

# CUSTOMS RESEARCH REPORT

## New Countries are Applying the Harmonized System Nomenclature – Update 2012

Carsten Weerth\*

More and more countries and economic regions are applying the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (Harmonized System Convention). This paper examines in the update 2012 the new countries which are using the worldwide uniform language of trade.

### 1 HS-APPLICATION FROM 2011

The Nomenclature which is governed by the Convention on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (Harmonized System Convention, Brussels 14 June 1983) is effective in four new countries since January 2011<sup>1</sup> (or stated otherwise):

- Armenia,
- Bahamas (3/10/2011),
- Georgia,
- Liberia.

All four new contracting parties of the HS have agreed to apply the HS-headings (4-digit-code) and HS-subheadings (6-digit-code) within their customs tariff schemes.

### 2 HS-APPLICATION FROM 2012

One new contracting party of the HS is applying the HS-Nomenclature since January 2012<sup>2</sup>:

- Uruguay.

### 3 HS-APPLICATION FROM 2013

One new contracting party of the HS has agreed to apply the HS-Nomenclature from January 2013<sup>3</sup>:

- Angola.

### 4 HS-APPLICATION FROM 2014

One new contracting party of the HS has agreed to apply the HS-Nomenclature from January 2014<sup>4</sup>:

- Albania.

### 5 HS-APPLICATION FROM 2010

Two new contracting parties of the HS are applying the HS-Nomenclature since January 2010<sup>5</sup>:

- Cape Verde,
- Ecuador.

### 6 HS-APPLICATION UNCLEAR

One new contracting party of the HS is going to applying the HS-Nomenclature to an unknown point in the near future<sup>6</sup>:

- Costa Rica.

#### Notes

\* Dr Weerth BSc (Glasgow) LL.M. (Com.) is legal expert in European customs law and works with the German Customs and Excise Service (a former Head of a Customs Office) in the legal appeals branch in Bremen. He is a frequent contributor to the scientific journals *AW-Prax* (Zeitschrift für Außenwirtschaft in Recht und Praxis) und *ZfZ* (Zeitschrift für Zölle und Verbrauchsteuern), author of ten books on European customs law, co-author of three legal comments on European customs law and EU law and lecturer at the Jacobs University Bremen in International Trade Law. Contact data: carsten.weerth@gmx.de

<sup>1</sup> See WCO 2012a and WCO 2012d.

<sup>2</sup> See WCO 2012a and WCO 2012d.

<sup>3</sup> See WCO 2012d.

<sup>4</sup> See WCO 2012d.

<sup>5</sup> See WCO 2012a and WCO 2012d.

<sup>6</sup> See WCO 2012a.

## 7 HS-APPLICATION ALL IN ALL

The HS-Nomenclature is has 143 contracting parties<sup>7</sup>, it is currently being applied by 140 contracting parties and more than 200 countries, territories, customs and economic unions worldwide which apply the Nomenclature for their customs tariff schedules<sup>8</sup>. That means that over 98 % of the merchandize in international trade is classified in terms of the HS<sup>9</sup>. The new contracting parties of the years 2007 to 2011 have been presented earlier.<sup>10</sup>

One other state has signed the HS-convention but its accession is not yet confirmed and the date of application of the HS-Nomenclature is not yet verified from the WCO: Burundi.<sup>11</sup>

## REFERENCES

- WCO, HS contracting parties (June 2011), (<http://www.wcoomd.org/ie/En/Conventions/conventions.html>), viewed on 14 July 2012, 2011.
- WCO, Press releases, (<http://www.wcoomd.org/ie/En/Press/press.html>), viewed on 14 July 2012, 2012a.
- WCO, Harmonized System – List of Countries applying the HS, (<http://www.wcoomd.org/files/1.%20Public%20files/PDFandDocuments/HarmonizedSystem/H>  
S%20Overview/Countries\_applying\_HS\_EN\_20120703.pdf), viewed on 14 July 2012, 2012b.
- WCO, Harmonized System – General Information, ([http://www.wcoomd.org/home\\_hsoverviewboxes\\_hsharmonizedsystem.htm](http://www.wcoomd.org/home_hsoverviewboxes_hsharmonizedsystem.htm)), viewed on 14 July 2012, 2012c.
- WCO, Position of Contracting Parties to the Harmonized System Convention and Non-Contracting Party Administrations, ([http://www.wcoomd.org/files/1.%20Public%20files/PDFandDocuments/HarmonizedSystem/HS%20Overview/Situation\\_HS20120601EN.pdf](http://www.wcoomd.org/files/1.%20Public%20files/PDFandDocuments/HarmonizedSystem/HS%20Overview/Situation_HS20120601EN.pdf)), viewed on 14 July 2012, 2012d.
- Weerth, C. Basic Principles of Customs Classifications under the Harmonized System, 3 GTCJ 2, 301–302, 2008a.
- Weerth, C. New Countries Are Applying the Harmonized System Convention, 3 GTCJ 3, 121, 2008b.
- Weerth, C. New Countries Are Applying the Harmonized System Convention: Update 2009, 4 GTCJ 9, 121, 2009.
- Weerth, C. New Countries Are Applying the Harmonized System Convention: Update 2011, 6 GTCJ 9, 455–456, 2011.
- Wind, I. HS 2007: What's it All About?, 2 GTCJ 2, 79–86, 2007.

---

## Notes

<sup>7</sup> See WCO 2012a.

<sup>8</sup> See WCO 2012b, Wind GTCJ 2007 and Weerth, GTCJ 2008a.

<sup>9</sup> See WCO 2011c.

<sup>10</sup> See Weerth, GTCJ 2008b, Weerth, GTCJ 2009 and Weerth, GTCJ 2011.

<sup>11</sup> See WCO 2011.