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## New Countries Applying the Harmonized System Nomenclature: Update 2014

Carsten Weerth\*

*More countries and economic regions are applying the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (Harmonized System Convention). Here is an overview for 2014 of the new countries which are using the worldwide uniform language of trade now and will apply the tariff scheme from 2015.*

### 1 HS-APPLICATION FROM 2014

The Nomenclature which is governed by the Convention on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (Harmonized System Convention, Brussels 14 June 1983) which is applied by a growing number of new countries, taking the overall membership of the HS to 149 countries.<sup>1</sup>

Starting this year, five new countries are applying the HS-Nomenclature:<sup>2</sup>

- Albania.
- Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Costa Rica.
- Mozambique.
- Papua New Guinea.

The World Customs Organization ('WCO') has verified this.<sup>3</sup> All new HS contracting parties have agreed to apply the HS-headings (4-digit-code) and HS-subheadings (6-digit-code) within their customs tariff schemes.

### 2 HS-APPLICATION FROM 2015

Three new HS contracting parties have agreed to apply the HS-Nomenclature no later than from January 2015:<sup>4</sup>

- Comoros.
- Guinea Bissau.
- Sao Tomé and Príncipe.

However these parties may apply the HS-Nomenclature from an earlier date.

### 3 HS-APPLICATION ALL IN ALL

The HS-Nomenclature is being applied by 149 contracting parties<sup>5</sup> and more than 200 countries, customs and economic unions worldwide (exactly 207) which apply the Nomenclature for their customs tariff schedules.<sup>6</sup> That means that over 98% of the merchandise in international trade is classified in terms of the HS.<sup>7</sup>

#### Notes

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<sup>1</sup> See Weerth, GTCJ 2007, Weerth, GTCJ 2009, Weerth, GTCJ 2011 and Weerth, GTCJ 2012.

<sup>2</sup> See WCO 2014a and WCO 2014d.

<sup>3</sup> See WCO 2014a and WCO 2014b.

<sup>4</sup> See WCO 2014a, WCO 2014b, Wind, GTCJ 2007 and Weerth, GTCJ 2008.

<sup>5</sup> See WCO 2013b, WCO 2014a and WCO 2014b.

<sup>6</sup> See WCO 2014b, Wind, GTCJ 2007 and Weerth, GTCJ 2008.

<sup>7</sup> See WCO 2014b.

#### 4 ADDITIONAL HS-CONTRACTING PARTIES?

One further state, Burundi, has signed the HS-convention but its accession is not yet confirmed and the date of application of the HS-Nomenclature is not yet verified from the WCO.<sup>8</sup>

#### 5 FURTHER HS-APPLICATION BY NON-HS-CONTRACTING PARTIES

Forty-eight countries are applying the HS-Nomenclature without being formal HS-contracting parties. For reference on the following list, WTO-Members are shown with one star\*, WTO-Observers are shown with two \*\* stars:<sup>9</sup>

- Afghanistan\*\*
- Antigua and Barbuda\*
- Belize\*
- Bermuda
- Brunei Darussalam\*
- Burundi\*
- Cook Islands
- Djibouti\*
- Domenica\*
- El Salvador\*
- Equatorial Guinea\*\*
- Gambia\*
- Grenada\*
- Guatemala\*
- Guyana\*
- Honduras\*
- Hong Kong (China)\*
- Jamaica\*
- Kiribati
- Lao People's Democratic Republic\*
- Liechtenstein\*
- Macao (China)\*
- Marshall Islands
- Micronesia

- New Caledonia (French Territory)
- Nicaragua\*
- Niue
- Oman\*
- Palau
- Polynesia (French Territory)
- St. Kitts and Nevis\*
- St. Lucia\*
- St. Pierre and Miquelon (French Territory)
- St. Vincent and the Grenadines\*
- Samoa\*
- Seychelles\*\*
- Sierra Leone\*
- Solomon Islands\*
- South Sudan,
- Suriname\*
- Timor-Leste\*
- Tonga\*
- Trinidad and Tobago\*
- Turkmenistan
- Tuvalu
- Vanuatu\*
- Wallis and Fournuna Islands (French Territory)

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#### Notes

<sup>8</sup> See WCO 2008.

<sup>9</sup> See WCO 2014b and WTO 2014.

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