



HARMONIZED SYSTEM  
REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE

NR0099E1

-  
21<sup>st</sup> Session  
-

O. Fr.

Brussels, 26 January 2000.

DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE HARMONIZED SYSTEM COMMITTEE  
AT ITS 24<sup>TH</sup> SESSION CONCERNING THE REPORT OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> SESSION  
OF THE REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE AND PENDING QUESTIONS

(Item II.A.1. on Agenda)

Reference documents :

NR0072E2 (RSC/20 - Report)  
NR0074E1

I. SECRETARIAT COMMENT

1. After Doc. NR0074E1 had been prepared, the Secretariat received a Note from the Canadian Administration concerning the scope of the new subheadings for fine hair of Kashmir goats and articles obtained from such hair (see Doc. NR0074E1, paragraphs 38 to 43).
2. That Administration puts forward an alternative to the text proposed by the Secretariat in the Annex to Doc. NR0074B1 for "fine hair of Kashmir (cashmere) goats" (page 793. General. New third paragraph.), to take account of a delegate's request at the HS Review Sub-Committee's 20<sup>th</sup> Session. Canada's Note is set out below.

II. NOTE BY THE CANADIAN ADMINISTRATION

3. "After consulting with trade sources we have learned that the present Explanatory Notes, as they relate to Kashmir (cashmere), are somewhat general and could be more specific to better meet the needs of industry. It has come to our attention that this important and relatively rare fibre is an ongoing concern and there exists a real need to reduce the flow of garments being sold which are claimed to be made from genuine cashmere, but in reality are not. It is believed by certain trade sources that :

File No. 2152

- The problem of mislabelled cashmere garments continues to tarnish the reputation of the cashmere fibre as well as the companies who make and sell bonafide cashmere garments.
- The increased competition and demand for fibre has resulted in product contamination. Sheep wool is being blended with cashmere and the fibres are being sold as 100% cashmere. As a result, more mislabelled garments are finding their way to the retail market. Being a rare and expensive luxury fibre, there is an incentive to misdescribe the amount of cashmere fibre present in a garment.

4. The cashmere goat is a two-coat animal. It has fine down hair and a coarser outer hair referred to as guard hair. Only the down is used in textile production. The guard hair, normally over 30 micrometres, is significantly thicker than the down hairs which are typically less than 19 micrometres.

5. Reliable identification of these fibres requires considerable expertise and the problem of identification is compounded if it is mixed with other fine animal hair or wool. To accurately quantify the cashmere fibres in a mixture of fibres, the Canadian Customs Laboratory has indicated that every fibre in a representative sample should be correctly identified and counted.

6. In order to help provide a better means to identify cashmere fibres Canada proposes to augment the Secretariat's proposal found in the Annex to Doc. NR0074B1 with the following:

***The expression "fine hair of Kashmir (cashmere) goats" means the fine soft fibres or undercoat (downy fleece) of the breed of goats indigenous to Asia but also raised in other regions of the world. Cashmere, which is composed from these fibres, may contain up to 3% by weight of the coarser outer fibres (guard hair) of the cashmere goat.***

***The cashmere fibre has a mean maximum diameter of less than 19 micrometres and no distinct medulla (central canal). The scaly outer surface of this fibre is less distinct than wool although more definite than mohair; the cortical layer is striated and contains varying amounts of pigment that produce fibre colour. Cashmere down is usually white, brown, or grey in solid coloured goats.***

7. In the light of the importance of this relatively rare fibre, Canada submits this text for the Committee's consideration."

### III. CONCLUSION

8. When examining this Agenda item, the Sub-Committee is invited to take account of the above text put forward by Canada.

---