

EXPORT CLASSIFICATION

HOW TO CLASSIFY A PRODUCT FOR EXPORT

FAST FACTS

Overview

The Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System, also known as the harmonized system (HS) or harmonized code (HC), is an internationally accepted system for describing products using a six-digit number. These six-digit codes are the same for all products of that type, meaning they are “harmonized” throughout the world. Each country is then allowed to include additional digits to further classify its products at the eight- and ten-digit level. In the U.S., these ten-digit commodity codes are called the Schedule B number for exports and the Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) for imports.

A Schedule B number is the U.S.’ ten-digit classification code that is used to track products being exported. The U.S. Census Bureau manages the Schedule B system in order to calculate U.S. export statistics. Schedule B numbers, not HS numbers, must be provided on the Automated Export System filing and other export documentation.

While the Schedule B is used to classify U.S. exports, the HTS is the system for classifying imports into the U.S. The U.S. International Trade Commission manages the HTS system. It is important to note that these numbers can be slightly different for the same product depending on whether it is being imported or exported.

Resources

There are several different tools and resources to help you determine your product’s Schedule B number on your own.

[Schedule B Number Search Engine](#)

The Foreign Trade Division of the U.S. Census Bureau provides a free Schedule B search engine on their website. The search engine is designed to better assist exporters and provide a smoother, more intuitive and correct way to classify products.

[Schedule B Book](#)

You can access the entire Schedule B Number listing for further review and determination of the proper classification.

[U.S. Census Bureau – Foreign Trade Division](#)

You can obtain further assistance on Schedule B numbers from a commodity specialist at the U.S. Census Bureau FTD. For specific products, you can call 301.763.3259 for durable goods and 301.763.3484 for non-durable goods.

Please note that if you utilize a third party, such as a freight forwarder, to help identify your Schedule B number, it is critical that you validate the given Schedule B number, as it is the responsibility of the company to indicate the correct code(s) on any export documents.

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