LEGISLATION
of the 110th Congress**¹

[Date approved: July 1, 2008]²

Bill No. and sponsor: H.R. 5144 (Mr. Steve Israel of New York).

Proponent name,³ location: Nikon Corp., Mellville, NY.

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

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

Retroactive effect: None.

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

Lenses designed for digital cameras, the foregoing with focal length 55 mm or more but not over 200 mm and not exceeding 255.2 g in weight (provided for in subheading 9002.11.90).

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

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

The subject lenses for digital cameras are optical elements optimized for use with digital single lens reflex (DSLR) cameras. These digital cameras can accept a variety of interchangeable lenses with differing lengths, widths, weights, or other characteristics that enable the user to perform different photographic functions. The specific lenses described in the subject bill are normally referred to as zoom lenses, which permit the user to enlarge the image by bringing it in closer (zooming in) or minimize the image by moving out farther (zooming out), and frame the image as desired, by extending or retracting the focal length of the lens. The specific lenses subject to the bill enable the user to extend the focal length of the lens, expressed in terms of equivalent focal lengths of traditional optical single lens reflex (SLR) cameras⁴, up to a maximum of 200 mm and reduce the focal length to as low as 55 mm. The lenses are imported primarily from Japan and China. Dutiable U.S. imports under subheading 9002.11.90 (which covers a wide range of camera lenses) totaled \$563.1 million in 2007, with Japan supplying about \$460.6 million.

Estimated effect on customs revenue:

¹ Industry analyst preparing report: Christopher Johnson (202-205-3488); 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 focal length of optical lenses optimized for use with DSLR cameras is usually expressed in terms of equivalent focal length of traditional SLR cameras rather than the true focal length of DSLR camera lenses. Lenses optimized for use with DSLR cameras, while operating on the same basic optical principles as those for SLR cameras, are shorter than the equivalent SLR lens producing the same visual effect or image; each serves as the eye of the respective type of camera. This difference results from the relationship of lens size to the photographic image. The DSLR camera has a smaller electronic sensor compared to the standard 35 mm film frame of optical SLR cameras.

HTS subheading: 9002.11.90					
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Col. 1-General rate of duty	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%
Estimated value <i>dutiable</i> imports	\$14,500,000	\$14,500,000	\$14,500,000	\$14,500,000	\$14,500,000
Customs revenue loss 1/	\$0	\$333,500	\$333,500	\$333,500	\$333,500

1/ There is an existing duty suspension under HTS heading 9902.23.50 that expires on December 31, 2009. Therefore, there will be no customs revenue loss related to this bill in 2009.

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)		
Nikon Corp. (Proponent) Welles Orr, worr@milchev.com	04/03/2008	No	Yes	No
Canon U.S.A., Inc. John Montoya, jmontoya@cusa.canon.com	04/03/2008	No	No	No
Pentax U.S.A. Michelle Martin, michelle.martin@pentax.com	04/03/2008	No	No	No
Sigma Corp. of America Thomas Sobey, tsobey@sigmaphoto.com	04/03/2008	No	No	No
Tamron USA, Inc. Steve Beaulieu, beaulieu@tamron.com	04/03/2008	No	No	No

Technical comments:⁵

The intent of this bill is to extend the current temporary duty suspension under HTS heading 9902.23.50 until December 31, 2011, rather than to create a new duty suspension provision. The bill should be amended so that the expiration date of “12/31/2009” in this existing heading is changed to “12/31/2011” while leaving the article description unchanged.

⁵ 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. 5144

To suspend temporarily the duty on lightweight digital camera lenses.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 28, 2008

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

A BILL

To suspend temporarily the duty on lightweight digital camera lenses.

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. SUSPENSION OF DUTY ON LIGHTWEIGHT DIG-**
4 **ITAL CAMERA LENSES.**

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

“	9902.01.00	Lightweight lenses for digital cameras with focal length between 55 mm and 200 mm inclusive, and not exceeding 9 oz. in weight (provided for in subheading 9001.90.11)	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 articles entered, or withdrawn
3 from warehouse for consumption, on or after the 15th day
4 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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