



HARMONIZED SYSTEM  
REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE

-  
26<sup>th</sup> Session  
-

NR0275E1  
(+ Annex)

O. Eng.

Brussels, 18 July 2002.

POSSIBLE AMENDMENT OF PART (C) OF THE  
EXPLANATORY NOTE TO HEADING 28.04

(Item III.A.5 on Agenda)

Reference documents :

NR0192E1 (RSC/24)

NR0205E2, Annex D/7 (RSC/24 - Report)

NS0047E1 (SSC/17)

NS0060E2, Annexes A/10 and C/6 (SSC/17 - Report)

NR0226E1 (RSC/25)

NR0265E3, Annexes C/16 and F/7 (RSC/25 - Report)

NC0590E2, Annexes F, N/4 and O/3 (HSC/29 - Report)

I. BACKGROUND

1. At its 29<sup>th</sup> Session, the Harmonized System Committee provisionally adopted the texts approved by the Review Sub-Committee concerning certain amendments to the Nomenclature and Explanatory Notes regarding silicones (Proposal by the **US** Administration).
2. The Committee also took note of the fact that the Sub-Committee had agreed to consider a possible amendment of Part (C) to the Explanatory Note to heading 28.04 at its next session. This was in response to an intervention made by the **EC** Delegate who indicated that he might come back with a new proposal to improve the relevant part of the Explanatory Note.
3. On 17 June 2002, the Secretariat received the new proposal from the **EC**. This is reflected in the Annex to this document.

Note : Shaded parts will be removed when documents are placed on the WCO documentation database available to the public.

File No. 2866

## II. SECRETARIAT COMMENTS

4. The Secretariat wishes to first recall that, acting on the Scientific Sub-Committee's observations at its 17<sup>th</sup> Session in respect to the proposed amendment of Part (C) of the Explanatory Note to heading 28.04 (see paragraph 15, Annex A/10 to Doc. NS0060E2), the Secretariat had prepared the following text for the consideration by the Review Sub-Committee at its 25<sup>th</sup> Session :

Page 271. Heading 28.04. Part (C). Item(5). First and second paragraphs.

Delete and substitute :

"Silicon is obtained almost exclusively by carbothermal reduction of silicon dioxide using electric arc-furnaces. It is a poor conductor of heat and electricity, harder than glass, and it is put up as a chestnut-coloured powder or, more often, in shapeless lumps. It crystallises as grey needles with a metallic lustre.

Silicon is used in metallurgical industries (e.g., ferrous or aluminium alloys), and for the preparation of silicon tetrachloride. Very pure silicon, obtained by, for example, crystal pulling, may be in forms unworked as drawn, or in the form of cylinders or rods; when doped with boron, phosphorus, etc., it is used for the manufacture of diodes, transistors and other semi-conductor devices.

Modern electronics is almost exclusively (>95 %) based on silicon devices. Because of the eminent and ever increasing importance of electronics in technology and everyday life, silicon is one of the most important technical materials, although the quantity required for this application is relatively small. Of secondary importance are the uses of silicon for metallurgy and chemistry (silicon compounds), although they consume the major portion of the silicon produced."

5. The Sub-Committee, at its 25<sup>th</sup> Session, decided not to consider the above amendment. However, the Sub-Committee approved an amendment to the Explanatory Note to heading 28.04, Part (C), Item 5, first paragraph, to replace the expression "silicon carbide" by the word "carbon", which was found to be an error in the existing text. Consequently, this amendment was provisionally adopted by the Harmonized System Committee at its 29<sup>th</sup> Session (Annex O/3 to Doc. NC0590E2).
6. It appears that the **EC** proposal is an attempt to improve the above texts (paragraph 4), which were already examined and rejected by the Sub-Committee at its last session. The **EC** proposal is, in effect, largely a re-arrangement of the existing text and can, therefore, be supported by the Secretariat.

## IV. CONCLUSION

7. Taking account of the Secretariat comments above, the Review Sub-Committee is invited to examine the proposed amendment of the Explanatory Note to heading 28.04 as set out in the Annex hereto.

\* \* \*