

September 8, 2011

2012 Harmonized Tariff Schedule Changes

One of the main responsibilities of the World Customs Organization (WCO) is to update the HS nomenclature on a regular basis. These updates take place every five years and are usually the result of the WCO bringing the HS nomenclature up to date with technological advancements and globally changing social concerns.

On January 1, 2012 over 200 changes to the nomenclature will go into effect. These include changes in the following sectors:

Agricultural – 98 changes

Chemicals – 27 changes

Paper – 9 changes

Textiles – 14 changes

Base Metals – 5 changes

Machinery – 30 changes

Others – 37 additional changes

Attached you will find a link to the WCO's amendments to the nomenclature <http://www.wcoomd.org/files/1.%20Public%20files/PDFandDocuments/HarmonizedSystem/HS%20Overview/NG0163B1.pdf>

As an importer it is important to maintain current and up to date classifications for your parts, as incorrect classifications can result in penalties, clearance delays, and increased exposure. Failure to update your classifications, however, could also be considered a failure in demonstrating reasonable care.

Whether it's just updating the classifications in your parts database, or providing the new classifications to your broker in an updated parts list, taking the steps to ensure readiness by January 1, 2012, will allow for a smooth transition and will minimize your risks and costs.

If you need assistance in preparing for these changes Allyn International can be of assistance. If you require additional information or if you would like a quote please contact Allyn at (239) 489-9900 or you can email us at Dreckman.M@allynintl.com.