



WCO Harmonised System Codes 2022 Update



With a total of 351 amendments covering a wide range of goods, we've summed up the key updates from the World Customs Organisation's Harmonised System (HS) Codes 2022 Update to help you navigate the intricate world of HS codes.



What are HS Codes?

The Harmonised System is a standardised numerical method of classifying traded products. HS codes are commonly used throughout the export process by customs authorities worldwide to identify products when assessing duties and taxes, and for gathering statistics.



Why is the update important?

Exporters and Importers are legally responsible for establishing the correct HS codes on their shipments and/or declarations. Incorrect or invalid HS codes used for customs declarations may result in penalties or clearance delays.



Why is it necessary to revise the HS Codes?

As new products or technologies emerge or change, classifications and definitions need to be developed accordingly. Evolving trading patterns also means there is a need for classification segmentation or consolidation. HS Codes are also reviewed regularly to help identify, monitor and track goods which require higher scrutiny or priority clearance, such as strategic and controlled goods.

Adjustments for new product streams

1

HS codes are now available for high-profile new product streams, such as electrical or electronic waste, novel tobacco and nicotine-based products (e.g. e-cigarettes/ vapes), unmanned aerial vehicles (e.g. drones), and smartphones.



Export-controlled & dual-use goods

2

New subheadings were added for chemicals and organic pollutants, fentanyl opioids, certain controlled gases, radioactive materials and biological safety cabinets.



Advances in materials technology

3

The subheadings were revised to address the lack of trade statistics that currently do not adequately reflect the advances made in the glass fibres and metal forming machinery industry over the past few years.



Simplified classification for multi-purpose intermediate assemblies

4

Multi-purpose intermediate assemblies, such as flat panel display modules (e.g. LCD, OLED and MicroLED) are now classified in their own product category. This provides a simplified classification structure by removing the need to identify final use of such products (e.g. final use of LCDs in desktop monitors), leading to a more efficient customs clearance process.



Efficient customs clearance for health and safety-related goods

5

Provisions will be made for critical deployment tools (e.g. diagnostic kits, placebos and clinical trial kits for medical research, toxins and lab equipment) to facilitate efficient customs clearance in the event of a global outbreak of infectious diseases, such as the current COVID-19 pandemic.



How can UPS Trade Assist™ help?

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