

# PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS

Use of the Commodity Coding Systems  
other than the Harmonized System to  
support Customs Work

Item XIII on the Agenda

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## Product Identification : Key points

- Background
- The study on Commodity Classification & Identification Systems
- Discussions held at the PTC
- Conclusions/ Suggested Course of Action



## Background: Strategic Review of the Harmonised System

- Expanded use and promotion of the HS in its current form (PC, December 2012)
- No proposal to increase the number of nomenclature digits
- Status quo on HS Review Cycles
- In-depth study needed on Commodity Classification & Identification Systems (June 2013)
  - Could these codes support more efficient & effective Customs operations?



## Commodity Classification & Identification Systems - WCO Study

- The Harmonized System - the cornerstone for Customs operations
  - Other coding systems will co-exist
- Product identification is crucial for other government departments
- Also very useful for Customs:
  - Risk Assessment
  - Combating counterfeits
    - Other areas of enforcement/compliance
  - Product visibility in supply-chain
  - Data simplification/improved Data Quality



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- Product identifiers are beneficial for Customs operations
  - But not normally required by Customs
  - Often provided conditionally to other government departments
  - Could be used as an additional data element in goods declarations.
- Challenges remain:
  - How can Customs access to data associated with product identifiers?
  - What is the reliability of such data; Is it trustworthy?
  - Practices on product identification differ from industry to industry



# Conclusions & way forward

- Product identification is of strategic value
  - Will help in improving the quality of release/referrals
  - Linked to discussions on product end-use codes
- The 'study' is simply a first step:
  - Need to address questions raised at the PTC
  - Further investigations are necessary [PTC/IMSC]



THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION