

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20436

**MEMORANDUM ON PROPOSED TARIFF LEGISLATION  
of the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress<sup>1</sup>**

[Date approved: December 30, 2005]<sup>2</sup>

**Bill No. and sponsor:** H.R. 2820 (Mr. Richard Neal of Massachusetts).

**Proponent name, location:** Russell Corp. (Spalding Division)  
Springfield, MA.

**Other bills on product (109<sup>th</sup> Congress only):** None.

**Nature of bill:** Temporary duty suspension through December 31, 2009.

**Retroactive effect:** None.

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

Volleyballs (provided for in subheading 9506.62.80).

**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 sources of imports:**

Volleyballs are spherical sports balls that are typically 25 to 27 inches (56 to 64 centimeters) in circumference and 9 to 10 ounces (250 to 280 grams) in weight. Volleyballs are produced to a variety of specifications including competition, indoor, outdoor, practice, training, and youth. The highest quality competition balls have nylon-wound butyl rubber bladders and 18-panel, hand stitched, leather covers. Composite leather (polyurethane and polyvinyl chloride (PVC)) and other materials are also used as cover materials. While leather-covered volleyballs are most often designed for indoor use, they are also often approved for outdoor use. The principal sources of imports of volleyballs are China, Japan, the Dominican Republic, Thailand, and Indonesia.

<sup>1</sup> Industry analyst preparing report: John Cutchin (202-205-3396); Tariff Affairs contact: Jan Summers (202-205-2605).

<sup>2</sup> An electronic copy of this memorandum is available at [http://usitc.gov/tata/hts/other/rel\\_doc/bill\\_reports/index.htm](http://usitc.gov/tata/hts/other/rel_doc/bill_reports/index.htm).

**Estimated effect on customs revenue:**

<b>HTS subheading: 9506.62.80</b>					
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Col. 1-General rate of duty	4.8%	4.8%	4.8%	4.8%	4.8%
Estimated value <i>dutiable</i> imports	\$11,000,000	\$11,000,000	\$11,500,000	\$11,500,000	\$11,500,000
Customs revenue loss	\$528,000	\$528,000	\$552,000	\$552,000	\$552,000

Source of estimated dutiable import data: Official U.S. Government statistics and U.S. industry and Commission estimates.

**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?
Russell Corp. (Proponent) Bryan Wolfe, 678-742-8290	10/05/2005	No	No	No
Sandler, Travis, & Rosenberg Stephen Hofmann, 202-216-9307	09/26/2005	No	No	No
Pioneer National Latex Nancy Patterson, 419-289-3300, ext. 517	10/17/2005	No	No	No
Sporting Goods Manufacturers Assoc. Bill Sells, 202-349-9417	09/27/2005	No	No	No
Target Corp. Toni Dembski-Brandl, 612-696-2573	10/10/2005	No	No	No
Wilson Sporting Goods Co. Mike Kuehne, 773-714-6891	10/07/2005	No	No	No

**Technical comments:<sup>3</sup>**

We suggest that the special subcolumn of the new provision read “No change” rather than “Free” with no special program indicator. All special-rate countries are eligible for general duty rates, and the duty-free general rate treatment would be easier to claim.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

109TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2820

To suspend temporarily the duty on certain volleyballs.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 8, 2005

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

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## A BILL

To suspend temporarily the duty on certain volleyballs.

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 VOLLEYBALLS.**

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:

“	9902.95.10	Volleyballs (provided for in subheading 9506.62.80) .....	Free	Free	No change	On or before 12/31/2009	”.
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8 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by  
9 subsection (a) applies to goods entered, or withdrawn from

- 1 warehouse for consumption, on or after the 15th day after
- 2 the date of the enactment of this Act.

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