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
• 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