

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20436

**MEMORANDUM ON PROPOSED TARIFF LEGISLATION
of the 109th Congress¹**

[Date approved: August 30, 2006]²

Bill No. and sponsor: S. 3031 (Mr. Mike DeWine of Ohio).

Proponent name, location: Honeywell International, Inc., Morris Township, NJ.

Other bills on product (109th Congress only): None.

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

Retroactive effect: None.

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

Spheres of platinum, containing approximately 18 percent by weight of iridium, of a kind used in manufacturing electrodes for spark plugs (provided for in subheading 7115.90.60).

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:

The proposed provision would cover platinum spheres containing by weight 81 percent platinum and 18 percent iridium and used to add longevity to the electrodes of spark plugs. The spheres are consumed in making the spark plug electrode.³ The source of imports of this patented product is Germany.

¹ Industry analyst preparing report: Gail Burns (202-205-2501); Tariff Affairs contact: Jan Summers (202-205-2605).

² Access to an electronic copy of this memorandum is available at http://usitc.gov/tata/hts/other/rel_doc/bill_reports/index.htm.

³ These spheres, produced by W.C. Heraeus GmbH & Co., Hanau, Germany, are custom-designed, and Honeywell holds U.S. patent 6,071,163 on this alloy for integration into spark plug electrodes.

Estimated effect on customs revenue:

HTS subheading: 7115.90.60					
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Col. 1-General rate of duty	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%
Estimated value <i>dutiable</i> imports	\$275,000	\$300,000	\$325,000	\$335,000	\$334,264
Customs revenue loss	\$11,000	\$12,000	\$13,000	\$13,400	\$13,371

Source of estimated dutiable import data: Commission and industry estimates.

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)		
Honeywell International, Inc. (Proponent) Arthur J. Simonetti, 202-662-2671 Jeffrey T. Boehler, 419-436-5689 Randi S. Waltuck, 419-661-6790	07/13/2006	No	No	No

Technical comments:⁴

Because the HTS does not generally employ “certain” in an article description (by itself this word does not assist in describing the product), we suggest that it be dropped and that the language on page 1 be used. The referenced residual or “basket” HTS category is a broad one, so we suggest providing slightly more guidance in the article description about the goods intended to be covered. We defer to Customs to recommend any other changes that might be advisable; while perhaps describing the patented product more narrowly, such criteria might also add unnecessary complexity or impose testing requirements that would be burdensome.

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.

109TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 3031

To suspend temporarily the duty on certain articles of platinum.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 24, 2006

Mr. DEWINE introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To suspend temporarily the duty on certain articles of platinum.

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 ARTICLES OF PLATINUM.**

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:

“	9902.71.15	Certain platinum spheres, of a kind used in the electrodes of spark plugs (provided for in subheading 7115.90.60)	Free	No change	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

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

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