

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20436

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

[Date approved: September 28, 2006]²

Bill No. and sponsor: S. 3278 (Mrs. Dianne Feinstein of California)

Proponent name, location: Hitachi America, Ltd., Brisbane, CA.

Other bills on product (109th 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)):

Camcorders each capable of recording and reproducing video images on mini-DVD media in all the following formats: DVD-R, DVD-RW, DVD-RAM and DVD+RW; the foregoing each with 15 power optical zoom, lens diameter of 30.5 mm and a USB 2.0 port (provided for in subheading 8525.40.80).

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

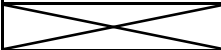
Product information, including uses/applications and source(s) of imports:

A camcorder is an electronic device combining a video camera and video recorder in one device. These camcorders record video images onto media known as mini-DVD, an optical recording disc measuring 80 cm in diameter. There are four separate recording formats for mini-DVD media: DVD-R, DVD-RW, DVD-RAM, or DVD+RW. These camcorders can record and reproduce images using all of these formats. These camcorders also incorporate a USB 2.0 port to permit video images to be uploaded to and downloaded from a computer. Japan is the principal source of these camcorders.

¹ Industry analyst preparing report: John Kitzmiller (202-205-3387); 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.

Estimated effect on customs revenue:

HTS subheading: 8525.40.80					
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Col. 1-General rate of duty	2.1%	2.1%	2.1%	2.1%	2.1%
Estimated value <i>dutiable</i> imports	\$14,000,000	\$14,300,000	\$14,500,000	\$14,800,000	\$15,100,000
Customs revenue loss	\$294,000	\$300,300	\$304,500	\$310,800	\$317,100

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)		
Hitachi America, Ltd. (Proponent) Max Turnipseed, 225-338-0310	07/26/2006	No	No	No
Canon Steve Himelstein, 516-328-4824	08/01/2006	No	No	No
JVC Tom St. Maxens, 202-966-9000	08/01/2006	No	No	No
Panasonic Co. Mary Alexander, 202-912-3800	07/26/2006	No	No	No
Sharp Electronics Mary Latham, 201-529-8892	08/01/2006	No	No	No
Sony Co. Christina Tellalian, 202-429-3653	07/26/2006	No	No	No

Technical comments:³

A reference to a patented technology has been removed in the suggested modified description shown on page 1; such limiting criteria are generally not desirable in the HTS because they limit the scope of a duty suspension to particular firms. Moreover, CBP has no way to ascertain whether products incorporate any particular patented technology, or to determine the size of the image sensing device.

³ 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.

109TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 3278

To suspend temporarily the duty on mini DVD camcorder.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 26, 2006

Mrs. FEINSTEIN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To suspend temporarily the duty on mini DVD camcorder.

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. MINI DVD CAMCORDER.**

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:

“	9902.85.25	Mini-DVD camcorder, full multiformat readability with patented laser processor technology; 1.3 mega pixel CCD, optical zoom, USB 2.0 PC (provided for in sub-heading 8525.40.80)	Free	No change	No change	On or before 12/31/2009	”.
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8 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
9 subsection (a) applies to goods entered, or withdrawn from

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- 1 warehouse for consumption, on or after the 15th day after
- 2 the date of the enactment of this Act.

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