

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20436

**MEMORANDUM ON PROPOSED TARIFF LEGISLATION
of the 110th Congress¹**

[Date approved: September 8, 2008]²

Bill No. and sponsor: H.R. 5407 (Mr. Gary Ackerman of New York).

Proponent name,³ location: Leviton Manufacturing Company, Inc., Little Neck, NY.

Other bills on product (110th Congress only): None.

Nature of bill: Temporary duty suspension through December 31, 2011.

Retroactive effect: None.

Suggested article description(s) for enactment (including appropriate HTS subheading(s)):

Switchplate covers designed for use with toggle-style electrical switches, and electrical outlet covers, all the foregoing of wood (provided for in subheading 4421.90.97).

Check one: Same as that in bill as introduced.
 Different from that in bill as introduced (see Technical comments section).

Product information, including uses/applications and source(s) of imports:

The subject switchplate covers and electrical outlet covers are rectangular plates made of wood. They are mounted on a wall to provide coverings for in-wall electrical apparatus. These goods may have one or more openings for toggle-style switches or for electrical outlet sockets. Toggle-style light switchplate covers and electrical outlet covers of wood may have one or more holes for screws used to fasten the covers to walls. Switchplate covers for single toggle-style switches and outlet covers with two vertically oriented openings for electrical plugs typically have a standard width of 3.5 inches. However, the dimensions of such covers can vary depending on the number of light switches or electrical outlet sockets for which they are designed.

China and Taiwan are the primary sources of U.S. imports of toggle-style light switch plates and electrical outlet covers of wood. Dutiable U.S. imports under HTS subheading 4421.90.97 (a broader category than is covered by this bill) totaled \$322.2 million in 2007, of which China and Taiwan accounted for \$210.9 million and \$13.2 million, respectively.

¹ Industry analyst preparing report: Alan Treat (202-205-3426); Tariff Affairs contact: Jan Summers (202-205-2605).

² Access to an electronic copy of this memorandum is available at http://www.usitc.gov/tata/hts/other/rel_doc/bill_reports/.

³ The sponsor/proponent did not identify any additional beneficiaries of this bill.

Estimated effect on customs revenue:

HTS subheading: <u>4421.90.97</u>					
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Col. 1-General rate of duty	3.3%	3.3%	3.3%	3.3%	3.3%
Estimated value <i>dutiable</i> imports	\$4,100,000	\$4,400,000	\$4,700,000	\$5,150,000	\$5,550,000
Customs revenue loss	\$135,300	\$145,200	\$155,100	\$169,950	\$183,150

Source of estimated dutiable import data: U.S. industry estimates and Commission estimates.

Contacts with domestic firms/organizations (including the proponent):⁴

Name of firm/organization	Date contacted	Claim US makes same or competing product(s)?	Submission attached?	Opposition noted?
		(Yes/No)		
Leviton Manufacturing Company, Inc. (Proponent) Chris Schodowski (619-206-8607)	04/30/2008	Yes	Yes	No
Arnev Products, Inc. Arnie Evans (715-799-5944)	05/09/2008	Yes	Yes	Yes
Atkinson Electric Terry Atkinson (912-384-9773)	05/05/2008	Yes	Yes	Yes
Jackson Deerfield Manufacturing Co. Dan Rego (877-925-5752)	05/02/2008	Yes	Yes	No
Target Corporation Toni Demski-Brandl (612-696-2573)	05/21/2008	No	No	No

Technical comments:⁵

For clarity and to avoid confusion regarding the usage of industry terms, it is suggested that the article description be amended as shown on page 1.

⁴ Commission staff attempted to contact Liberty Hardware Mfg Corp. and Amertac, both believed to be importers. However, neither company provided information to Commission staff.

⁵ The Commission may express an opinion on the HTS classification of a product to facilitate consideration of the bill. However, by law, only the U.S. Customs Service is authorized to issue a binding ruling on this matter. The Commission believes that the U.S. Customs Service should be consulted prior to enactment of the bill.

Submission of Arnev Products, Inc., 05/09/2008 (e-mail)

Yes, Arnev Products is opposed to this legislative bill that would temporarily suspect [sic] duties on imports of wooden wall plates. Please include us.

Arnie Evans
Arnev Products, Inc./President
N1530 Spring Glen
Keshena, WI 54135

Submission of Jackson Deerfield Mfg, 05/02/2008 (e-mail)

Hi Alan!

I have already been contacted by Patrick McCauley with the US commerce department about this issue. We do currently manufacture one and multi-gang wood wallplates for light switches and outlets here in the U.S. We view this bill as favorable as we do also import wood wallplates and could benefit from the savings.

Dan Rego - President
Jackson Deerfield Mfg.
drego@jdmusa.com

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5407

To suspend temporarily the duty on certain wooden wall plates.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 13, 2008

Mr. ACKERMAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To suspend temporarily the duty on certain wooden wall
plates.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. CERTAIN WOODEN WALL PLATES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 99 of
5 the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States is
6 amended by inserting in numerical sequence the following
7 new heading:

“	9902.01.00	Residential grade toggle and duplex wallplates of wood (provided for in subheading 4421.90.97)	Free	No change	No change	On or before 12/31/2011	”.
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1 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by
2 subsection (a) applies to goods entered, or withdrawn from
3 warehouse for consumption, on or after the 15th day after
4 the date of the enactment of this Act.

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