

RECTIFICATIONS OF SCHEDULES OF TARIFF CONCESSIONS

Schedule CXXXIX – Republic of Bulgaria

The following communication, dated 8 August 2002, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Bulgaria.

With reference to Schedule CXXXIX – Tariff Concessions and Commitments of the Republic of Bulgaria attached to the GATT 1994 and pursuant to the Procedures for Modification and Rectification of Schedules of Tariff Concessions contained in a Decision of 26 March 1980, the Republic of Bulgaria hereby communicates draft changes for a rectification of Schedule CXXXIX to correct a technical error.

The draft rectification is listed in the attachment¹. It does not alter the scope of the concessions granted by the Republic of Bulgaria upon its accession to the WTO.

The rectification aims to correct technical errors in the final bound rates of tariff item numbers 401023000 and 401024000 that occurred at the time of introduction of HS 1996 changes into the Schedule.

Detailed explanatory notes and a table with the draft rectification are contained in the attachment.

If no objection is notified to the Secretariat within three months from the date of this document, the rectifications and modifications to Schedule CXXXIX – Republic of Bulgaria - will be deemed to be approved and will be formally certified.

¹ English only.

ATTACHMENT

Rectification to Schedule CXXXIX - Republic of Bulgaria**1. Explanatory notes**

As per the original Schedule of Concessions and Commitments on Goods attached to the Protocol for the Accession of Bulgaria to the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the WTO, tariff item numbers ex40109100 and 40109900 (HS 1992) are bound as follows:

- tariff item number ex40109100 “endless synchronous transmission belts, of a circumference exceeding 60 cm but not exceeding 198 cm, of a width exceeding 20 cm”: initial bound rate of duty 25%; final bound rate 15%; implementation period in accordance with Note 3* to Section II “Other products” of the Schedule;
- tariff item number 40109900 “other conveyor or transmission belts or belting of vulcanized rubber”: initial and final bound rate - 35%.

As a result of the changes to the Schedule related to the introduction of the Harmonized System Nomenclature 1996, tariff item numbers ex40109100 and ex40109900 were transposed into new tariff item numbers - 401023000 and 401024000. The latter were bound in the Tariff Schedule of the Republic of Bulgaria, certified on 26 February 2001, as follows:

- tariff item number 401023000 “endless synchronous belts, of a circumference exceeding 60 cm but not exceeding 150 cm”: initial bound rate 25%; final bound rate 10%; implementation period in accordance with Note 3;
- tariff item number ex401023000 “endless synchronous belts of a circumference exceeding 60 cm but not exceeding 150 cm, of a width exceeding 20 cm”: initial bound rate 25%; final bound rate 10%; implementation period in accordance with Note 3;
- tariff item number 401024000 “endless synchronous belts, of a circumference exceeding 150 cm but not exceeding 198 cm”: initial bound rate 25%; final bound rate 10%; implementation period in accordance with Note 3;
- tariff item number ex401024000 “endless synchronous belts of a circumference exceeding 150 cm but not exceeding 198 cm, of a width exceeding 20 cm”: initial bound rate 25%; final bound rate 10%; implementation period in accordance with Note 3.

With the introduction of HS 1996 changes into Schedule CXXXIX, technical errors occurred in the final bound rates for tariff item numbers 401023000 and 401024000, leading to discrepancies between the original and the new final bound rate, on the one side, and between the new final bound rate and the content of note 3, on the other side.

Therefore, the final bound rates for 401023000, ex401023000, 401024000 and ex401024000 should be brought into conformity with the original concession and with the scheme of reduction prescribed in Note 3 (i.e. reduction to 15%). The final bound rates for the above products should read “15%” instead of “10%” (see the table below).

* Note 3 reads: “Five years after accession the bound rate of duty will be 25% and ten years after accession it will be reduced to 15% in five equal annual stages”.

That change does not alter the scope of the concessions granted by the Republic of Bulgaria on the products concerned upon accession to the WTO.

2. Draft rectification to Schedule CXXXIX of the Republic of Bulgaria

Tariff item number HS96/CN98	Description of products CN98	Initial bound rate	Final bound rate	INR on the concession	Implementation period from/to
3	4	7	8	9	10
4010	Conveyor or transmission belts or belting, of vulcanized rubber				
	- Transmission belts or belting				
401023000	-- Endless synchronous belts, of a circumference exceeding 60 cm but not exceeding 150 cm	25	15		See Note 3
ex401023000	Of a width exceeding 20 cm	25	15	CA	See Note 3
401024000	-- Endless synchronous belts, of a circumference exceeding 150 cm but not exceeding 198 cm	25	15		See Note 3
ex401024000	Of a width exceeding 20 cm	25	15	CA	See Note 3