

**MEMORANDUM ON PROPOSED TARIFF LEGISLATION
of the 109th Congress¹**

[Date approved: July 24, 2006]²

Bill No. and sponsor: S. 2576 (Mr. John Kerry of Massachusetts).

Proponent name, location: Acushnet Co., Fairhaven, MA.

Other bills on product (109th Congress only): S.2574, S. 2575, S. 2577, and S. 2578.³

Nature of bill: Temporary duty suspension through December 31, 2009.

Retroactive effect: None.

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

Golf club driver heads of titanium, each with a rhombus shaped center face insert and a laser welded face plate, and with 10.5 degree loft (provided for in subheading 9506.39.00).

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 golf club driver heads are used to produce finished golf clubs, specifically drivers, which are used mostly for long shots. A driver consists of three major integral parts: the club head (at the bottom of the club), the shaft, and the grip. Club heads are usually made of hollow steel, titanium or composite materials. The shaft enters the head at the top corner nearest to the player through a hollow tube known as a hosel in such a way that the face of the head is roughly at a right angle to one side of the shaft. A rhombus-shaped titanium golf club driver head has a face that contacts the ball during the stroke. In the subject goods, a rhombus-shaped center head (with a laser welded face plate and a 10.5 degree loft) is made of titanium, a stronger and lighter material that permits the production of a larger size club head. Driver club heads are each designed with faces having differing loft (the angle between a vertical plane and the club face when the club is at rest). The loft of a club head face (not the upward direction of a golf swing) makes a golf ball leave the ground on an ascending outward trajectory.

The principal import source of these driver heads is China.

¹ Industry analyst preparing report: Ruben Mata (202-205-3403); Tariff Affairs contact: Jan Summers (202-205-2605).

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

³ S. 2575 covers particular fairway heads, while the other three bills cover other driver heads.

Estimated effect on customs revenue:

HTS subheading: 9506.39.00					
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Col. 1-General rate of duty	4.9%	4.9%	4.9%	4.9%	4.9%
Estimated value <i>dutiable</i> imports	\$4,846,400	\$4,846,400	\$4,846,400	\$4,846,400	\$4,846,400
Customs revenue loss	\$237,474	\$237,474	\$237,474	\$237,474	\$237,474

Source of estimated dutiable import data: Commission and 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)		
Acushnet Co. (Proponent) Roland Giroux, 508-979-3661	05/12/2006	No	No	No
Callaway Golf Mike Dow, 690-930-5101	05/12/2006	No	No	No
Cleveland Golf Gary Marion, 714-889-1306	05/12/2006	No	No	No
Dunlop Golf Michael Johnston, 864-271-0201 ext. 209	05/19/2006	No	No	No
FocusGolf Michael Johnson, 864-527-7862	05/31/2006	No	No	No
Golfsmith International, Inc. David Varnay, 512-821-4841	05/19/2006	No	No	No
Mizuno USA, Inc. Chuck Couch, 770-441-5553	05/23/2006	No	No	No
Nickent Golf Eric Yang,, 888-642-5368 ext. 101	05/12/2006	No	No	No
Nike, Inc. Scott Mohr, 503-671-6005	05/12/2006	No	No	No
Ping, Inc. Chris Bowen, 602-687-5346	05/12/2006	No	Yes	Yes
Sonartee Golf Co. Kathy Blassey, 760-930-2454 ext. 109	05/12/2006	No	No	No
Tad Moore Golf Tad Moore, 706-884-6113	05/17/2006	No	No	No

TaylorMade Golf Co., Inc. Catherine Weeks, 760-919-6058	05/12/2006	No	Yes	Yes
Wilson Sporting Goods Co. Aileen Callahan, 800-662-0444 ext. 6566	05/12/2006	No	No	No

Technical comments:

It may be difficult for CBP to administer this provision, because it can be hard to tell upon visual inspection whether a laser weld was done at the foreign factory. If other golf club head bills are also enacted, it may be hard to know if an importer is using the correct provision for a particular shipment.

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2576

To suspend temporarily the duty on certain golf club driver heads of titanium.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 6, 2006

Mr. KERRY (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To suspend temporarily the duty on certain golf club driver
heads of titanium.

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. CERTAIN GOLF CLUB DRIVER HEADS OF TITA-**
4 **NIUM.**

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:

“	9902.95.14	Golf club driver heads of titanium, each with a rhombus shaped center face insert and a laser welded face plate, and with 10.5 degree loft (provided for in sub-heading 9506.39.00)	Free	No Change	No Change	On or before 12/31/2009	”.
---	------------	---	------	-----------	-----------	-------------------------	----

1 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by
2 subsection (a) applies with respect to goods entered, or
3 withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after
4 the 15th day after the date of enactment of this Act.

○