

The U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) is an independent, fact-finding agency and is therefore separate from U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and other Executive Branch agencies. The following information is offered to on-line users to clarify the implications of their use of the tariff search tool, and more generally of the legal status of USITC input on tariff classification:

**WARNING TO USERS:** This tariff search tool was created by the USITC for the purpose of assisting users of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) in identifying the potential HTS provision(s) under which an article might be classified by CBP upon its entry into the customs territory of the United States. In using this search tool, users should be aware that:

- (1) CBP, and not the USITC, makes legally binding decisions with regard to classification matters, including the HTS provision under which each article should enter the United States, and the USITC is a separate agency charged with maintaining the official HTS;
- (2) search results are not the equivalent of CBP rulings or advice and should not be viewed as indicating how CBP (or a court) would rule or advise when presented with a similar product description or commercial invoice;
- (3) the search tool is a word-based tool that finds official HTS provisions containing similar words, and as such does not reflect the hierarchical structure determining the scope of provisions, or incorporate legal and other nuances that rely on CBP rulings and advice, court decisions, and interpretations at the international level; and
- (4) because the search tool relies largely on the input provided by users, entry of incorrect or incomplete information (or simply words that do not appear in the HTS) may yield incorrect results.

Accordingly, users of this search tool are urged to examine in full all current official HTS provisions (including legal notes) that may apply to products of interest, and identify and apply all interpretive rules and descriptive language in seeking the correct classification provision and duty treatment for the products at issue. Search results should not be relied upon as the sole basis for completing CBP documents, and use of this tool does not relieve the user of the obligation to comply with applicable law. Legally binding rulings can be obtained through a request properly filed with CBP (see <http://cbp.gov/trade/rulings/>). **No classification information, opinions or suggestions provided by the USITC can be considered to be legally authoritative.**

Exporters are advised that search results relate to the U.S. HTS and to export declarations filed with Census. No U.S. 8- or 10-digit provision should be used in completing customs entry documents in other countries that maintain their own national tariff schedules, as the numbering and scope of 8- or 10-digit tariff provisions can differ in those countries.