



HARMONIZED SYSTEM
REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE

NR0035E1

-
19th Session
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O. Eng.

Brussels, 4 March 1999.

AMENDMENT TO THE HS IN ORDER TO GROUP ALL BITTER LIMES

IN THE SAME SUBHEADING

(Item II.A.24 on Agenda)

Reference documents :

41.473 (RSC/16)
41.580 Annex B/18 (RSC/16 – Report)
41.819 (RSC/17)
41.920 Annex B/1 (RSC/17 – Report)
42.077 (HSC/21)
42.103 (HSC/21)
42.104 (HSC/21)
42.100 Annex F/3 (HSC/21 – Report)
42.439 (HSC/22)
42.750 Annex G/13 (HSC/22 – Report)
NR0024 (RSC/19)

I. BACKGROUND

1. On 29 January 1999, the Secretariat received the following note from the United States :

“...Pursuant to paragraph 2 of Article 8 to the International Convention on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System, the United States enters a reservation on the decision of the Harmonized System Committee concerning the classification of limes referred to as “Citrus latifolia”. This decision was taken at the 22nd Session of the Harmonized System Committee and is reported in Annex G/13 to Document 42.750 (HSC/22/Nov. 98). Pursuant to paragraph 3 of Article 8, the United States requests that the aforementioned decision be referred to the Council...”.

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II. SECRETARIAT COMMENTS

2. The Secretariat would like to inform the Sub-Committee that the basic argument put forward by the United States at the 22nd Session of the Harmonized System Committee was that *Citrus aurantifolia* synonymous with the term "limes" and thus covered *Citrus latifolia*. Therefore, all limes, including *Citrus latifolia*, had to be classified in subheading 0805.30.
3. Nevertheless, the Committee decided that (i) *Citrus latifolia* should be classified in subheading 0805.90 in terms of the current legal texts but (ii) in the future, all the bitter limes should be grouped in the same subheading. It was on this basis that the Committee requested the Secretariat to draft suitable amendments to the Nomenclature (which were set out in the Annex to Doc. NR0024B1).
4. The reservation entered by the United States concerns only the decision of the Committee on the classification of *Citrus latifolia* in terms of the current legal texts. However, it might also have certain potential consequences on the drafting of amendments to the Nomenclature designed to group all bitter limes in one subheading.

III. CONCLUSION

5. Taking into account the reservation entered by the United States in respect of the classification of *Citrus latifolia* and the Secretariat comments above, the Sub-Committee is requested to consider whether this Agenda item should be pursued or be postponed until after the re-examination of the classification question by the Harmonized System Committee.
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