
Original: Spanish

1996 CHANGES IN THE HARMONIZED SYSTEM

Submission of Documentation

Schedule LXIV - Argentina

The following communication, dated 30 September 1996, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Argentina.

I have the pleasure to transmit herewith the following documents in order to introduce the changes in the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System in force since 1 January 1996 (HS 1996), in accordance with the Procedures for Negotiations under Article XXVIII (BISD 27S/26), the GATT Council Decision of 8 October 1991 establishing the Procedures to implement changes in the Harmonized System (BISD 39S/300) and the General Council Decisions of 13 December 1995 (WT/L/124) and 18 July 1996 (WT/L/173).

Annex 1: Present Schedule LXIV

The present Schedule of the Argentine Republic is contained in two legal instruments:

- (a) Schedule LXIV of the Argentine Republic, annexed to the Geneva Protocol (1995) annexed to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994.
- (b) Schedule LXIV of the Argentine Republic, annexed to the Marrakesh Protocol annexed to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 (Volume 15).

Annex 2: Proposed Schedule LXIV

The proposed Schedule LXIV of the Argentine Republic shows the existing bindings expressed in the MERCOSUR Common Nomenclature, which incorporates the HS 1996 changes.

For products where the bound tariff is lower than the MERCOSUR Common External Tariffs (CET), it is to be understood that the proposed tariff ("bound rate of duty") is the CET. It should be stressed that in these cases the final level that will be bound may be different, as a consequence of the negotiations under Article XXIV:6 and the Enabling Clause.

Annex 3: Concordance table between the present Schedule and the proposed Schedule

The concordance table establishes the correlation between the NCE (Foreign Trade Nomenclature) and NCM (MERCOSUR Common Nomenclature).

Annex 4: Concordance table between the proposed Schedule and the present Schedule

The concordance table establishes the correlation between the MERCOSUR Common Nomenclature (NCM) and the NCE Nomenclature (Foreign Trade Nomenclature).

Annex 5: Modifications of concessions

This includes all headings for which the MERCOSUR Common External Tariff (CET) is higher than the final bound tariffs, as well as average imports for 1992-94 broken down by country.

It is pointed out that the introduction of the 1996 HS did not introduce any additional modification of concessions. All these modifications arose as a result of the entry into force of the CET on 1 January 1995.

In the case of Agricultural products, the CET will exceed the bound tariff only as from 1 January 2000.

It should be noted that the information in Annex 5 is also contained in document WT/COMTD/1/Add.5 of 20 September 1995, which includes the changes proposed in the bound tariffs for the four MERCOSUR countries (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay).

Should any Member consider it necessary, the Argentine Republic, together with the other MERCOSUR Members, is ready to conduct consultations or negotiations under the relevant provisions of Article XXIV:6 and the Enabling Clause to examine the changes introduced by the CET and the HS 1996 and the maintenance of the general level of concessions.

Any Member which considers that it has an interest in a concession should transmit a communication in writing to that effect, within a period of 90 days, to the Permanent Mission of the Argentine Republic in Geneva, with a copy to the WTO Secretariat. In order to facilitate negotiations or consultations, the communication should indicate, where possible, the products and tariff heading numbers concerned.

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

Copies of the documents (in Spanish only) are available for collection from the Market Access Division (Ms. Hudry, office No. 3142).