

IV. Special topic

On 1 January 2017, customs administrations around the world will shift to the 2017 version of the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS). Amendments in HS 2017 will affect the classifications of around 15 per cent of goods traded in the world.

other invertebrates have been split into

This new version includes 233 sets of amendments to the 2012 version of the HS. Approximately a third of these amendments are “typological changes” clarifying terms used in product descriptions and chapter notes, while the rest are “structural changes”, involving modifications to the product scopes of headings or subheadings.

As with the previous HS amendments, the majority of changes in HS 2017 have been introduced to address environmental and social issues.

The largest set of changes was proposed by the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. These involve fishery, fertilizers, agricultural machinery and forestry products. For example, the classifications of species and product forms for fish and fishery products have been further subdivided to enhance the monitoring of trade in these products for food security purposes. Crustaceans, molluscs and



Alongside the HS 2017 amendments, the Secretariat of the World Customs Organization has published correlation tables between HS 2012 and HS 2017.

In addition, the correlations of vegetable subheadings are not clearly defined in the HS 2012, HS 2017 correlation tables (see Table 3). Alkaloids of non-vegetal origin (2939.80) could originate, for example, from a number

of the 27 subheadings under headings 29.33 and 29.34. Also, 8542.31 in HS 2017 has the same coverage as HS 2012 plus the inclusion of MCOs which were classified under several of the 965 subheadings of chapters

84, 85, 90, 93 and 95 in HS 2012. Lack of clearly defined correlations for these changes could be an issue for users that need to construct time series on trade data or reflect tariff commitments in the new nomenclature.

2017 Version	2012 Version	Remarks
2939.71	2939.91	Expansion of the scope of heading 29.39 to include other alkaloids obtained, for example, from animal origin.
2939.79	2939.99	
2939.80	Applicable subheadings, such as subheadings of headings 29.33 and 29.34	At the same time, subheadings 2939.91 and 2939.92 have been renumbered for the creation of a new subheading 2939.80 for «Other». The new subheading 2939.80 covers all the alkaloids of non-vegetal origin. Expansion of the scope of heading 29.39 entails the transfer of certain products currently covered by other headings of the nomenclature (for example, heading 29.33, heading 29.34) to the new subheading 2939.80.
8542.31	8542.31	Expansion of the scope of heading 85.42 to include multi-component integrated FLUF XLWV 0 & 2V 7KHVH 0 & 2V KDYH EHHQ GH¿ QHG LQ QHZ 1 Expansion of the scope of heading 85.42 entails the possible transfer of certain products currently covered by other headings of the nomenclature (in particular, but not limited to, headings 84.22, 84.31, 84.43, 84.50, 84.66, 84.73, 84.76, 85.04,



Annex A

The second largest set of amendments in HS 2017 relate to chemicals, following requests from several organizations.

- The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons requested that the 33 most traded scheduled chemicals (i.e. chemicals which can either be used as chemical weapons or used in the manufacturing of chemical weapons and which have no, or very limited, uses outside of chemical warfare) be included in HS 2017.
- The Secretariat (United Nations Environment Programme) for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants requested the identification of some persistent organic pollutants (i.e. toxic organic compounds that resist degradation and accumulate in the food chain; they can be transported over long distances in the atmosphere, resulting in widespread distribution across the earth).
- The United Nations International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) requested a better monitoring of raw ephedrine, pseudoephedrine and norephedrine since there has been an increase in pharmaceutical products containing these substances.
- The Rotterdam Convention Secretariat proposed new HS codes for several compounds

