

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20436

**MEMORANDUM ON PROPOSED TARIFF LEGISLATION
of the 108th Congress ¹**

[Date approved: April 7, 2004]²

Bill No. and sponsor: H.R. 705 (Mr. Schrock).

Proponent name, location: Kettler USA, 1355 London Bridge Road, Virginia Beach, VA , Steve Mannix, (ph) 757-427-2400.

Other bills on product (108th Congress only): None.

Nature of bill: Temporary duty suspension through 12/31/ 2006.

Retroactive effect: On or after the 15th day after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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

Table tennis tables constructed of particle board encapsulated in aluminum, sealed by a frame of square aluminum tubing and having a bottom side covered with a stamped and corrugated piece of aluminum (provided for in subheading 9506.40.00).

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

Product information, including uses/applications and source(s) of imports: Indoor/outdoor table tennis tables, are rectangular in shape, measuring 9 feet long and 5 feet wide. The boundary markings on the playing surface are designed to create a miniature tennis court. The playing surface is comprised of three layers. A green playing surface made of a 0.45 mm sheet of aluminum is glued on top of a 1/4 inch thick layer of particle board. The underside of the particle board is glued to a sheet of dimpled aluminum.³ The table tennis table is weather proofed with a ridged frame of square aluminum tubing that is fastened around the four sides of the table.

The principal components of table tennis tables are a folding mechanism that allows the user to either fold

¹ Industry analyst preparing report: Josephine Spalding (202-205-3498); Tariff Affairs contact: Donnette Rimmer (202-205-2605).

² Access to an electronic copy of this memorandum is available at <http://www.usitc.gov/billrpts.htm> Access to a paper copy is available at the Commission's Law Library (202-205-3287) or at the Commission's Main Library (202-205-2630).

³ Dimpled aluminum is a flat piece of aluminum that has been indented mechanically. The indentations allow the aluminum sheet to support more weight.

up both halves of the table for storage, or fold up just one half of the table for a backboard play; and a wheeled chassis that allows the users to roll the table to different locations.

China is the leading supplier of table tennis equipment to the United States, accounting for 32 percent of U.S. imports in 2003, followed by Mexico (24 percent), Germany (23 percent), and Canada (12 percent). China supplies most of the table tennis paddles, balls, and nets to the U.S. market. High transportation costs make imports of table tennis tables from China less dominant in the U.S. market than paddles, balls, and nets. Tables account for most of the imports from Mexico, Germany, and Canada.

Estimated effect on customs revenue:

HTS subheading: 9506.40.00					
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Col. 1-General rate of duty (AVE) <u>1/</u>	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1
Estimated value <u>dutiable</u> imports <u>2/</u>	\$15,000,000	\$15,000,000	\$15,000,000	\$15,000,000	\$15,000,000
Customs revenue loss <u>2/</u>	\$650,000	\$650,000	\$650,000	\$650,000	\$650,000

1/ The AVE is the ad valorem equivalent of a specific or compound duty rate expressed as a percent, using the most recent import data available.

2/ The estimates of \$15 million and \$650,000 are upper limits. Some imported tables likely do not meet the specifications listed in the product description. Also, paddles, balls, and nets account for a significant share of the table tennis equipment imported from China.

Contacts with domestic firms/organizations (including the proponent):

Name of firm/organization	Date contacted	US production of same or competitive product claimed?	Submission attached?	Opposition noted?
Kettler International, Steve Mannix, (ph) 757-427-2400	01/13/04	no	yes ⁴	no
Martin Kilpatrick, Matt Wright, (ph) 252-291-8202	02/17/04	no	no	no
Sport Craft, Mark Dubner (ph) 973-347-3800	02/24/04	no	no	no
Escalade, ⁵ Dan Messmer, (ph) 812-467-1200	02/18/04	yes	yes	yes

⁴ Kettler's submitted a Product Brochure.

⁵ Escalade, the only remaining U.S. producer, has purchased the following U.S. based table tennis producers: Stiga, Murray and Sons, Harvard Table Tennis, and Life Time Product Table Tennis.

Technical comments:⁶ None.

⁶ 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.

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 705

To suspend temporarily the duty on certain table tennis tables.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 11, 2003

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

A BILL

To suspend temporarily the duty on certain table tennis
tables.

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 TABLE TENNIS TABLES.**

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:

“	9902.95.06	Table tennis tables constructed of particle board encapsulated in aluminum, sealed by a frame of square aluminum tubing and having a bottom side covered with a stamped and corrugated piece of aluminum (provided for in sub-heading 9506.40.00)	Free	Free	No change	On or before 12/31/2006	”.
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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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