

TARIFF CLASSIFICATION

STUDENT' S GUIDE

Why study Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS Convention) and Tariff Classifications for International Trade and Border Clearance?

- 1) Almost all the countries in the world, whether they have signed onto the HS Convention or not, use the rules of the HS including all CARICOM countries
- 2) Clearing goods quickly and efficiently depends largely on using the correct Tariff Classification
- 3) Local Tariff Classifications are extensions of the HS and then the CARICOM's CET and are used to collect duties and taxes, provide stats and trade figures, understanding the structure is crucial.
- 4) There is only one legal method at arriving at correct Tariff and that is by using the rules of the 6 General Rules of the HS
- 5) Using incorrect Tariffs can be deemed as committing fraud, it can also lead to fines and fees
- 6) Each country must fulfil their role as designated by the rules of classifying as
 - a) Transparency as everyone has to follow the same rules in classifying goods
 - b) Most countries have joined the WTO and other preferential Trade Agreements which use the HS and Local Tariffs to manage their agreement
 - c) CARICOM Countries are in a Customs Union and have created a Common External Tariff (CET). This is a very complex agreement document with sets of rules, list, conditions, exemptions etc. which are important for trading regionally and internationally.

Remembering individual Tariff Numbers or HS Codes is not the aim of this course and should not be the aim of person in the industry. Understanding the setup of the HS and the rules to find Tariffs correctly are much more important, and will lead to more accurate classification decisions. HS Classification is a very specialized area of study with few experts in the field so keeping up to date of changes and rules is just as important as well. Students should finish this course not only with knowledge of these important concepts but on how and where to find new information. Students should be able to properly advise Importer and Exporters on correct Tariffs using proper research.

We plan to achieve the above by

- 1) Exposing students to the local, regional international information
- 2) Have all course information available during length of course online
- 3) Ungraded Quizzes to test current knowledge
- 4) Having live online lectures, with recordings of the lectures made available via the Student's Page on the site.
- 5) Halfway through course; a multiple-choice questionnaire which may or may not go towards the final grade
- 6) Final examination at the end of the course