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## New Countries Are Applying the Harmonized System Nomenclature – Update 2011 (as of 21 June 2011)

Carsten Weerth\*

*More and more countries and economic regions are applying the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (Harmonized System Convention). This article examines in the update 2011 the new countries that are using the worldwide uniform language of trade since 2007 and 2008 and that are going to apply the tariff scheme from 2009, 2010, and 2011 onwards.*

### HS APPLICATION FROM 2010

The Nomenclature that is governed by the Convention on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (Harmonized System Convention, Brussels, 14 June 1983) is effective in two new countries since January 2010:<sup>1</sup>

- Cap Verde,
- Ecuador.

Both new contracting parties of the Harmonized System (HS) have agreed to apply the HS headings (4-digit code) and HS subheadings (6-digit code) within their customs tariff schemes.

### HS APPLICATION FROM 2011

Three new contracting parties of the HS are applying the HS Nomenclature since January 2011:<sup>2</sup>

- Armenia,
- Georgia,
- Liberia.

### HS APPLICATION FROM 2013

Two new contracting parties of the HS have agreed to apply the HS Nomenclature from January 2013:<sup>3</sup>

- Angola,
- Nigeria.

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

### HS APPLICATION FROM 2008

Three new contracting parties of the HS are applying the HS Nomenclature since January 2008:<sup>4</sup>

- Benin,
- Dominican Republic,
- Tanzania.

### HS APPLICATION FROM 2009

Five new contracting parties of the HS are applying the HS Nomenclature since January 2008:<sup>5</sup>

#### Notes

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1 See World Customs Organization (WCO): 'Press Releases (2011a)', <[www.wcoomd.org/ie/En/Press/press.html](http://www.wcoomd.org/ie/En/Press/press.html)>, 19 Jun. 2011 and WCO, 'Position of Contracting Parties to the Harmonized System Convention and Non-contracting Party Administrations (2011d)', ([www.wcoomd.org/files/1.%20Public%20files/PDFandDocuments/HarmonizedSystem/Situation\\_HS20110506EN.pdf](http://www.wcoomd.org/files/1.%20Public%20files/PDFandDocuments/HarmonizedSystem/Situation_HS20110506EN.pdf)), 19 Jun. 2011.

2 See *ibid.*

3 See WCO, 2011d.

4 See WCO, 2011a, 2011d.

5 See *ibid.*

- Republic of Congo,
- Ghana,
- Kyrgyzstan,
- Paraguay,
- Syrian Arab Republic.

## HS APPLICATION ALL IN ALL

The HS Nomenclature has 139 contracting parties;<sup>6</sup> it is currently being applied by 137 contracting parties and more than 200 countries and customs and economic unions worldwide, which apply the Nomenclature for their customs tariff schedules.<sup>7</sup> That means that over 98% of the merchandise in international trade is classified in terms of the HS.<sup>8</sup> The new contracting parties of the years 2007 to 2009 have been presented earlier.<sup>9</sup>

## FURTHER HS CONTRACTING PARTIES?

One other state 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 World Customs Organization (WCO), Burundi.<sup>10</sup>

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## Notes

6 See WCO, 2011a.

7 See WCO, 'Harmonized System – List of Countries Applying the HS (2011b)', <[www.wcoomd.org/files/1.%20Public%20files/PDFandDocuments/HarmonizedSystem/Countries\\_applying\\_HS\\_Eng\\_20110524.pdf](http://www.wcoomd.org/files/1.%20Public%20files/PDFandDocuments/HarmonizedSystem/Countries_applying_HS_Eng_20110524.pdf)>, 19 Jun. 2011; I. Wind, 'HS 2007: What's It All About?' GTCJ 2, no. 2 (2007): 79–86, and C. Weerth, 'Basic Principles of Customs Classifications under the Harmonized System', GTCJ 3, no. 2 (2008a): 301–302.

8 See WCO, 'Harmonized System – General Information (2011c)', <[www.wcoomd.org/ie/En/Topics\\_Issues/HarmonizedSystem/HS%20General%20Information-Eng.htm](http://www.wcoomd.org/ie/En/Topics_Issues/HarmonizedSystem/HS%20General%20Information-Eng.htm)>, 19 Jun. 2011.

9 See C. Weerth, 'New Countries Are Applying the Harmonized System Convention', GTCJ 3, no. 3 (2008b): 121 and C. Weerth, 'New Countries Are Applying the Harmonized System Convention: Update 2009', GTCJ 4, no. 9 (2009): 121.

10 See WCO, 'HS Contracting Parties (June 2010)', <[www.wcoomd.org/ie/En/Conventions/conventions.html](http://www.wcoomd.org/ie/En/Conventions/conventions.html)>, 19 Jun. 2011.