

Introduction to the Harmonized System and the World Trade Organization

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1. What is the HS?

- The “**Convention on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System**” was established in 1983 under the auspices of the World Customs Organization. It entered into force on 1 January 1988. Replaced the CCCN.
- It has approx.157 Contracting Parties, but it's applied by more than 200 customs administrations worldwide.
- Administered by the **World Customs Organization's Harmonized System Committee (HSC)**
- Allows goods moving across borders to be assigned to a class in a uniform manner all over the world.
- Based on the **objective characteristics** of the product when presented to customs.

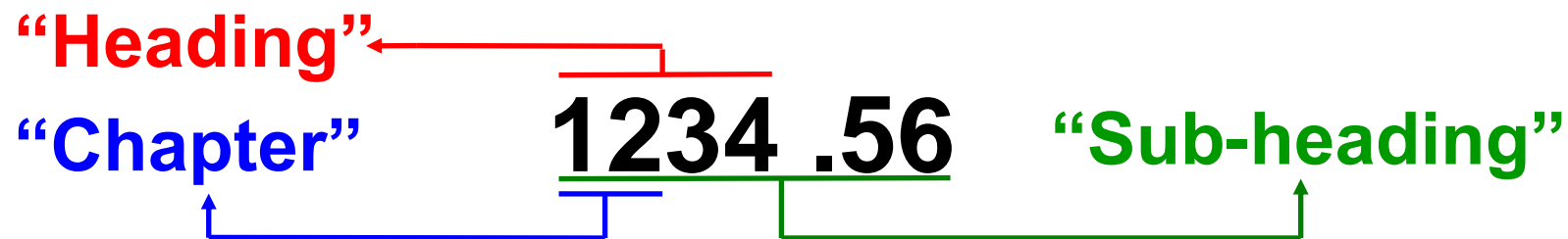
[For more information, follow this link](#)



2. How does the HS works in practice?

The HS has a hierarchical structure that consists of **numerical codes** and descriptions of product categories (“the nomenclature”)

- 21 Sections
- 96 **Chapters** (numbered 1-97; 77 is reserved for future use)
- +1200 **Headings** (i.e. commodity groups)
- +5300 **Sub-headings** (i.e. the most important traded subgroups)



Members typically add additional subdivisions at the national or regional level

Example: Chocolate bar, 100 gr

HS

- 18** COCOA AND COCOA PREPARATIONS
- 18.06** Chocolate and other food preparations containing cocoa:
 - 1806.10** - Cocoa powder, containing added sugar or other sweetening matter
 - 1806.20** - Other preparations in blocks, slabs or bars weighing more than 2 kg or in liquid, paste, powder, granular or other bulk form in containers or immediate packings, of a content exceeding 2 kg
 - Other, in blocks, slabs or bars:
 - 1806.31** -- Filled
 - 1806.32** -- Not filled

- 1806.32.10** --- With the addition of nuts
- 1806.32.20** --- With the addition of raisins
- 1806.32.90** --- Others

National "break-out" or national tariff lines

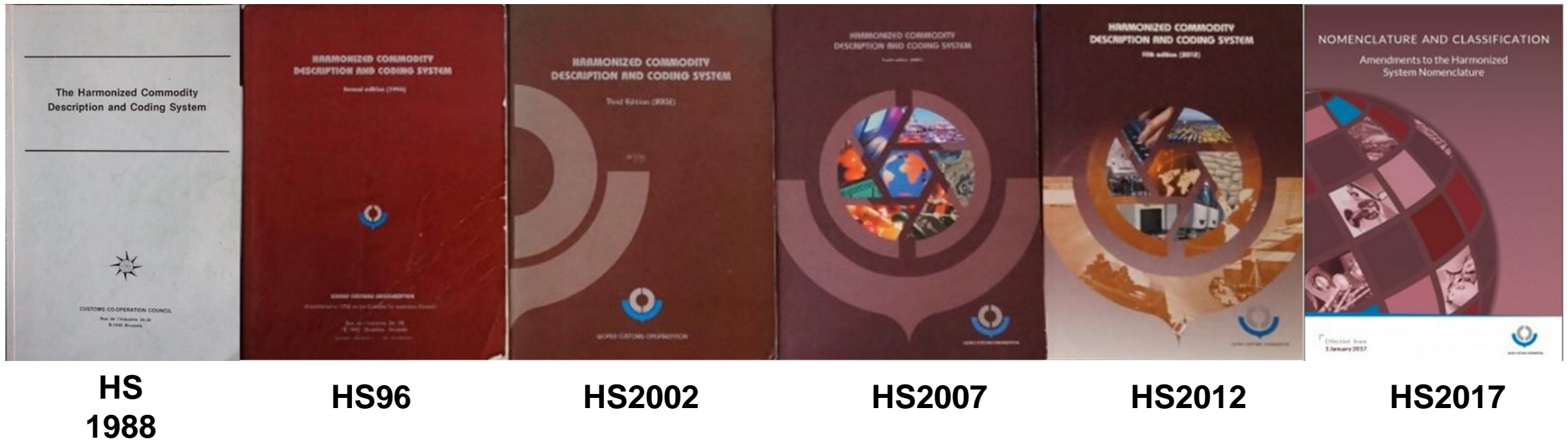


3. The HS is comprised of:

- 1 • The text of the **HS Convention**
- 2 • The “**Nomenclature**” (i.e. codes plus descriptions)
- 3 • Section, Chapter, Heading and Subheading **Notes** (definitions, inclusions, exclusions, methods)
- 4 • Six “General Interpretation Rules” (**GIRs**)
- 5 • **Classification Opinions**
- 6 • **Explanatory Notes** (HSEN)

4. The HS is periodically updated

1992
(mostly editorial)



Upcoming: HS2022, to be implemented on 1 January 2022



About

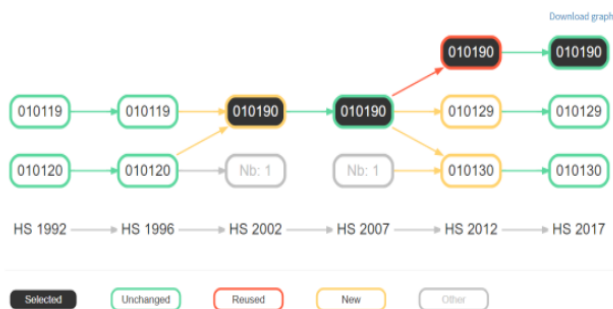
The HS Tracker is a toolset that has been developed by the Secretariat of the [World Trade Organization \(WTO\)](#), [with the support of the [World Customs Organization \(WCO\)](#),] to allow different stakeholders (e.g. customs and trade officials, statisticians, lawyers, researchers, etc.) to track the changes of particular headings or subheadings across different versions of [Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System \(HS\)](#).

The HS is a multipurpose international product nomenclature developed and maintained by the World Customs Organization (WCO). It is periodically updated to secure uniform interpretation or to reflect changes in trade patterns, changes in manufacturing processes or technological advancement; it also addresses environmental and social concerns (e.g. FAO, CITES, Montreal protocol, etc.).

The World Customs Organization aims at enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of Customs administration through the uniformization and harmonization of customs legislations. To assist the Members, the WCO has developed rules, standards and international norms such as the HS nomenclature over the past 60 years. To this day, the WCO continuously provides documentation such as the Correlation Tables that are key elements to the smooth understanding and interpretation of the different Harmonized System editions (1992, 1996, 2002, 2007 etc.).

The [Subheading visualizer](#) function displays graphically the manner in which a specific HS code has changed across different versions of the Harmonized System (e.g. mergers, splits and complex cases), including the explanation by the WCO on why the changes were undertaken in the context of a particular amendment. The English and French versions of these explanations, as well as the correlation tables, have been sourced directly from the WCO webpage. However, the information in Spanish is an unofficial translation by the WTO Secretariat.

The [HS at a glance](#) function provides a broad overview of the HS amendments by consolidating the different versions of the HS in one combined structure that was developed by the WTO Secretariat based on the information by the WCO and adjusted according to the different transposition exercises of the WTO Schedules of concessions. The filters and search functions make it possible to browse multiple HS nomenclatures simultaneously for a particular set of codes, and determine whether they were affected by a particular amendment to the HS.



HS Code	Sector	HS92	HS96	HS02	HS07	HS12	HS17	Description
03031	All	All	All	All	All	All	All	
03031	NonAg	-	-	N	U	R	R	-- Salmonidae, excluding edible fish offal of subheadir
030310	NonAg	U	U	-	-	-	-	-- Pacific salmon (Oncorhynchus nerka, Oncorhynchus
030311	NonAg	-	-	N	U	U	R	-- Sockeye salmon (red salmon) (Oncorhynchus nerka
030312	NonAg	-	-	-	-	N	R	-- Other Pacific salmon (Oncorhynchus gorbuscha, O
030313	NonAg	-	-	-	-	N	R	-- Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar) and Danube salmon
030314	NonAg	-	-	-	-	N	R	-- Trout (Salmo trutta, Oncorhynchus mykiss, Oncorh
030319	NonAg	-	-	N	U	R	R	-- Other
903031	NonAg	U	U	U	U	U	U	-- Multimeters without a recording device

Disclaimer: The information provided by the Correlation tables and its related tools such as the HS Tracker are neither legal nor engaging documents. There are provided for information purposes only. Users are invited to consult the HS nomenclature and official documents before classifying goods.

New tool!
HS Tracker

<https://hstracker.wto.org/>

5. HS2022: Overview

Headings and subheadings changes in 2022

	Headings (4 digits)	Subheadings (6 digits)
2017 HS	1,222	5,387
Change in 2022 HS	+ 6 (+ 8 /- 2)	+ 222 (+ 369/- 147)
2022HS	1,228	5,607

New headings :

03.09 (Fish meals and flours)
 24.04 (Novel tobacco)
 38.27 (Mixtures of HFCs)
 84.85 (3D-Printers)
 85.24 (Flat Panel Displays)
 85.49 (e-Waste and scrap)
 88.06 (Drones)
 88.07 (Parts of aircrafts)

Deleted headings :

81.07 (Cadmium)
 88.03 (Parts of aircrafts)



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

FAO PROPOSAL – Edible Insects

HS 2017

04.10	0410.00	Edible products of animal origin, not elsewhere specified or included.
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HS 2022

04.10		Insects and other edible products of animal origin, not elsewhere specified or included.
	0410.10	- Insects
	0410.90	- Other



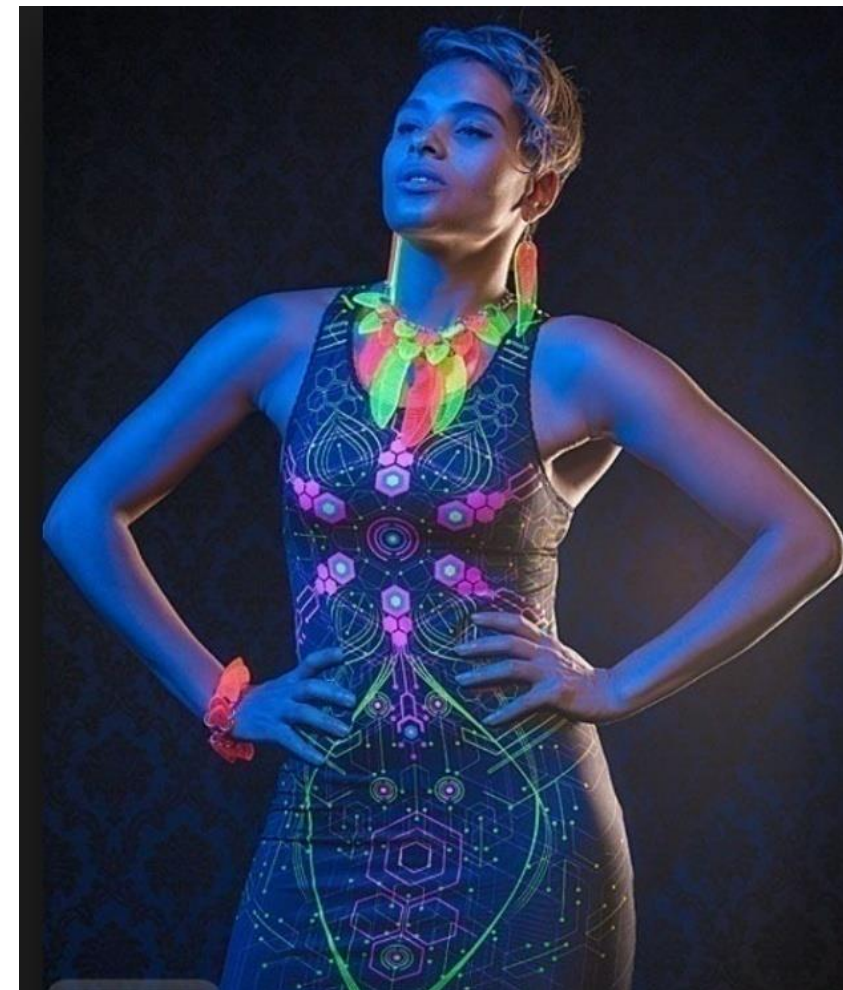
Clarification of the classification of “**e**lectronic textiles”

E-textiles : textiles with LED lighting,
speakers, heated gloves, telephone port, etc.



HS 2022

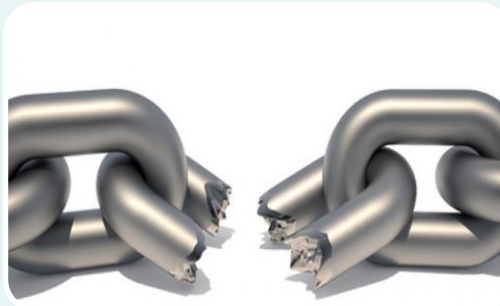
**Creation of a new Note 15 to
Section XI**



6. Impact of HS changes



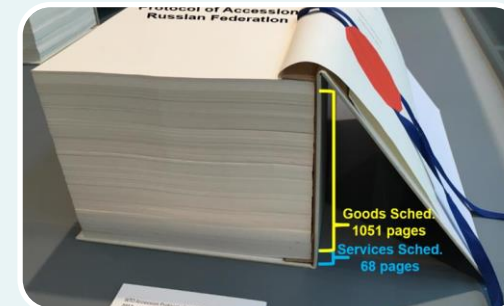
Historical,
product-related,
information in
the **databases**
(some users fail to
understand
historical changes)



Statistics:
- risk of breaking
times series
- impact on the
aggregates



Some
agreements
may need to
be updated /
reviewed



“Transposition”
of Schedules
of concessions

Most changes thus far have been manageable, but others have been challenging

Thank you!

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