

THE HARMONIZED COMMODITY DESCRIPTION AND CODING SYSTEM

THE LANGUAGE OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

2007 EDITION



WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION



The Harmonized System

The Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System, better known as the Harmonized System or the HS, is one of the most successful instruments developed by the World Customs Organization (WCO).

It is a goods nomenclature used by 121 Contracting Parties to the HS Convention as the basis for their Customs tariffs and international trade statistics.

Thanks to its evolutionary structure and versatility, the HS can rightly be called the “language of international trade” as it also lends itself to many other uses, for example in areas of trade policy, rules of origin, the monitoring of controlled goods, internal taxation, transport tariffs, statistics, quota controls and economic studies and analyses.

It is a unique trade facilitation instrument which ensures the application of Customs rules and is used and applied by both the public and the private sectors to identify and code goods in international trade. As at March 2006, more than 200 countries and economic or Customs unions, together accounting for almost 98% of world trade, were using the HS.



The role of the WCO

The WCO manages this instrument, amends it to secure its uniform interpretation and application, and updates it to incorporate the latest trade, technology and security developments to ensure that it continues to reflect the nature and structure of international trade.

As the HS plays a key rôle in relations between Customs and intergovernmental or international organizations and the private sector, its administration and management is one of the WCO’s main priorities.



What's New in the 2007 Version?

The 2007 version is the third major revision of the HS since its adoption by the WCO Council in 1983 and its entry into force in 1988.

The new version includes more than 350 amendments to the HS Nomenclature.

They were adopted in order to:

- reflect technological developments
- take account of current trade practices
- clarify texts to ensure uniform application
- cater for social and environmental concerns
- assign code numbers



Why do you need the HS Nomenclature?

The HS Nomenclature contributes to the harmonization of Customs and trade procedures, and non-documentary trade data interchange.

This harmonization, achieved by having the same numeric code used world-wide for a given commodity, gives rise to a reduction in the costs related to international trade. It specifically has the effect of:

- enabling the amount of the Customs duties payable to be calculated accurately
- reducing the number of disputes with Customs
- shortening Customs clearance times and processing costs
- facilitating trade negotiations
- simplifying the analysis of trade data
- increasing trade supply chain security



CLASSIFY GOODS USING THE LATEST WORLD STANDARD. Order your HS publications from the WCO without delay!

I wish to order:

The Harmonized System 2007 Nomenclature (November 2005)

Non-Members' price : 30 € ; Members' price : 15 €
- Hard copy in

English : copy (ies)

French : copy (ies)

- CD-ROM version (bilingual English/French) : copy (ies)

- Bilingual (English / French) version available in September 2006



The Amendments to the Harmonized System 2007 Nomenclature (March 2006) ***A vital tool for facilitating the implementation of the new 2007 version of the HS***

Non-Members' price : 30 € ; Members' price : 15 €

English: copy (ies)

French: copy (ies)



The Explanatory Notes to the Harmonized System ***(Scheduled for publication in September 2006)***

New presentation in 5 volumes!

Non-Members' price : 700 € ; Members' price 500 €

NB : This price includes future amending supplements, and delivery costs

English : copy (ies)

French : copy (ies)



Further HS-related publications to be published in early 2007 include

- The Compendium of Classification Opinions
- The Alphabetical Index
- The HS Commodity Data Base
- The Laboratory Guide

Complete this order form and return it to the WCO Publications Service:



+32 (0)2 209 94 90



publications@wcoomd.org



Rue du marché, 30
B-1210 – Brussels – Belgium

Client number

Name/Administration/Company

Address

City Postcode Country

Telephone E-mail

Mode of payment : Bank transfer Credit card (Visa, Eurocard / Mastercard, American Express)

Card number:

Expiry date: Signature:

Our contact details: World Customs Organization – Publications Service

Rue du Marché, 30 – B-1210 Brussels – Belgium - Tel.: +32(0)2 209 95 03 ; Fax: +32(0)2 209 94 90

E-mail: publications@wcoomd.org – Web site: www.wcoomd.org