

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20436

**MEMORANDUM ON PROPOSED TARIFF LEGISLATION  
of the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress<sup>1</sup>**

[Date approved: October 11, 2006]<sup>2</sup>

**Bill No. and sponsor:** S. 3256 (Mr. Bill Frist of Tennessee on behalf of Mrs. Elizabeth Dole of North Carolina).

**Proponent name, location:** Leviton Manufacturing Co., Inc., Little Neck, NY.

**Other bills on product (109<sup>th</sup> Congress only):** None.

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

**Retroactive effect:** None.

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

Ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) or GFCI electrical power outlets, all the foregoing rated not over 15 A (provided for in subheading 8536.30.80).

**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:**

Ground fault circuit interrupter electrical power outlets and plug-in ground fault circuit interrupters rated not over 15 amperes (A) are types of ground fault circuit interrupter, or GFCI. A GFCI is a safety device used to reduce or prevent electrical shock with ground or ground equipment by interrupting the electrical current loading to a device that is set with a predetermined value. If the value of the ground current exceeds the predetermined value, then the GFCI will automatically turn off the electrical current to the device to prevent electrical shock.


GFCIs are most commonly used in areas where there is water, such as kitchens and bathrooms. GFCI plug-in devices rated not over 15 A fit into standard electrical outlets and are most commonly used with appliances such as a hair dryer, electric shaver, or radio. Many municipal or county electrical codes require the inclusion in residences, often in bathrooms, of a GFCI electrical power outlet, where the GFCI is part of the power outlet wired into the electrical system and includes a push button that will “pop” if the predetermined current value is exceeded. Such outlets differ from a “grounded outlet” designed for the insertion of three-pronged electrical plugs on power cords with a ground wire included.

The principal U.S. import sources of this product are China, Indonesia, and Mexico.

<sup>1</sup> Industry analyst preparing report: Falan Yinug (202-205-2160); Tariff Affairs contact: Jan Summers (202-205-2605).

<sup>2</sup> Access to an electronic copy of this memorandum is available at [http://usitc.gov/tata/hts/other/rel\\_doc/bill\\_reports/index.htm](http://usitc.gov/tata/hts/other/rel_doc/bill_reports/index.htm).

**Estimated effect on customs revenue:**

<b>HTS subheading: 8536.30.80</b>					
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Col. 1-General rate of duty	2.7%	2.7%	2.7%	2.7%	2.7%
Estimated value <i>dutiable</i> imports	\$18,500,000	\$19,000,000	\$19,500,000	\$20,000,000	\$20,500,000
Customs revenue loss	\$499,500	\$513,000	\$526,500	\$540,000	\$553,500

Source of estimated dutiable import data: Industry and Commission 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)		
Leviton Manufacturing Co., Inc. (Proponent) Stephen Hofmann, 202-216-9703	07/21/2006	No	No	No
Bryant Electric <u>1</u> / Fax: 800-543-0538	07/25/2006	No	No	No
Cooper Industries, Ltd. Terry Helz, 713-209-8408	07/24/2006	No	No	No
Eaton Corp. Barry Doggett, 216-423-4664	07/24/2006	No	No	No
Emerson Electric Co. Robert McDonald, 202-508-6303	07/24/2006	No	No	No
Ericson Manufacturing Co. Richard Fox, 440-951-8000	07/25/2006	No	No	No
General Electric Co. Sandy Merber, 202-637-4000	07/24/2006	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hitachi America, Ltd. Carl Green, 202-828-9272	07/24/2006	No	No	No
Hubbell Inc. Thomas Conlin, 203-799-4293	07/24/2006	No	No	No
Lutron Electronics Company, Inc. <u>1</u> / 610-282-3800	07/25/2006	No	No	No
National Electrical Manufacturers Association John Meakem, 703-841-3243	07/21/2006	No	No	No

Name of firm/organization	Date contacted	Claim US makes same or competing product(s)?	Submission attached?	Opposition noted?
		(Yes/No)		
Pass & Seymour/Lagrand John Clarke, 315-468-8223	07/24/2006	No	No	No
Siemens Energy and Automation, Inc. Tom Varney, 770-751-2000	07/25/2006	No	No	No
Square D Co. <u>1</u> / 847-397-2600	07/25/2006	No	No	No
Technology Research Corp. Robert Wiggins, 727-535-0572	07/25/2006	No	Yes	Yes

1/ No specific contact is available at some of the subject firms, which were identified using the Internet or in directories as firms that might have an interest in the bill.

**Technical comments:<sup>3</sup>**

It is suggested that the proposed article description be modified as shown on page 1 of this report, to be more consistent with normal tariff drafting practices.

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<sup>3</sup> 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.

109<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# S. 3256

To suspend temporarily the duty on ground fault circuit interrupter receptacles of 15 amps or less.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 26, 2006

Mr. FRIST (for Mrs. DOLE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

## A BILL

To suspend temporarily the duty on ground fault circuit interrupter receptacles of 15 amps or less.

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 GROUND FAULT CIRCUIT INTER-**  
4 **RUPTER RECEPTACLES OF 15 AMPS OR LESS.**

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:

“	9902.85.30	Ground fault circuit interrupter receptacles of 15 amps or less (provided for in subheading 8536.30.80) .....	Free	No change	No change	On or before 12/31/2009	”.
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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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