

November 13, 1996

Preface to the Ninth Edition

The Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (1997) Annotated for Statistical Reporting Purposes (HTS 1997) is being published pursuant to section 1207 of the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988 (P.L. 100-418; 19 U.S.C. 3007), 1/ embracing the legal text of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule, as amended and modified, together with statistical annotations formulated pursuant to section 484(f) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1484(f)). 2/

1/ Section 1207(3) of the Act provides that "[t]he Commission shall compile and publish, at appropriate intervals, and keep up to date the Harmonized Tariff Schedule and related information in the form of printed copy....". Section 1207(b) of the Act provides that the published copy of the HTS "shall contain--(1) the then current Harmonized Tariff Schedule; (2) statistical annotations and related statistical information formulated under section 484(f) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1484(f)); and (3) such other matters as the Commission considers to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes enumerated in the Preamble to the Harmonized System convention." The first edition consisted of the original publication and four supplements. The second edition consisted of the original publication and two supplements. The third edition consisted of the original publication and one supplement. The fourth edition consisted of the original and one supplement. The fifth edition consisted of the original and one supplement. The sixth edition consisted of the original and two supplements. The seventh edition consisted of the original and one supplement.

2/ Sec. 484(f) reads as follows:
"(f) Statistical Enumeration.--The Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Commerce, and the United States International Trade Commission are authorized and directed to establish from time to time for statistical purposes an enumeration of articles in such detail as in their judgment may be necessary, comprehending all merchandise imported into the United States and exported from the United States, and shall seek, in conjunction with statistical programs for domestic production and programs for achieving international harmonization of trade statistics, to establish the comparability thereof with such enumeration of articles. All import entries and export declarations shall include or have attached thereto an accurate statement specifying, in terms of such detailed enumeration, the kinds and quantities of all

The legal text of the HTS consists of the General Rules of Interpretation; the Additional U.S. Rules of Interpretation; the General Notes; Sections I through XXII, inclusive (encompassing chapters 1 - 99, and including all Section and Chapter notes, heading/subheading numbers through the 8-digit level, article descriptions and tariff and other treatment accorded thereto); the Chemical Appendix; the Pharmaceutical Appendix; and the Intermediate Chemicals for Dyes Appendix. The statistical annotations, notes, annexes, suffixes, units of quantity and other matters formulated under section 484(f) of the Tariff Act of 1930 comprise the statistical parts of the HTS. Such elements as the Table of Contents, footnotes, Schedule C and Schedule D, and published index are inserted for ease of reference only.

The principal changes in this edition reflect (1) the stages of duty reductions that become effective January 1, 1997, pursuant to concessions granted by the United States to Canada and Mexico under the North American Free Trade Agreement (Pres. Proc. 6641); (2) the stage of duty reductions that becomes effective January 1, 1997, pursuant to concessions granted by the United States under the Uruguay Round Of Multilateral Trade Negotiations (Pres. Proc. 6763); (4) Presidential Proclamation 6859 (To Modify the Tariff-Rate Quota on Italian-Type Cheese From Poland), effective December 13, 1995; (5) Presidential Proclamation 6914 (To Modify the Allocation of Tariff Rate Quotas for Certain Cheeses), effective August 26, 1996; (6) Presidential Proclamation 6942 (To Amend the Generalized System of Preferences), effective January 1, 1997; (7) Presidential Proclamation 6948 (To Modify Provisions on Upland Cotton and for Other Purposes), effective October 31, 1996; (8) Presidential Proclamation XXXX (To Provide Duty-Free Treatment to Products of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and Qualifying Industrial Zones), effective XXXXXXXX, XX, XXXX; (9) Public Law 104-295 (the Miscellaneous Trade and Technical Corrections Act of 1996), effective October 26, 1996; (10) United States Trade Representative Notice of Entry into Force of Trade Agreement With the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Grant of Most-Favored-Nation Treatment to Products of Cambodia; (11) changes approved by the Committee for Statistical Annotation of Tariff Schedules (formulated pursuant to section 484(f), Tariff Act of 1930, as amended); (12) Bureau of the Census changes in Schedule C (Classification of Country & Territory Designations for U.S. Import Statistics) and in Schedule D (Customs District and Port Codes).

The statistical annotations contained in the HTS prescribe the statistical information to be supplied on customs entry and withdrawal forms or electronic filings with respect to articles imported into the customs territory of the United States. Thus, this publication is designed to enable importers, customs brokers, customs officers and other interested persons to determine (1) the classification of and rates of duty applicable to imported articles and (2) the requirements for reporting statistical data with respect to such imports. Except as specified in the notice to exporters, this publication may also be used in place of the reporting codes of Schedule B for reporting exports on the Shipper's Export Declaration or under the program for electronic reporting of exports.

Requests from interested parties for changes in any of the requirements for statistical reporting should be submitted no later than April 1, for changes to be effective July 1, and August 1, for changes to be effective January 1. These requests should be submitted to:

The Chairman
Committee for Statistical Annotation
of Tariff Schedules
United States International Trade Commission
Washington, D.C. 20436

merchandise imported and exported and the value of the total quantity of each kind of article."

Such requests should indicate precisely the nature of each desired change and give detailed reasons in support of the requests. In addition, the requestor should provide the names of importers and foreign manufacturers and indicate the countries from which the commodities are being imported.