

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20436

**MEMORANDUM ON PROPOSED TARIFF LEGISLATION
of the 111th Congress¹**

[Date approved: March 25, 2010]²

Bill No. and sponsor: S. 2349 (Mr. George V. Voinovich of Ohio and Mr. Sherrod Brown of Ohio).

Proponent name,³ location: Luxottica Group S.p.A., Mason, OH.

Other bills on product (111th Congress only): None.

Nature of bill: Temporary duty reduction through December 31, 2011.

Retroactive effect: None.

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

Frames and mountings for spectacles, goggles, or the like, the foregoing of plastics (provided for in subheading 9003.11.00).

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:

Frames and mountings for spectacles, goggles, or the like, of plastics are used primarily to hold prescriptive and protective lenses used in eyeglasses and goggles. Eyeglass frames are also used as a fashion accessory, containing lenses with no prescription. Plastic frames are durable, can accommodate most lens prescriptions, and are available in a variety of plastics (including acrylic, epoxy, cellulose acetate, cellulose propionate, polyamide, and nylon) and in different colors, shapes, and levels of resistance to breakage.

China, France, Italy, and Japan are the primary import sources.

¹ Industry analyst preparing report: Mihir Torsekar (202-205-3350); Tariff Affairs contact: Jan Summers (202-205-2605).

² Access to an electronic copy of this memorandum is available at http://www.usitc.gov/tariff_affairs/congress_reports/.

³ The sponsor/proponent identified two additional beneficiaries of this bill. USITC staff sent inquiries to the additional beneficiaries but did not receive any response.

Estimated effect on customs revenue for the subject product classifiable in HTS subheading 9003.11.00:

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Col. 1-General rate of duty	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%
Estimated value <i>dutiable</i> imports ^a	\$240,000,000	\$240,000,000	\$240,000,000	\$240,000,000	\$240,000,000
Customs revenue loss ^b	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000

a/ Dutiable import estimates were based on official U.S. Government statistics. Proponent and beneficiaries named on disclosure form have not provided estimated imports of products in question. Thus, estimated revenue losses are conservatively based on imports under HTS 9003.11.00.

b/ At the request of Congress, customs revenue loss is provided for 5 years, although the effective period of the proposed legislation may differ.

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)		
Luxottica Group S.p.A. (Proponent) Jeanine McHugh, jmchugh@us.luxottica.com	11/19/2009	No	No	No
Safilo USA Stefani Danielson, stfanid@safilousa.com	11/30/2009	No	No	No
Smith Sport Optics Mick, 208-726-4477	11/30/2009	No	No	No

Technical comments:⁴

None.

⁴ 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.

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2349

To reduce temporarily the duty on frames and mountings for spectacles, goggles, or the like, the foregoing of plastics.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 29, 2009

Mr. VOINOVICH (for himself and Mr. BROWN) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To reduce temporarily the duty on frames and mountings for spectacles, goggles, or the like, the foregoing of plastics.

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. FRAMES AND MOUNTINGS FOR SPECTACLES,**
4 **GOGGLES, OR THE LIKE, THE FOREGOING OF**
5 **PLASTICS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 99 of
7 the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States is
8 amended by inserting in numerical sequence the following
9 new heading:

“	9902.01.00	Frames and mountings for spectacles, goggles, or the like, the foregoing of plastics (provided for in subheading 9003.11.00)	2.3%	No change	No change	On or before 12/31/2011	”.
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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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