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Original: English

**1996 CHANGES IN THE HARMONIZED SYSTEM**

**Submission of documentation**

**Schedule XX - UNITED STATES**

The following documentation related to the United States Schedule XX into the 1996 Harmonized System has been received from the US Permanent Mission on 22 December 1995.

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- Document 1 Provisions in Schedule XX of the United States annexed to the Marrakesh Protocol, including the technical corrections contained in G/MA/TAR/RS/4, affected by the 1996 amendments to the Harmonized System. The documentation is provided in Loose-Leaf Format.
- Document 2 Concordance between the Marrakesh Protocol Schedule XX, modifications to the Marrakesh Schedule XX as documented in G/MA/TAR/RS/4 (column entitled "1995 HTSUS"), and the proposed 1996 Schedule XX in Loose-Leaf Format (column entitled "1996 Loose-Leaf").
- Document 3 Concordance between the proposed 1996 Schedule XX in Loose-Leaf Format (column entitled "1996 Loose-Leaf"), modifications to the Schedule XX as documented in G/MA/TAR/RS/4 (column entitled "1995 HTSUS"), and the Marrakesh Protocol Schedule XX.
- Document 4 Table of Uruguay Round staged rates of duty for items affected by the 1996 amendments to the Harmonized System.

In making the transposition to the 1996 Harmonized System, the United States has sought to avoid any change in rates of duty for products in which there are known US imports or a realistic possibility or potential for US imports. Consequently, in every case when an amendment to the Harmonized System causes a reclassification of such products that would result in a change in tariff rate treatment, the United States has created new tariff lines necessary to continue the existing tariff treatment.

Every correlation between the 1992 version and the 1996 version of the Harmonized System that is shown in World Customs Organization Document 39.248, dated 10 January 1995, is reflected in the concordances between the Marrakesh Schedule XX (as modified by the technical corrections contained in G/MA/TAR/RS/4) and the proposed 1996 Schedule XX in Loose-Leaf Format (Documents 2 and 3), except in a few instances where US Customs classification practice differs from the classification indicated in WCO Document 39.248. Such instances are noted in Documents 2 and 3.

It is the view of the United States that many of the correlations shown in WCO Document 39.248 are purely theoretical and do not reflect actual trade. In Document 3, when a rate difference is indicated in the correlation between the present and future tariff classifications, US imports of products involved in the correlation are either nil or negligible.

In addition to the products affected by the 1996 amendments to the Harmonized System, Documents 1 through 4 include information on a limited number of proposed modifications in Schedule XX that are being made to conform US Customs practice to decisions of the Harmonized System Committee that did not affect the international HS nomenclature. These modifications involve the following new 1996 tariff lines:

1704.90.25	6115.12.10	6115.92.30
1704.90.35	6115.12.20	6115.92.60
2707.60.10	6115.19.20	6115.92.90
2702.60.20	6115.19.40	6115.93.30
	6115.19.80	6115.93.60
		6115.93.90

The documents also contain information on a few purely technical rectifications in Schedule XX that have come to light after the United States submitted its list of rectifications to the Marrakesh Schedule XX (G/MA/TAR/RS/4).

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If no objection is notified to the Secretariat within 90 days from the date of this document, the changes to Schedule XX - United States will be deemed to be approved and will be formally certified.

Copies of the documentation (in English only) are available for collection in the Market Access Division (office No. 3142, Mrs. Hudry).