



2022 HARMONIZED SYSTEM (HS)

OVERVIEW

PUBLISHED IN 2021

Every five years, the World Customs Organization (WCO) [publishes amendments](#) to the harmonized commodity description and coding system referred to as the “Harmonized System” (HS). Changes to the HS are significant as they initiate a chain reaction within the 200+ countries that utilize this coding system for Customs tariffs and international trade statistics. The next change goes into effect on 01 January, 2022.

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HARMONIZED SYSTEM (HS) OVERVIEW

The WCO establishes the first six digits of the HS code. In groupings of two, these digits designate an HS chapter, HS heading, and HS subheading. Participating countries further enhance an HS code with additional digits beyond the six to customize local tariff schedules, satisfying national duty and statistical needs.

In the below example, HS 9706.00 - *Antiques of an age exceeding 100 years* - is set by the WCO. You can see how various countries have adopted it for their needs with the inclusion of additional digits.

9706.00 - Antiques of an age exceeding 100 years				
CANADA	CHINA	EU	MEXICO	USA
9706.00.00.10 (Furniture)	9706000010	9706.00.0000	9706.00.01	9706.00.0020 (Silverware)
9706.00.00.90 (Other)	9706000090 (Other)			9706.00.0040 (Furniture)
				9706.00.0060 (Other)

With the upcoming amendment, the WCO has subdivided HS 9706 to provide separately for antiques over 250 years and those less than 250 years. Some countries will simply match the new breakouts one-to-one, and others will have more elaborate breakouts. Regardless, global importers and exporters that used HS 9706.00 will be impacted and need to update their classifications.

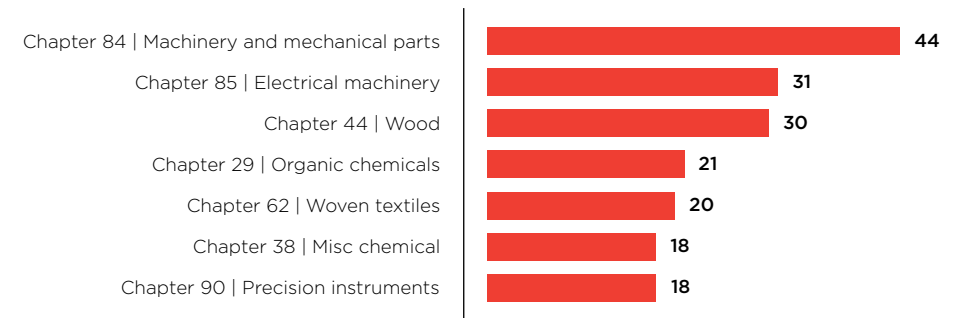
9706 - Antiques of an age exceeding 100 years				
9706.10 - Of an age exceeding 250 years				
9706.90 - Other				
CANADA	CHINA	EU	MEXICO	USA
9706.10.00.00 (Over 250 years)	Not yet published	Not yet published	Not yet published	Over 250 years
9706.90.00.00 (Other)				9706.10.0020 (Silverware)
				9706.10.0040 (Furniture)
				9706.10.0060 (Other)
				Other
				9706.90.0020 (Silverware)
				9706.90.0040 (Furniture)
				9706.90.0060 (Other)

SUMMARY OF HS 2022 AMENDMENTS

Over 350 amendments were introduced for HS 2022. The amendments fall into the following high-level categories:

- New product streams (e.g., e-waste, drones, tobacco products, smartphones)
- Technological advances (e.g., glass fibers, metal forming machinery)
- Health and safety (e.g., diagnostic kits, placebos, clinical trial kits, cell cultures, cell therapy)
- Human security (e.g., toxins, laboratory equipment)
- Protection of society (e.g., radioactive materials, detonators)

The HS chapters most affected were:



The WCO [publishes a table correlating changes between the 2022 and 2017 HS versions](#). Reviewing this information is crucial as it summarizes all of the amendments. Please note that not all modifications result in a new tariff heading; some amendments provide further clarification in the descriptions and nothing more.

The HS 2022 changes are comprehensive. Using the WCO data alone is typically insufficient for importers and exporters to make HS determinations as it only goes to the six-digit level. Before taking action, it is important to see how a country is implementing the amendments.

COUNTRY-SPECIFIC HS UPDATES

As displayed in the prior '9706 - Antiques' example, only Canada and the United States have published their adoption of the amendments at the time of publication. Countries will vary significantly on the timing and publication platform they use. We anticipate most countries will publish their modifications in December 2021.

Expeditors is collecting and reviewing all published changes. We encourage you to contact your local Expeditors office for country-specific information. Additionally, trade software such as [Tradeflow](#) is an excellent resource for acquiring HS numbers across a wide range of countries.



HOW TO PREPARE FOR HS 2022 CHANGES

1

ANALYZE AMENDMENTS TO SEE WHICH WILL AFFECT YOUR COMMODITIES: It is best to do this at the country level, but studying the [WCO publication](#) will also help if the country's HS data is currently unavailable.

Note: The WCO created an online [HS Tracker](#) tool that visually shows changes to HS headings through the various HS iterations, and states why changes were made.

2

UPON RECEIPT OF THE COUNTRY'S ADOPTION, MAP EXISTING HS CODES TO NEW HS CODES: Some changes will be a 'direct replacement' for a code, but many will need further analysis to ensure the correct HS is selected.

3

BEGIN COMMUNICATING THE NEW HS CODES: Ideally, this is done by updating your parts database or method used to communicate HS codes with your Customs Broker.

4

BE AWARE OF OTHER IMPORT/EXPORT REQUIREMENTS THAT MAY HAVE CHANGED WITH THE NEW HS NUMBER: Changes may impact 'Other Government Agency' requirements, additional tariffs, Free Trade Program qualification, etc.

5

RESPOND TO REQUESTS FROM YOUR CUSTOMS BROKER AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE: We are currently experiencing a challenging trade environment, and HS changes will further stress the process. In most cases, Customs Brokers cannot clear your cargo until a valid HS number is received.