

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. 3281 (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, or DVD+RW, the foregoing each with an internal 20 gigabyte (20G) hard disk drive 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 mm in diameter. There are four separate recording formats for mini-DVD media: DVD-R, DVD-RW, DVD-RAM, or DVD+RW. The subject camcorders can record and reproduce images using all of these formats. This particular camcorder can also record video images on an internal 20G HDD, and incorporates a USB 2.0 port to permit video images to be uploaded to and downloaded from a computer. The covered camcorders are sourced principally from Japan.

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	\$21,500,000	\$22,000,000	\$22,500,000	\$23,000,000	\$23,500,000
Customs revenue loss	\$451,500	\$462,000	\$472,500	\$483,000	\$493,500

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)	
Hitachi America, Ltd. (Proponent) Max Turnipseed, 225-338-0310	07/26/2006	No	No	No
Canon USA Susan Turner, 516-328-4824	08/01/2006	No	No	No
JVC Co. 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
2D SESSION

S. 3281

To suspend temporarily the duty on mini DVD camcorder with 20G HDD.

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 with 20G HDD.

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 WITH 20G HDD.**

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; 5.0 mega pixel CCD, 20G HDD, optical zoom, USB 2.0 PC (provided for in subheading 8525.40.80)	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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